

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 11, 2024

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Mark Avery (MA), Tim Burt (TB), Susan Ossoff (SO)

OTHERS: Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deb Ahlstrom (DA), Gordon Davenport (GD) and Jim Davis (JD)

CORRESPONDENCE

- none

SIGN: accounts payable

MINUTES: SO moved and MA seconded the approval of minutes from 4/11, 4/11 nonpublic, 5/9, 6/21, 6/27, and 7/5 as amended. Motion passed.

GUESTS: Gordon Davenport, Chair of the Recreation Commission, came before the Select Board to continue the discussion on the proposed fitness trail extension. He offered a new proposal from the contractor where the quote had been brought down to \$30,000. The Commission also submitted a Wentworth Gift Grant request for \$5,000 to be part of the funding for the trail extension. The Commission had not yet discussed a new donation component in the proposal, which was to add a new section of woods trail and install a single culvert in the woods were previously pallets had been discussed. The Cemetery Trustees were not keen on the idea of a trail to the Cemetery. A culvert just after the start of the new trail was described as essential, as the new trail could block the natural water sheet flow. The Select Board indicated that the proposal should be adjusted to show the culvert cost, whether donated or not. The new trail segment in the woods did not find much favor with either party, and it was suggested that the school district might be asked to be a partner on the upkeep of the existing woods trail. JD will inquire with the school principal. The Recreation Commission was fully behind the project for the gravel fitness extension including the culvert deemed essential. An updated proposal with no work in the woods and any donated components to be part of the proposal was requested by the Select Board. The next Select Board meeting is likely to be Thursday, July 25, 2024. The Select Board asked that fitness trail maintenance be included in the Commission's operating budget in the future. The Select Board will assist in advertising that the Commission has openings for members.

The draft maintenance tasks *policy document* between Building and Grounds and the Recreation Commission on the Tibbetts property was discussed. No new tasks were added to the document that MA had drafted.

Jim Davis from Building and Grounds discussed manpower *issues needs* with the Select Board. Options included summer youth help, hiring a landscape company, lessening the weeding work by switching to crushed stone, and hiring another part time town employee. The costs were unknown. The Select Board asked him to look into the issue. SO inquired about having volunteers do some of the work.

NEW BUSINESS

- DA reported that the NH DRA had asked a few minor questions and then approved the 2024 MS-232, the approved budget, after the Town Meeting votes were ratified at the Special Town Meeting.
- There was a review and discussion of a MA's draft budget guidance letter to be included with the department and commission budget materials for FY2025. It was agreed to include suggestions from SO.

- The Select Board took up the 2024 Wentworth Gift Grant requests. They thought that the Library request for \$1,400 for digital storage and backup did not qualify unless the storage was part of a particular patron program. The request for \$5,000 for the new fitness trail extension did meet the trust requirements. TB moved and SO seconded a motion to deny the Library request for 2024 and suggested any re-submission in 2025 should include more detail. Motion passed. TB moved and SO seconded a motion to grant the request from the Recreation Commission for \$5,000 to help fund the new fitness trail extension. Motion passed. TB moved and SO seconded a motion to authorize EF to sign the 2024 Wentworth request letter to the trustees, Bar Harbor Wealth Management. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was a short review of the intersection reports from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission initiative to advance safety enhancements at the Madbury Rd-Rt. 155-Town Hall Rd and Old Stage Rd-Rt. 9 intersections. EF will arrange a date for Colin Lentz from SRPC to come in and discuss the options that were presented in the reports.
- MA presented edits to the charter for a Public Works Planning Committee. There was a discussion on a possible mailer or flyer, what kind of talent within the town might be available, a respond by date, and the cost of a consultant to assist the committee. SO moved and TB seconded a motion to approve the charter as amended. Motion passed.
- MA will send revisions on the responsibilities memo for the maintenance of Tibbetts Field to the Recreation Commission for review.
- Chief McGann will be meeting with an environmental consultant on Monday, July 15, 2024. EF will let Fire Chief Perley know.

BOARD UPDATES

- A complaint about fireworks landing on an abutting property on Cherry Lane was referred to the Police Chief.
- The final draft of the Housing and Demographics chapter of the Master Plan is available and will be reviewed for acceptance at the next *Planning Board* meeting.

OTHER:

- EF noted there was knotweed at the Transfer Station and wondered about dealing with it before the Town might want to make use of the loam piles where it is growing.
- It was noted that Martin, 3 Cherry Ln., would be attending the next Planning Board meeting *in response to the Select Board's September 2023 letter*. It is not a public hearing.
- EF reported that he had not yet contacted *Davis Rubbish Removal* or the abutter ~~on~~ *regarding* a fence between the two properties. The fence is a civil matter.
- EF will bring his research on the recent adjustment to the elderly exemption in terms of tax impact to a future meeting.
- The regularly scheduled Select Board meeting for July 19, 2024 was canceled unless an emergency comes up.

Meeting ended at 10:15pm

Submitted by: *Eric Fugentbaum*

Approved: *8-2-2024*

On approved minutes, proof changes are noted through italics for additions and strikethroughs for deletions.