

MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 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.

At 7:01 pm Mr. Houghton opened the meeting.

Mr. Houghton asked for comments on the May 10, 2021 Select Board minutes. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton recognized Brandon Blood who came before the Board to request permission to complete an Eagle Scout Project at Stratham Hill Park. He would like to restore the dial at the top of the hill. He provided details on how he would complete the project. Mr. Blood answered the Board's questions regarding design, scope and materials. Some of the details of the project are unknown at this time therefore the Board requested Mr. Blood return to the Board through Town Administrator Moore with additional detail prior to final sign-off of the project. Mr. Lovejoy thanked him for undertaking the project and motioned for him to move forward with it. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton then recognized Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey along with Rich Matthes of Seacoast Velo Kids (SVK). They came before the Board to report back on their proposal to renovate and rebuild the pump track originally brought forth in January. He reported back on additional work carried out since that time, including conceptual design development, consultation with Town staff including DPW, and a site walk with the Recreation Commission. Mr. Lovejoy spoke in support of the project, especially in light of the fact that it will not cost the town anything. Ms. Knab seconded the motion and emphasized the importance of clearly communicating the project parameters and sponsorship in fundraising efforts and communications. Mr. Moore suggested a Memorandum of Agreement or similar agreement be created to define all the aspects of the project including through to construction. He also indicated it would be helpful for SVK and the Town to coordinate on an initial message defining the work. He will confer with Town counsel on the agreement. Mr. Lovejoy amended his motion to authorize the Town Administrator to work with the Seacoast Velo Kids to formalize an agreement with the Town of Stratham. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Hickey continued with his Parks and Recreation report. Overall, participation in spring sports is slightly down. He is finalizing their summer camp staffing. We are covering expenses with that program this year. Bone Builders has resumed, opening at capacity. They are looking for additional instructors and possibly increasing the days. 76ers will be meeting at the park this week. The summer race series has resumed. Participation is higher than usual. They are coordinating with Stratham Memorial School with 5th grade events. They will do Pizza in the Park on Thursday's again this year. In conjunction with the Library, they are offering the first outdoor movie night on Friday. It sold out within 24 hours. Based on the interest, he hopes to hold more. Pickle ball and tennis games have caused an increase in court demands. He will investigate additional court options. The Trail Management Committee is meeting next Monday. He is working with Recreation Commission regarding ordinances governing Smyk Park. There was discussion regarding the prohibition of metal detecting at SHP. Historic preservation is the

main reason it is prohibited. It also causes holes which may or may not be filled by the people doing it. Mr. Houghton reminded them about the Trusts restrictions on the property.

Mr. Hickey raised the issue of groups reserving the park without requesting use of a pavilion. To get a better idea of park usage, he has been reaching out to them.

At 7:44 pm Mr. Houghton made a motion to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with NH RSA 91-A:3, II(a). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

After returning to the public session, Mr. Lovejoy motioned to accept the recommendation of the Town Clerk Tax Collector to appoint James Joseph as Deputy Town Clerk Tax Collector. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton opened the Public Comments and recognized Mr. Tim Hebert and Mrs. Ann Hebert who came before the Board to request a land swap so that they may gain easier access to their property that they own or are under agreement for. They've met with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. The Board voiced reluctance with granting the Hebert's request citing a commitment to the Townspeople to be stewards of the Town's assets and were not comfortable moving forward without knowing more about the strategic uses for the Town property in the future. The Board saw no benefit to the town in granting this request; it might, in fact, set a bad precedent. However, the Board said they'd be willing to continue the conversation. The Hebert's next step is to go to the State in an attempt to get approval to build on the wetlands to which the property in question has a deeded access.

Mr. Houghton then addressed the wearing of masks in town buildings. After discussion, it was decided to continue to require masks in the town buildings. Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey sought guidance from the Board regarding the sports programs while participating in outdoor activities. He has received requests from parents to drop the mask requirement for younger children participating in outdoor activities. Mr. Lovejoy noted that we have taken a cautious, conservative approach thus far and it has served us well. They decided to stay with current policy.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Moore discussed the Select Board representation on each of the committees. After doing research, Mr. Moore determined they are not bound by terms. Committee assignments were reviewed. Ms. Knab inquired if there should be a Select Board representative on the Budget Advisory Committee. This will be revisited at a later date.

Mr. Houghton directed attention to the grant that has been awarded to the Police Department in the amount of \$2,460. Ms. Knab motioned to accept the grant from the Department of Highway Safety for the Police Department. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next, Mr. Houghton addressed the status of the American Rescue Plan. We are still awaiting guidance from the state, as they may impose restrictions additional to those from the Treasury. Mr. Moore outlined some of the details of the plan. He is reviewing potential uses for the funds,

including possible water-related infrastructure improvements including drainage improvements across Town and PFAS remediation.

RESERVATIONS

Mr. Moore read two requests for pavilion reservations and fee waivers due to their non-profit status. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the two requests. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

APPOINTMENTS/NOMINATIONS

Mr. Moore met with Mr. Connors regarding the multiple applications for the vacant Planning Board position. Mr. Moore reported that Mark Connors is working with the Planning Board Chair who plans to reach out to the candidates and communicate back to staff or the Board chair per the Boards and Commissions policy.

ADMINISTRATION (continued)

Mr. Moore read the recommendation for an Elderly Exemption tax credit as recommended by the Town Assessor. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the recommendation. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

They discussed a request by a resident to increase the Service Disability Tax Credits. In order to make any changes to this, it must be a warrant article which would be voted on by the Town. The Board will keep this on their radar and will review it as it gets closer to the appropriate time.

Mr. Moore presented documents for signature.

Mr. Moore met with Emergency Management Director David Barr to get his signature for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. They also discussed the emergency planning activities slated for 2022. Five Seabrook drills are proposed; three involving Town staff.

Ms. Knab inquired about the Route 33 presentations, as she was unable to attend. Mr. Moore said they were well received. Mr. Connor did a great job organizing and presenting the material. Although attendance was small, there were great questions and good participation.

At 9:11 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 10:02 pm Mr. Houghton moved to seal the minutes indicated that failure to do so would render proposed actions ineffective. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 10:03 pm Mr. Lovejoy moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard, Recording Secretary