

SELECTBOARD Minutes

January 11, 2021

Meeting held virtually through a video conference *

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (chair), Tom Tolbert, Paul Fraser, Andy Coyne

Public Present: Erica Bowman, Bryan Zieroff, Joel Bluming, John Sohikian, Parker Rice, Bob Stomski, Galen Robinson (BCTV), Greg Joly

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

IT updates

Bridge update

2. Approve the minutes from the Dec 14th Selectboard meeting.

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14th meeting. Seconded by Andy.

Clarification on the motion made to accept the MOU with the Arts council. The amendment was so that the Arts council would not have to pay unless they used the town hall.

It should be Town Trail number 8, not town trail number 2.

Greg made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Paul, all in favor.

3. Discussion and updates to renaming-process of Legal Trail #8

Erica Bowman, our 911 coordinator said there needs to be a hearing and agreement between all three towns that the road is in which includes Windham and Londonderry. There is a section of Under the Mountain Road that is unpassable in Londonderry. She is still working on possible solutions. Erica would like to schedule a meeting where we could purpose a couple of options to the other towns and hopefully all work together for a solution. Greg and Tom will attend the meeting with the other towns. Erica is going to try and schedule a meeting for Tuesday, January 19th.

4. Consider request regarding the addition of an Article to the Town Meeting Warning to permit cannabis retail in Jamaica by Selectboard initiative rather than town petition

Towns need to opt in if they are open to having this business exist in their town. Parker Rice is asking if the town will be opting in. It would mean that the town will consider having it.

Greg thinks it should be something to put out to the town and have them decide. Paul thinks in light of covid, it would be better to put it on the Warning to eliminate the need to petition the town.

Tom made a motion that the Selectboard put the article on this year's town meeting to permit the sales of cannabis. Seconded by Andy, all in favor.

5. Discussion and sign-off on funding application for Community Waste Water Feasibly Study

The Selectboard approved the Planning Commission filling out this application. There was not much funding left last year so they are trying to get it in early this year. They formed a wastewater committee and put everything together for the application. There are 2 phases. The first one would be covered by the grant which would be a field study.

There is funding available for final design if additional state funds are not available.

This application is to fund a feasibility review, what the benefits would be and how it would help the town out.

6. Discussion of next steps of adoption and certification of Town Plan

The Planning Commission is looking at the Town Plan again. The first step is to make sure there are no Covid restrictions to adopting the Town Plan.

7. Discussion/Decision of Town Hall maintenance needs and projects

An organization in town wanted to donate money to put air conditioning in the town hall. Tom spoke with Meg Cambell last week. She said there is enough power if we wanted to do so, she wouldn't recommend window units, central air would be recommended. Tom will get some quotes to see what the cost would be, he will take it back to the person that had offered.

We passed the inspection for 2020 but there were a couple of issues. The paint on the exterior and the trim are peeling. It should be repainted next summer. Andy will stop and look at it and give Tom a rough estimate.

8. Discussion of highway equipment, sidewalks and roads

There was a string of bad luck with the highway equipment. A couple trucks were broken at the same time and the sidewalk plower is broken as well. The highway crew cleared the streets at 4 a.m. and Tom received complaints.

9. Discussion of alternate plans for Town Listers

Greg has been doing some research. He is getting conflicting information, some say we need to change our town charter. It was put on the Warning four years ago but not sure if it was legal. It is possible that we would need to change the charter to eliminate the lister position or make it appointed. If we do not change the charter, and no one runs as a lister, the Selectboard can appoint someone that is a resident. If unable to find someone from the town, you can appoint someone from out of town.

10. Discussion/Possible Decisions for Town Meeting

There is not a lot of interest in doing Australian Ballot. One option is to move to a larger space like the town garage. Capacity for any building is 75 people, what would happen if more people showed up?

If we did Australian ballot, more people might be able to vote but would people expect it to stay that way? Sometimes more people show up for floor votes.

With covid, more people might be apt to vote by ballot. We would like to wait to see what the legislative decides before making any decisions.

11. Discussion of proposed FY22 Budget

Tom would like to discuss with Terri about adding some money to the budget for painting the Town Hall.

IT Update: Tom has worked on updating the website to make it more consistent.

Bridge update: A temporary bridge would cost about half a million dollars. Joel asked why can't all parties involved pool money for the bridge. Windham Regional said that the Town of Jamaica would need to ask to have this meeting. Joel is suggesting that the Selectboard request this. Andy will write a letter and send it to them.

12. Review time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station

13. Review pay orders

14. Other public concerns

No public concerns.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall