

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes June 21, 2021

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Tim Berry and Howard Brown, and minute taker, Laurie Brown. Esposito led the meeting with the pledge.

Esposito stated that Town Counsel, could not make it tonight and will attend next week's meeting.

Board reviewed the non-public minutes of June 7. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the non-public minutes of June 7, 2021 as written. All in favor.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to reopen the accepted public minutes of 6/7/21. All in favor. A residents' name was removed from the minutes as she asked to remain anonymous. H. Brown motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of 6/7/21 as amended. All in favor.

Board reviewed the minutes of 6/14/21. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of June 14, 2021 as amended. All in favor.

H. Brown asked why Berry stated that not getting the \$80K at Town Meeting tied the hands of the Heritage Commission.

Berry explained that, in order to get matching grants, you have to have the match already appropriated. You need money to get money. Esposito said that we also need a set of plans – The CP Williams report was a concept and you need to have an actual plan in order to get grants.

H. Brown feels that we should get together as a Board and tell the Town what needs to happen with one bond.

Berry said that the Town Hall project is not on equal footing with the Library project because the Library project got \$65K for architectural fees. The Town Hall has not been afforded the money for architectural plans. If the Library asks for \$2M, then right after that the Selectmen ask for \$1.9M for the Town Hall – that won't fly. We will be 10 years out before we can attend to this building.

H. Brown said that when the Selectmen started this building, the Library people didn't know how it would affect the fundraising for the Library project. They are now raising money from individuals.

Esposito said that he isn't against the Library and he likes the idea of putting everything under one bond.

H. Brown stated that the Library Trustees think that they will only be asking for \$600K from the Town; the rest will come from fundraising.

Berry said that the road is estimated at over \$400K. We may be able to save \$50K and build the road next year.

H. Brown said that the road is necessary for the cemetery. H. Brown also feels that being the Selectmen's rep to the Library is not a conflict of interest and he is not uncomfortable with it unless the Board is.

Berry said that the Town needs to fund the road and the Town Hall design work.

Esposito said that there will be push-back on both the Library and Town Hall.

H. Brown said that the different factions have to move together if we are going to fund with one bond.

Berry asked if anyone attended the webinar regarding the GOFFER funds.

H. Brown did attend and said that NEU's requesting funds must have their application in for an August 18 deadline. There is a list of things that the money can be spent on and we only qualify for broadband.

Esposito asked what broadband will cost.

Berry said that GOFFER will pay Consolidated Communications directly.

H. Brown submitted the question that Chief Wilson asked: would MACC communication equipment be covered.

Esposito brought up the new owners of a property on Weston Hill Road. Several of the neighbors have complained about noise, junk, and people living in the 2nd residence. There is no CO for that 2nd residence.

L. Brown said that she received a message on the office phone in response to the letter we sent them telling them that they cannot occupy the 2nd residence. The homeowner confirmed that they are using both residences and think they are in the clear because it is all one family.

Esposito said that Town Counsel is aware of this situation and we will talk about it during our next meeting. He also suggested using a neutral building inspector.

Berry doesn't feel this is necessary.

H. Brown asked why we feel we have to announce our visit.

H. Brown said, at the last library meeting, they suggested that the Selectmen each get their own email accounts instead of everything going through the office email.

L. Brown said that it might not be a good idea since Selectmen cannot act individually.

H. Brown said that he has his own sprise. account. He will check into it.

L. Brown will check with the NHMA.

H. Brown asked if the Selectmen would like to include a welcome letter in the bags that the library is putting together for newcomers. He volunteered to work up something for the Board to approve. Board agreed.

Eileen Naber suggested including a Town Report in the welcome bag.

Esposito suggested including a transfer station sticker.

H. Brown asked if the Board will have any input into the new website.

L. Brown said that she hoped everyone will get involved as it will make for a better site for the Town.

H. Brown stressed that transparency is important. People need to know that posting their minutes is important to the Town, and we should thank them for it.

Esposito said that we have had a problem with the DOL Safety inspection. The inspector came to re-inspect after 2 months and found that everyone had corrected their violations except the Fire Department. We are likely to be fined.

H. Brown said that everywhere he has ever worked, if there were fines levied, that person was let go.

Berry said that this is a reflection on the Board; maybe we should meet with the Fire Wards.

Esposito said that it has to be in a public meeting. He will speak with the Chief, and see if this is necessary.

H. Brown suggested that we record our meetings and make them available on the website.

Esposito agreed that the Board should do that.

L. Brown brought up a letter forwarded by the Planning Board. Justin Gamache, the developer of Crosby and Riley Roads has asked for a reduction of his road bond to \$0.00. She stated that this request is premature since we haven't received the final report from Meridian or from our DPW Director.

Berry will relate this information to the Planning Board tomorrow night at the PB meeting. He said that we should keep an eye on the drainage.

Esposito said that we cannot accept the roads until next March, and it would be good to be able to keep a maintenance bond for 3 years that begins then.

H. Brown agreed and was concerned that something may show up after the road is taken over by the Town and the school bus starts driving on the roads.

8:30 PM As there was no further business before the Board, H. Brown motioned seconded by Berry to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown