**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**June 5, 2023**

**7:00 PM Quinlan** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman **Esposito** and Selectman **Brown.**

The Board reviewed the minutes of 5/30/23. **Esposito** motioned to accept the minutes of 5/30/23 as written seconded by **Brown.** All in favor.

**Quinlan** noted that Sunday’s Fishing Derby went off flawlessly. The rain held off; it was perfect for fishing. Approximately 90 children participated; they caught over 150 fish. For years this has been a DPW sponsored event. Ben Crosby has been doing an enormous amount of work towards this. This year will start the transition where Purgatory Fish & Game will slowly start to take over the event. DPW will still remain a part of it, but will not have to do most of the work.

**7:15 PM** Cindy Raspiller and Jane King, Library Trustees; Adrienne Gosselin, Conservation Commission; Jay Wilson and Lou Springer; Cemetery Trustees all met with the Board to discuss the town center parcel where the new library and cemetery are projected to go and also the improvements to Carleton Pond. **Quinlan** stated that the Selectmen have decided that we need to do more coordinating between the different groups developing the site because they all impact each other one way or another and we want to make sure that feathers don’t get ruffled or someone inadvertently does something which impacts what the other group is trying to do. These are all town properties, all town projects, even though each has been assigned a different task and has their own ambitions of what to do with the land. After the Town Meeting in March, **Quinlan** is under the impression that people don’t have a good idea of what’s going on in total. Everything was struck down; everything that everyone has been working for and planning for a long time. He thinks it is on the Select Board to give everyone a better picture of what the long-term plan is up there and what it’s supposed to look like, so that when people walk into the next Town Meeting in March, they don’t get surprised. He thinks we suffered from that at Town Meeting on all the major items. People had sticker shock and were negative about everything. Everyone has their own right to choose what they want to support, but as leaders, he thinks its important for the Board to explain to everyone as best they can where we think the town’s going and what projects we think are important. We have to bring these things to fruition. Instead of every group doing their thing individually and the BOS just stepping back, he thinks we need to meet on a regular basis and try to drive everybody towards the finish line. He suggests that we meet every other month to go over where everybody is at. Adrienne Gosselin stated that they still have plantings to do around Carleton Pond. They will take into account that there will be construction next to it. Nothing will be ultra-manicured anyways because the pond is supposed to be left in its natural state. They have been trying to hold off so as not to have construction disturb the plantings, but they will do so knowing that the side of the pond will most likely be impacted. **Quinlan** noted that the pond gets all the runoff from both the right side which is still wooded and the left side where hopefully the new library and cemetery will go on top of the hill. The Cemetery Trustees are key players in all of this because most of the property is theirs. Jay Wilson stated that they will be doing some ground radar surveying up there this fall. They will also have to look at the Carriage Circle right of way. Once the road gets put in and the cemetery wants to start up construction, they don’t want to be driving heavy equipment up on the new road; they will use the Carriage Circle right of way as their access. They have figured out that they have at least a couple hundred burial sites left in the existing cemetery, depending on cremation vs full burials. **Brown** questioned that as the last time it was discussed with Lou Springer, he got the impression that there weren’t that many lots left. Wilson said that was before they did the radar survey of the property which gave them a much better picture. **Quinlan** feels we need the large wooded portion of the town center parcel above the pond evaluated as well. Seeing as the cemetery is not ready to make a move for a few years yet, he’d like a pictorial representation of what it will look like 5-10 years down the line so it’s clear what can and can’t be done. Wilson said part of the plan this year is to ground radar the top 3 acres which are fairly open; there used to be a field up there. The other part they will survey by drone to see what the terrain looks like. Then as they start going across, they will ground radar the whole thing. In some areas they won’t be able to put anything in because there will be a lot of ledge. **Brown** feels it’s important for the Town to understand what the visual concept is; once people start realizing what this is going to entail, they can be on board. Cindy Raspiller feels that once people start seeing the potential for picnic areas or places for trails, this could be a nice area for the town. Since Meridian has done all the survey work for the library and some for the CC, they have a ton of data on the parcel. Having them finish the cemetery portion makes sense. We can come up with a concept sketch that encompasses the whole thing. Wilson stated that the plan for this year is to capture what’s at the existing cemetery, mapping that out, then droning and ground radaring the top 5-acres of the future cemetery land. Surveying the new cemetery site is something they would budget for next year; they don’t have the funds for it this year. **Quinlan** asked if Cy-Pres funds could be available so as to finish the wetlands survey on the right side. **Quinlan** thinks it would be a good goal for all of us if we try to develop a composite picture of what the whole thing is going to look like by the end of the year. He will contact Spencer Tate with Meridian Land Services and report back. Kathy Marchocki posed a question from the public: **Quinlan** stated that he is trying to drive everyone towards the finish line; what exactly is the finish line? **Quinlan** stated that this land was purchased by the Town back in 1997 for the express purpose of a new library and an extension of the cemetery. Although the pond is not part of it, it is an integral part of the area. You can’t do anything on the other sections without impacting the pond. The Conservation Commission has done a lot of work the last few years bringing it back to a much better state than it once was. The idea is that the town 25 years ago had expectations about what was going to happen there; 25 years is a considerable amount of time and he thinks as the leadership of the town, we need to revisit it to make sure that these things come to completion in the not-too-distant future. Marchocki asked where **Quinlan** got the impression that people didn’t understand things at Town Meeting? There were over 500 people there and she feels they all seemed very well informed. **Quinlan** stated that some are; some aren’t. He went on to say that when there were pauses in between voting on the different warrants, he had a lot of people coming up to the table where he was sitting asking questions and they obviously weren’t clear about what was going on or how it’s supposed to go on or what the impact was. People who are residents of the town pay attention to whatever they really want to pay attention to. It’s unfortunate and partially our fault if people go into Town Meeting and do not know at least the basics about what’s being voted on that night. There’s a small group of people that pay a lot of attention abut he thinks most residents don’t pay much attention. We can do a better job of informing people of what we’re doing, where it came from and why we’re doing it. These projects are important to the long-term viability of the town. Information is a big part of it; giving people a better concept of what it is we’re talking about and what they’re voting on. **Esposito** disagreed; he feels that the people at Town Meeting knew exactly what they were voting on and why they were there. People knew what they wanted and that’s the way they voted. They were very well informed.

Chief Jay Wilson informed the Board that the fire alarm panel is fried; that will be about $3,000 to replace. The generator also needs repairs upwards of $3,500. **Esposito** asked if insurance will cover this. Wilson said he is not sure what happened or exactly when; they have no way of knowing if it was a power surge or not.

**7:48 PM Brown motions to go into non-public session to discuss an issue that falls under RSA 91-A:3-II(c) Second by Esposito; Brown yes, Esposito yes, Quinlan yes, motion passed.**

**8:02 PM Brown motions to come out of non-public session, second by Esposito; Brown yes, Quinlan yes, Esposito yes, motion passed.**

**Esposito motions to seal the minutes from the non-public session, second by Brown, all in favor, motion passed.**

**8:05 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Brown** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Esposito.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary