

A regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Present: David Sheedy, Chairman; William Dowling, Clerk; Martin Crowley; George Samia, Town Administrator; Gloria Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Open Forum**

Veteran's Agent, Robert Charles, informed everyone that the Veteran's Day Parade is on November 11, 2015 and starts at 10:00 am with a ceremony at the Town Common directly following. East Bridgewater is the host this year. Mr. Charles also reminded everyone that the Field of Flags will be on the Town Common again this year. There will be 1000 flags placed on the Common on October 31<sup>st</sup> and will remain there until November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Open Forum closed by the Chairman

### **Tax Classification Hearing**

#### **TOWN OF EAST BRIDGEWATER**

**Tax Hearing** - The Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors will hold a public hearing on property tax classifications on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:40 p.m. in the first floor conference room at the Town Hall.

This hearing, which is required by law, determines whether the Town will have one classification or will differentiate among several classes when setting the tax rate.

Director of Assessing, Paula Wolfe, was present for the Tax Classification Hearing. Ms. Wolfe explained what the Tax Classification actually is and also reviewed the property values. David Sheedy asked if the property values in East Bridgewater are comparable to surrounding towns. Ms. Wolfe said she believes the property values are similar and the values are going up. Ms. Wolfe explained how the Tax Levy Limit is calculated. George Samia explained that only 45-50 percent of the Town's Budget is raised through taxes which is the only part that is raised in regards to proposition 2 ½. Ms. Wolfe explained that the town has other revenue that is not from taxes.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the recommendation of the Board of Assessors and Paula Wolfe, Assessor to not split the tax rate for FY16.

### **Appointment**

A few members of the East Bridgewater Conservation Commission were present. Chairman, Claire Yocum, explained the commission is responsible for administering the Wetlands Protection Act. The commission meets twice a month and reviews applications and makes sure all requirements to proceed with the project are met. The past year they had 22 applications and 27 Certificates of Compliance. Ms. Yocum explained that John Delano is the consulting engineer and Kim Eldridge handles the administration part in the office which is pretty steady. The members of the commission are very committed to being on the commission. Residents will sometimes inform the commission if there is a compliance issue and John Delano will investigate it. William Dowling thanked the commission for their service. Ms. Yocum stated that the state regulations do change often so it there is always something new.

David Sheedy stated the Selectmen appreciate them coming in and for everything they do.

### **Appointment**

Many members of the Agricultural Commission were present. Chairman, Caryl Guarino explained the commission has met with the DPW Director, John Haines and the Assessor, Paula Wolfe regarding town

property that could be used for agricultural purposes. Ms. Gaurino listed some projects they are looking forward to are: Healthy Living Program at the Community Center; Fund raising; Mass Farm Bureau, continue working with John Haines; feasibility of seniors farmers market using the funds to sponsor agricultural education classes; and attend agricultural meetings and programs to look for any legislation that has an impact and/or benefit of the community.

David Sheedy asked how the idea of a farmers market was received. Secretary, Lynn Lundgren explained they would like to start by keeping it to local farmers only but the commission will be working on it through the winter. They would also like to start out small by offering fresh produce to seniors only and see how that goes.

Martin Crowley asked how they go about finding land for agricultural uses. Ms. Guarino explained that John Haines has expressed that he would like some of the land that is already being used for agricultural purposes to be overseen by the commission rather than the DPW. Ms. Lungren stated Mr. Haines would also like to have the commission help farmers that are now using this town land.

William Dowling mentioned he likes the idea of having a farmers market even for younger families. Ms. Lundgren the said the commission has a lot of ideas and need to try and focus on one project at a time.

Mr. Sheedy thanked the members for coming in.

### **Appointment**

George Samia explained that at the Selectmen's Meeting on November 2, 2015 the Articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant will be gone over more in depth. Mr. Samia went over what type of articles are on the Warrant for the November 9, 2015 Special Town Meeting.

David Sheedy asked if the Finance Committee or Capital Improvement Planning Committee has any questions about the articles. The Finance Committee Chairman, Chris Kelly, stated the Finance Committee had just started vetting the articles and has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. There were not any members of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee in attendance.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, to close the articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant, as presented, which is scheduled for November 9, 2015.

### **Action Items**

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the minutes of September 28, 2015 meeting.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the minutes of October 8, 2015 meeting.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the minutes of August 10, 2015 Executive Session meeting.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the minutes of August 24, 2015 Executive Session meeting.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the amended minutes of September 28, 2015 Executive Session meeting.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the request from Edward Fopiano from the Friend of East Bridgewater Trails for the outside use of Sachem Rock on October 25, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm for their annual pumpkin walk event.

William Dowling mentioned it is a great time for the family and the kids really enjoy participating in this event.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the request from Brian Connors of the East Bridgewater Kiwanis Club for the use of the Town Common on December 3, 2015 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm for the Lighting of the Common.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the request from Charles Francis of the Patriotic Activities Committee for the use of the Town Common on November 11, 2015 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for the Veteran's Day Parade and exercises with collation.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, a unanimous vote, approve the recommendation of the Conservation Commission to appoint Kelly Milne as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission effective October 19, 2015 through June 30, 2018. David Sheedy mentioned that Kelly Milne will be eligible to make certain votes in certain situations which is set by the Commission.

### **Town Administrator Report**

George Samia stated the following have been completed: books are closed; the tax classification; the Special Town Meeting Warrant; and a couple of union contracts. There will be a Pre-Town Meeting Meeting in two weeks.

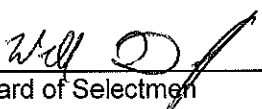
### **Board Discussion**

William Dowling asked if letters have been received for the Operational Review Committee. Mr. Sheedy stated that they are still waiting for the Finance Committee recommendation. Chris Kelly stated that the Finance Committee did vote for their recommendation of Tim Armand to be appointed to the Committee and will get a letter to the Selectmen.

M/Dowling, s/Crowley, motion to adjourn.

VOTE: Yes – Sheedy, Dowling, Crowley; a unanimous vote in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm

  
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Board of Selectmen Clerk