

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 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 5:45 p.m. Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Houghton moved to seal the minutes noting that failure to do so would render the proposed actions ineffective. Ms. Knab seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

At 7:00 pm Mr. Houghton opened the regular meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Houghton opened the public hearing regarding seven discretionary preservation barn easement requests. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Nate Merrill, Chair of the Heritage Commission spoke in support of granting the easements. He explained that enrolling in 79-D gives a credit to the barn owners to incentivize them to maintain their barns exterior appearance. Responding to questions from the Board, Mr. Merrill stated the barns are currently being used for various purposes; the State's only criteria is that the exterior appearance remain the same. Additionally, the Assessing Department monitors the appearance of the barns and will notify the Heritage Commission if there is a concern. Mr. Houghton motioned to close the public hearing. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Mr. Moore read the following applications into the record:

- Florence E. Wiggin, 66 Squamscott Rd
- John & Megan O'Brien, 3 Barker Lane
- Dardinski Family Trust, Alexander Dardinski – Trustee, 3 Chase Lane
- Roberts Revocable Trust, William & Roberta Roberts – Trustees, 210 Portsmouth Ave.
- John & Sharon Goodrich Revocable Trust, John & Sharon Goodrich – Trustees, 11 Stratham Heights Rd
- David E. Ryng, 271 Portsmouth Ave.
- Jennifer Gunn, 173 Winnicutt Rd

Mr. Houghton made a motion to approve the applications as submitted. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

MINUTES

Mr. Houghton asked for comments on the May 17, 2021 Select Board minutes. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the May 17th minutes as corrected. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

LIBRARY

Library Director Lesley Kimball was present to give her department report. They have hired an Assistant Director – Scott Campbell. The library is now open, no appointments required. They are maintaining their mask requirement due to the fact that many patrons are children who cannot be vaccinated. Much of their programming will be outdoors. They are working on two

grant proposals. One is to be used for programming activities for both children and adults. The other, will be used to enhance the library and its services. Ms. Kimball has been thinking strategically about the priorities and values they want to put forth. She inquired as to how the library can better align with the board's priorities and values to serve the town in the best way possible. The Library will be reaching out to the community in an attempt to determine what the residents need/want from the library.

In her report, Ms. Kimball referred to the fact that they are hoping to utilize their outside area more, but noted that it sometimes gets very hot because there is no shade or shelter. Mr. Houghton recalled a while ago that at a Planning Board meeting it was agreed upon that a tree donation would be included in some site plan agreements. He requested Mr. Moore look into the matter. He speculated the Town could acquire some trees through donations for the Town's use and landscaping improvements benefiting the Library's outside programs.

Ms. Knab inquired about an AARP application that she had brought to Ms. Kimball's attention. Acceptance by them indicates we are a senior friendly community. Ms. Kimball had submitted the application, noting it may lead to a grant. She said they have great programs, such as the very popular tax aid program which they hosted this year.

Ms. Kimball returned to her report stating that she is tracking metrics. The numbers will drive where we allocate money, but quality of life is an important piece that also needs to be considered. A goal of doing the community survey is to determine what they could do that would be most impactful on the residents' lives. She acknowledged that the answers may take them outside of their typical activities. Resources will be put towards enhancing the needs and desires of the community. She will report back to the Board with the results of the survey. The Board thanked her for her report.

Next, Mr. Houghton recognized Mike Desroches, 23 College Rd, who came before the Board to discuss the PFAS issue at his home. He had a water filtration system installed in July, but he's unsure if it filters PFAS. Subsequent water tests on his property indicated the PFAS levels in his water were at an acceptable level. Mr. Moore said he has received Mr. Desroches request for reimbursement for the filtration system. Mr. Moore indicated that we are awaiting guidance from the State on financing the PFAS mitigation which may have bearing on the reimbursement request and amount. The Town is beginning to deploy point of entry systems at affected properties. Mr. Moore will have someone get back to him to help him decipher the results of his test.

Mr. Moore reported that Mr. Dan Coffey has submitted his resignation from the Exeter-Squamscott Rivers Local Advisory Committee. Ms. Knab accepted the resignation of Dan Coffey from the Exeter-Squamscott Rivers Local Advisory Committee. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore addressed the Assessing contract included in the Board's packet. Ms. Knab motioned to the Board authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a professional services agreement with Murdough Assessing Services in substantial conformance with the enclosed draft. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

In light of new guidance from the CDC and DHHS, Mr. Houghton drew attention to the policy of requiring masks to be worn in town buildings. Mr. Moore noted that the employees feel comfortable working with the public without masks. After discussion, the Board decided to drop the mask requirement for those that are vaccinated. Conversation continued regarding sports programs and other outside activities. The Board decided to follow State guidance regarding recreation programs.

Mr. Houghton asked Mr. Moore about the status of the emergency generator at SHP. Mr. Moore responded that we are awaiting details on the proposal from the County. Once we get them, we will make sure it complies with our previous agreements. The Board briefly discussed the work of the Trail Management Advisory Committee and the proposed Eagle Scout project and how there are various parties interested in the Park. The Board discussed the need to have consistency and review by the Select Board of different proposed initiatives for the Park. Mr. Moore advised that the TMAC has had tangential discussions about issues that entail a broader perspective than just the trails. The Board indicated it looks forward to discussion that encompasses general governance of the Park.

Mr. Moore hopes to have Emergency Management Director David Barr attend the next Select Board meeting to have a conversation about the Emergency Operations plan, the upcoming Seabrook drills and other issues.

Mr. Moore has had conversations with Jeff Hyland and Brandon Blood regarding the Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Moore is getting availability of participants in forming a health insurance study group.

The Building Inspector and Town Planner are due to present their department reports to the board in July. They have been researching permit software and are ready to put out a RFP. There is \$10,000 in CIP allocated to the purchase of the software. However, they feel that this is not a sufficient amount and will provide details with a request for additional funding.

Mr. Moore briefly reviewed the agreement with the Town and the Seacoast Velo Kids. He highlighted parts of the agreement, including the timeline for the project.

Mr. Moore reported that he has been participating in a Long Term Drinking Water Commission as the Board's appointee. In response to a request from that group, he and Mr. Connors have been accumulating information concerning all aspects of water in Stratham, various threats to private drinking water wells, past efforts to realize the 108 corridor redevelopment and related issues. The recent source water protection plan effort will be items for content as well as discussion of the Town meeting votes related to water and our Master Plan

Next, Mr. Moore explained that with the Assessing reorganization, he has begun looking at how an office reorganization may better serve the employees and residents. He will report back to the Board, but the Board was supportive of the proposal.

Mr. Houghton asked for a PFAS update. Mr. Moore stated that Mr. Wolph and Building Coordinator Denise Lemire have taken over managing the ARM contractor. Appointments have been scheduled with some of the affected property owners. Agreements needing to be signed are with residents and property owners and have started coming in. Mr. Moore is working on getting reimbursement for the town from the State. He is in touch with the legislative delegation to advocate for favorable rule changes for the PFAS Remediation Fund.

Mr. Connors assisted Tom House, Planning Board Chair, in reviewing the applications for the vacant alternate Planning Board position. They are all great applicants. Mr. Houghton motioned to appoint Chris Zaremba as an alternate to the Planning Board. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The other applicants will be referred to the ZBA, which currently has two openings.

Mr. Moore has parade permit request from Granite State Quest. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the parade permit. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore reported that the Assessor has recommended three elderly exemptions. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to approve the three elderly exemptions as recommended by the Assessor. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore said he has two items for non-public session. At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 8:48 p.m., Mr. Houghton moved to seal the minutes noting that failure to do so would render the proposed actions ineffective. Ms. Knab seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

At 8:49pm Mr. Houghton motioned to adjourn. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary