

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry and minute taker, Laurie Brown.

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence.

Heather Kennedy came before the Board to discuss the Easter Egg Hunt.

Esposito feels that it is too soon to have that kind of gathering.

Kennedy said that Milford is having a drive through event – we could do something similar. Maybe someone who has been vaccinated can represent the Easter Bunny. Participants would have to register. The Conservation Commission is trying to put together a trail blazing book. We could include it with the goody bags to hand out. It is a good way to support the Conservation Commission.

Roberge said that she is good with the drive through idea to limit exposure and also likes the piggy back with the Conservation Commission.

Kennedy let the Board know that the CC has reached out to ask for funding for the booklet through the Recreation budget. There will be 6 tasks and an award if the kids finish a task: they will get a badge. I think they need assistance financing the printing of the booklet and the prizes.

Berry said that he is also good with the drive through scenario to limit exposure.

Esposito said that he will probably have had his second vaccination by Easter and he could help.

Kennedy said that the advertisement has to be into the flyer by tomorrow.

Esposito spoke with Joanne Draghetti of the CC. He said that he had gotten an email from Draghetti and Jay Wilson regarding membership.

Draghetti said that she has an issue with the policy of appointing and unappointing members; the bottom line is that in June Rachel D'Andrea was appointed as an alternate in someone's place. He was no longer attending any meetings or responding to emails - his emails were bouncing back. You appointed D'Andrea in his stead. Last month he came to a meeting thinking he was still on the commission. Then he called Kim to find out what was going on. The Selectmen had turned someone away because the commission was full. I need clarification. I personally have brought forth 6 appointees and no one has ever been unappointed. This is not the 1st time we have had this conversation about this person not attending meetings. When people stop coming or drop out, do we have to submit names to you for unappointment?

Esposito said that, yes, it would be a good idea to do so.

Roberge suggested that there should be a better process. The gentleman didn't call me – it was an email.

Draghetti asked if she should use the words "contacted" instead of "called".

Roberge said that since she has been on the Board, if someone hadn't left Town, we would have sent a letter to see if they were still interested. It is hard to find people to sit on committees. If the CC believes there should be a level of participation that needs to be met to stay on the commission, they should put that in writing and submit it to the Board.

Wilson said that last August they had sent over a CC roster of current, active members and alternates. That was given to the Board.

Roberge said that we need to look at policies. We reappoint after Town Meeting.

Esposito agreed and said it was the meeting after Town Meeting that the Board does appointing/reappointing. Also stating that he has been very active on other boards also.

Draghetti said that there have been times where people were not interested in being on the CC. Lately, however, we have had more interest. Why didn't the Selectmen take action then, when he was not participating? We have people that have been on the commission for a year and a half who don't know who he is.

Roberge said that we can't change what we haven't done.

Esposito asked if alternates are required to attend a certain number of meetings.

Draghetti said that she couldn't keep running around chasing people. We were told in June that the board was full and not accepting new members.

Roberge asked if Draghetti was looking to open up the Board and add new members.

Draghetti said that 7 members and 5 alternates is good. Two years ago, we were having trouble filling board seats and the alternates were not coming.

Roberge asked if the board has certain expectations of members or alternates.

Draghetti said that she does send prospective members the responsibilities and duties and then invites them to a meeting to see how things are done. If they are still interested, the board votes to recommend them to the Selectboard for appointment. She said that the board could draft up what they feel is reasonable for attendance.

Roberge asked if there has been a time where they have put forth an appointee and the Selectmen have said "no"?

Draghetti said that that is how we got here.

Roberge said that if someone seems like they are not interested, we should send them a letter to confirm.

Draghetti said that she did that with this gentleman; you have people taking up space of people who want to serve.

Berry said that the Board did say that the CC had a full board. That was for one specific incident, and it may not have been the best way to handle that.

Esposito said that there should be no limit to the number of alternates, and if someone cannot attend, they should notify you.

Kennedy said that the Lamson Farm Commission had a full board, and created the Friends of Lamson Farm so that more people could contribute.

Esposito asked Bill McKinney about an email that the Board had received about realigning Wilton Road.

Berry answered, and said that there is a member of the Planning Board that does not like the intersection of Wilton Road, Hutchinson Road and Dow Road. He would like to create one, 4-way intersection. We would have to buy land from someone and pay for the road. This is a Planning Board issue. If the PB thought it was viable, they would bring it to the Selectboard. Roads and budgets are the purview of the Selectmen. I broke the correct chain of events and sent the project to the PD, DPW, PB and BOS. The Chief of Police is not interested in this project. It is not a safety issue; there has never been an accident in this area. I want to table this issue.

Roberge said that she would understand if it was a safety issue; it would be a priority. Why wasn't it put on a work session of the PB? I have read what the Chief said and would be interested in what the DPW thinks because this is not the first time it has come to light.

McKinney said that it has come up twice while a property owner was trying to subdivide their land. This is not a PB proposal; it is one individual's opinion. A single person with an idea that hasn't been submitted to the PB for the proper process. No traffic studies have been done. No accidents in the last 10 years. I wouldn't come to the Selectmen without property owner approval.

Roberge said that she feels the opposite: why would you go to the property owner without everyone in the Town departments being on board.

McKinney said that if it had come to the PB for proper review they would have done just that.

Kathryn Marchocki said that she was very surprised when it was brought up. This board member is a civil engineer and doesn't like the 90 degree turns. He wants to see a straight road right through my front pasture.

Belinda Yeaton asked if her husband could re-make the bulletin board for the McCollom Building.

Tim Berry said to go ahead.

Board agreed.

Ben Crosby brought up the quote he got for a used sidewalk clearing machine at \$45,000 - \$50,000. He said that they are between \$120K and \$140K new. He has had no luck getting quotes from contractors. The vendor said that he could pick up the machine on their trailer and demo it to see how well it would work for us. The Police Chief read us the RSA that says we are responsible for keeping the sidewalks ADA compliant. A walk-behind machine would be too labor intensive since it is a 2.5-mile round trip.

Esposito said that he doesn't know how we could come up with \$45K right now.

Roberge said that we use a zero-turn mower; and asked if it has the capacity to add a blower and chains. This may not be the best way to spend \$50K this year.

Crosby said that he was going off of resident's requests regarding close calls etc. H.P. Fairfield does sell a mower that you can attach a snow blower to.

Roberge feels that it is a priority, but that we should be looking for a less expensive alternative or at least something that could do double duty.

Crosby said that there are machines that allow for a bunch of different attachments.

Crosby told the Board about an arrangement he has made with the Superintendent of Schools. He had wanted to subscribe to a weather service to get better updates on weather etc. The Town already pays for the service through the Superintendents' office. Adam Steele will get Crosby sign in credentials through his subscription.

Wilson asked if the weather service was just for winter and was told yes.

Howard Brown asked if it was legal to go through the Superintendents' license.

Crosby said yes; his subscription can include several users.

Roberge asked Crosby if the money for a new generator for the Highway Garage in the budget already, and will the 20KW generator fulfill the needs of the garage.

Crosby said yes it will take care of the garage needs but is not already in the budget. There is something in the generator that is worn out and will keep kicking it into a fault.

Esposito asked if the quote includes the transfer switch.

Crosby said that it does.

Berry asked if the quote is for a diesel machine.

Crosby said that this quote is for propane because the diesel generators cost 2.5 times what the propane ones cost and the life expectancy is not 2.5 times that of the propane. This quote is for a liquid cooled generator which will have a life expectancy of 5 years over the air cooled one we have now.

Berry asked how long we can put off this purchase; how often is the generator down.

Crosby said at least every time we lose power. Every 2 - 3 weeks in the winter.

Berry asked if Crosby would choose moving the diesel tank or getting a new generator if he could choose one.

Crosby said the generator.

Roberge said that if it failed, we could take the money out of the building maintenance fund.

Berry thinks that the money to move the tank is in the budget and that the Board could move that money to offset the generator purchase.

Esposito feels that we need to replace the generator sooner rather than later.

Roberge suggested moving the money for the weather service over to offset the generator too.

Berry asked Crosby to figure out how much he could move from the diesel line for the generator.

Esposito reminded everyone that fuel prices are going up.

Crosby said that one of our neighboring towns pays \$.40 cents less per gallon for propane through the same vendor. Esposito asked Brown to call them in the morning.

Brown spoke to the Website update and the IT service and said that she has no more information than last meeting.

Berry asked the Board to appoint Sarah Beth Ross as a full member to the Heritage Commission. He also reminded the Board that he and Rebecca Schwarz have to be re-appointed.

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to appoint Sarah Beth Ross as a full member to the Heritage Commission with a term of 2023.

Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Berry said that the Heritage Commission held their first fundraiser and took in \$565 in donations for the Town Hall renovation. One of our winners was Sarah Beth Ross – that is how she heard about us.

Schwarz said that there was quite a bit of interest in taking credit cards.

Yeaton said that she would look into it.

Esposito said that there is a fee for that.

Schwarz feels that, because they are non-profit, they can charge the fee to the payer.

Esposito asked if the Board was going to set up another committee for the Town Hall Renovation Plan.

Roberge said that Charlie Schussler and Mike Cardoza are ready to sit on it. She believes it is the right thing to do.

Esposito wants to get it going so we can get a long-term proposal.

Roberge said that 7 people would be ideal and that she would put together a blurb to post in the Flyer and on the Town website.

Berry said that we want as many people as possible to sign up.

The Board will need to set them with a task.

Berry said that we can't come up with a plan without money for planning and design work.

Roberge said that there was no update from Fieldstone or the State regarding the Brook Rd. culvert.

Roberge also would like to get two more members appointed to the Historic District Commission.

Esposito said that they always do the appointments the Monday night after Town Meeting.

Brown said that, in a normal year, it would be March 15th. The Board will do it March 15, 2021.

Roberge asked Brown to find out from the NHMA if members of committees and commissions need to be unappointed if they move and, do they have to be a resident to serve.

Board reviewed the non-public minutes of 6:30 PM on February 1. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the non-public minutes of 6:30 PM on February 1, 2021 as written. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes

Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to seal the non-public minutes of 6:30 PM on February 1, 2021. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes

9:00 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by Roberge to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown