

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 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.

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

Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the minutes from March 1, 2021 as presented. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton moved to discussion of the 2021 Town Meeting preparations. Mr. Moore provided an overview of the preparations for the Meeting including audio visual logistics and safety measures. Town Moderator Dave Emanuel explained the safety measures taken at the School District meeting the week previously. There will be a large meeting space, a separate overflow space and space for unmasked. The group discussed adding an outdoor space. Mr. Moore will send a newsletter tomorrow informing the public of the steps being taken to ensure everyone's safety. Mr. Moore noted the law requires the Town provide transportation to Town Meetings held outside of the community and that a bus has been arranged to transport residents if they require a ride. They continued to review meeting details.

Mr. Houghton moved next to the Department report and recognized to Public Works Director Nate Mears for his department report. Automated curbside collection program has been successfully rolled out. Only a small number of modifications were necessary. The Board authorized an additional bin for residents who qualify and pay a fee of up to \$480 annually. Residents who put out bins that are automated curbside collectible compliant but do not have the proper stickers are not collected.

Currently, the Department of Public works is focusing on spring operations. The contract with Dragon Mosquito is moving forward as requested and as discussed with Dragon Mosquito at the March 1st meeting. A new proposal has been received which discontinues scheduled roadside spraying in favor of a needs-based approach based on public health threats. Spraying that does occur will be done using an organic adulticide instead of the current synthetic. They discussed further the cost of organic vs. non-organic spraying. Mr. Houghton motioned authorize the Town Administrator to execute an agreement with Dragon Mosquito for routine services of mosquito control and insect control for larviciding, surveillance, lab testing and trap deployment and maintenance for a sum of \$52,880. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next, Mr. Mears stated he is moving forward with proposals for resurfacing the municipal center roof to resolve the leaks that occur during wet weather. He is also working to replace the pickup truck at the DPW. He will come back with a specific model for approval for release of Capital Reserve Funds. The paving schedule is being firmed up.

Mr. Mears is coordinating with Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey on grounds maintenance at the parks. He and Mr. Hickey have explore the potential for moving the ice rink to a covered area in the Park.

Mr. Houghton recognized Mr. Hickey to speak to recommendations from his department. Mr. Hickey requested removing restrictions on the number of people that may gather as part of events in the pavilions at the Park, which had been 50. He has been monitoring State guidance

and spoken with Health Officer Shanti Wolph. All felt that for outside events, as long as masks are worn, it would be ok to remove the restrictions. Next, Mr. Hickey listed some requests for a facility fee waivers based on their non-profit or employee status. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the requests listed on Mr. Hickey's memo dated March 12. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Hickey notified the Board of some large events that are being planned at the park. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to move forward with the events. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Houghton directed attention to an Old Business item from 2018 – the resident who originally came forward with the complaint about excess cars parking on Scamman Road to access the trails at Stratham Hill Park would like a resolution. Mr. Hickey explained that access points were put on the map in order to assist first responders in the event of an emergency in the park. The Board discussed the issue. It was decided that a revision to trail map printed and posted include a new bullet asking for cooperation from residents related to this issue. We will let Mr. Marbaucher know of this decision.

The next item Mr. Houghton addressed is PFAS in Town Center. Attorney Tom Burack via the phone joined the meeting on behalf of his clients at 145 Portsmouth Avenue. Mr. Moore gave a status update. The Town is working with engineers to finalize the Remediation Action Plan (RAP). Our efforts include understanding the mitigation process, adopting policies, meeting DES requirements, managing details and maintaining treatment systems into the future. Attorney Burack urged the Town to move as quickly as possible with remediation.

Mr. Moore reported that the Heritage Commission is requesting to add 3 properties to the River Road Historical Assessment. The contract value will increase by additional \$2,000. Mr. Houghton motioned to approve the contract addendum. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next, Mr. Houghton addressed the request from the NHSPCA regarding a Performance Agreement reduction. Staff have no objection to this request. Mr. Houghton requested that, for future requests, a form be created with signature lines for responsible staff to sign, signifying their approval. In processing this request, Mr. Moore noted that the Performance Agreement's acceptance had been overlooked. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to accept the Performance Agreement that was included in the Board packet August 2020. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the requested return of the portion of the performance bond as outlined in the Town Planner's March 11, 2021 memo and approved by the Planning Board. The amount to be returned is \$265,148; Town still holding \$92,312. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton asked if there were any questions regarding the Informational Item - Source Water Protection Plan. Rockingham Planning Commission is working with Town Planner Mark Connors on the project. They will go before the Planning Board on Wednesday. A presentation is being offered to the public on March 30.

A resident is requesting an increase to the existing Service-Connected Veterans Disability Tax Credit from \$2,000 to \$4,000. 13 residents currently apply for and receive this credit at the

current \$2,000 amount. A change to this can only be done at Town Meeting. Mr. Moore advised that the tax revenue deferred in the event the credit is doubled would be \$52,000, currently it is \$26,000. It would have to be a Warrant Article which could be done next year. Ms. Knab offered to contact the resident with the information.

At 8:35 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with RSA 91:A. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:53 p.m. Mr. Houghton seal the minutes from the non-public session noting that failure to do so might render a proposed action ineffective. Ms. Knab seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned advance the applications of the following residents to the April 5th meeting for appointment to the Trail Management Advisory Committee: Scott Zeller (Chair designate, Edie Barker, Greg Blood, Kevin O'Brien, Patricia (Trish) Weideman, Kate Dardinski and Bill McCarthy. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton motioned to advance the application of Jeff Hyland to the April 5th meeting for appointment to the Heritage Commission Alternate position. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned to advance the application of Alex Dardinski to the April 5th Select Board meeting for appointment to the Pedestrian & Cyclist Advisory Committee. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned to table the application of Kyle Hollasch for nomination to the Pedestrian & Cyclist Advisory Committee. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton motioned to approved Veteran's Credits for Map 6 Lot 19 (Standard veterans credit with 100% service connected disability) and Map 22 Lot 40 (standard veterans credit) as recommended by interim Town Assessor Chris Murdough. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton signed the Environmental Reviews for CDBG loans.

Mr. Moore reviewed the presentation materials for the Board's use at Town Meeting.

At 10:01 pm Ms. Knab motioned to adjourn. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard, Recording Secretary