

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2021 SELECT BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Board Members Chair Mike Houghton, Vice Chair Joe Lovejoy, Board Member Allison Knab along with Town Administrator David Moore and Library Director Lesley Kimball. Director of Public Works Nate Mears joined via conference call.

The Board Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adopt the February 22, 2021 minutes as presented. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton asked for any discussion on the Treasurer's Report. Hearing none, he moved to the Library Department report as presented by Library Director Lesley Kimball. Highlights from her report include opening up the library to appointments, then, later in the month, they will welcome a limited number of drop-ins. Library book pick up has been popular and may continue after the pandemic. As part of a reorganization, one of the library's full time positions will change from Children's Librarian to Technology and Education. This is in response to the community's needs and interests. A staff member has a background in this area and already possesses the skills needed for the position. The position will be designed for what the library needs, then an in-house interview will be conducted. Ms. Kimball has also updated the job description for Assistant Library Director. They discussed how the pandemic caused an increase in downloads of eBooks and wondered if the trend would continue after the pandemic. Ms. Kimball noted that past preferences have shown that many people still want physical books. There are more books available online than they can house in the library. However, eBooks are more costly.

Next, Mr. Houghton addressed Meet the Candidate Night. It will be held via Zoom. Ms. Kimball described the logistics. Some candidates will be participating remotely; some will be in person. After the candidates speak, the Warrant Articles will be addressed. The Select Board planned to be available in case people had questions.

Mr. Houghton then moved to Item X on the agenda – 2021 Mosquito Contract. Sarah MacGregor of Dragon Mosquito described the services they've provided in past years. Permit applications have been submitted to the State which will allow the town to start the program in April. Ms. MacGregor explained that in the spring they treat the mosquito larvae in the water using BTI, a bacterium that's been used for 40 years and only targets black flies and midge larvae. It is harmless to other insects, birds, fish, etc. Once they hatch, adult mosquitoes are sent to the State to be tested for disease. Typically, roadside spraying then begins. People have an option to register as "No spray". If the Town is looking at ways to cut costs, roadside spraying would be the service to cut. Disease test results will drive the need for spraying. She continued to talk about the town's options, mosquitoes and the diseases they carry.

Ms. MacGregor talked about the use of Merus, an organic pesticide made from chrysanthemums. It is effective but also more costly. She answered questions from the Board about the effectiveness of roadside spraying. Backpack spraying is used in the park and is effective against

ticks. Merus can only be sprayed from a truck. They discussed the areas of Town that are usually treated. The Board thanked Ms. MacGregor. They also thanked Mr. Mears and his team for their work in the snowy month of February. Mr. Mears and the Board continued to discuss their options regarding the mosquito program. It was decided to keep the larvaeciding and tracking of mosquitoes carrying disease, but suspend roadside spraying unless an emergence of disease requires it. If spraying is needed, they would like to use the organic Merus spray. Mr. Mears will try to coordinate with surrounding towns to see if we can combine to get a better price on Merus. He will continue to discuss the contract with Ms. MacGregor at Dragon and report back to the Board.

Mr. Houghton moved the conversation to the new Automated Curbside Collection Program. Mr. Mears has been communicating with the public and responding to specific situations. Casella has done a great job too. Calls have slowed. The program is going as anticipated. In April, the Transfer Station will be open all 4 Saturdays and Thursday and will have the ability to accept solid waste. Most calls we've received are residents wanting a smaller bin; some want larger. We've been keeping track of that information. Mr. Mears said that a small percentage of the public has concerns but the majority support the program. He noted that because of the pandemic some household living situations have changed. He advocated establishing a price annually for leasing an additional cart to residents that request it. The number should support the cost of the added volume of trash. Currently, we will not be charging for disposal of excess trash because the dumpster at the Transfer Station is included in the Casella contract. The residents do ultimately pay for the total tonnage. There's a hauling charge for waste picked up curbside which would be included in the charge for an additional bin. Ms. Knab doesn't want to encourage extra trash disposal. They discussed residents that have property partially in Greenland and partially in Stratham and are partaking of our collection program. There is a need to come up with a policy to address this issue.

RESERVATIONS

Mr. Moore stated that the Boy Scouts are requesting to use Room A for their Pinewood Derby. He explained the Covid precautions that will be in place. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the request provided the maximum attendance not exceed 25 people and to waive the fee. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Greenland Vets requested use of the 4-H Pavilion for their annual picnic September 11 and 12. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the request provided they place a limitation on participants to whatever is in effect at the time. He also include the fee waiver in his motion. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore noted there were Zoning Board of Adjustment reappointments to be made: Bruno Federico to be reappointed for a three year term beginning 2021, Richard Goulet to be reappointed to a three year term as an alternate beginning 2020, Drew Pierce reappointed to a three year term beginning 2020, Amber Dagata reappointed to a three year term beginning 2021. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the appointments as read. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton addressed Town Meeting planning. Mr. Moore gave a status update. They discussed which Select Board member would read which articles at the meeting.

Mr. Houghton asked about the response to the Trail Management Committee. Mr. Moore responded that we have received approximately 20 applications. Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey is reviewing the applications and will bring his recommendations to the Board. They discussed members of other committees that had expressed interest.

At 8:53 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3,II(a) to discuss a number of personnel issues. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:50 p.m. Mr. Houghton motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting that failure to do so may render an action invalid. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore made the Board aware of a Gravel Tax levy for Lindt, which the Board signed.

Mr. Moore noted that interim Assessor Chris Murdough recommended acceptance of four veteran's tax credits. He read the map and lot numbers. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the veteran's tax credits as recommended. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:57 pm Mr. Houghton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary