



Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Ken Swanton in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Lucy Wallace, Ron Ricci, Stu Sklar and Alice von Loesecke were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Minutes

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the 5/17 regular session minutes, as presented.

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the 5/17 executive session, as presented.

Historical Commission appointment

Commission member Pam Marston introduced Daria Swanton for appointment as an associate member on the commission. The commission is thrilled to have a member who lives in the district. Wallace noted there are three other open positions on the commission.

On a Sklar/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Daria Swanton as an alternate on the Historical Commission.

Lion's Club – New benches

Lion's Club member Joe Schmidt gave a presentation on a proposed memorial bench. The Lion's want to remove the boulders near the stone wall on Mass Ave. and level the ground. They will install 200 sq. ft. of pavers for wheel chair access. A Woodbury Greg bench (8 ft. long 18 in. wide) will be installed. The bench will be engraved in the memory of Bill Hazel and his commitment to community service. Part of the purpose is to also improve the look and provide handicap access to watch field events. Schmidt said the town may want to consider installing a handicapped parking sign. The Lions have received approval from the Bromfield and Library Trustees. On a Ricci/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the Lions request.

Schmidt said the Lions are also interested in replacing the two benches on the town common. He said the Historical Commission has approved the idea. They will be on the June 20th agenda of the Park & Recreation Commission. On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted to support their proposal and encourage the Park & Recreation Commission to consider.

Elm Commission - Tree Planting Policy

Commission Chair Bill Calderwood reviewed revisions suggested by the Conservation Commission and School Committee. He noted a significant change is having the Tree Warden be the decision maker in all the steps of the process. The policy and application will be available through the town website. He explained once a memorial tree is approved the Tree Warden will purchase, plant and care for the tree. He confirmed approvals will also be approved by any party with land jurisdiction such as the Park & Recreation Commission. Calderwood indicated the Elm Commission will assist the Tree Warden with management of trees. The commission will develop a memorial tree record. He said the fee per tree will be \$500 which includes transport, soil and watering. Ron Ricci and Tim Bragan recommended they also consult with the Public Works Director with respect to location near roadways or driveways. On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to endorse the policy as proposed.

Review charge for Broadband Committee

Noyan Kinayman and Chis Roy drafted a charge for a committee to investigate the feasibility of a municipal broadband fiber-optic network. The charge included a summary of responsibilities and a two phase action plan. Ricci highlighted the main issues to resolve first will be our legal right to string wires on poles and understanding what is necessary to establish a municipal light plant entity. Roy has ideas on how both of these items can be accomplished.

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board approved the charge and appointed Chris Roy and Noyan Kinayman and directed them to recruit five others.

Public communication

Rick Maiore, Town Hall & Hildreth House Construction Committee Chair reported final payments to the general contractor will be paid upon completion of punch list items. A meeting is being held on Monday morning. He announced an open house will be held on June 29th. This will include light refreshments.

James Breslauer, 130 Poor Farm Road, first commented on how beautiful the meeting room was but noted it was difficult to hear. He suggested speaking directly into microphones.

He asked when a recent letter sent from the Conservation Commission would be addressed by the Selectmen. Swanton will add this to the next agenda.

Town administrator report

Bragan officially welcomed the Selectmen to the newly refurbished Town Hall. He reported the opening was delayed due to matters in the Fire Marshall's report but a temporary occupancy has been issued. He expects phone line issues to be resolved. Other items Bragan highlighted as still being worked on include locking system on the front door, counters in the Finance area and wireless access. Some furniture and the new servers have not yet been delivered.

Bragan is reviewing the Town Hall hours of operation with respect to Tuesday evenings. With more residents using online services not many residents take advantage of the later hours. He will bring a proposal to the board.

Bragan informed the board of the bond and ban interest rates of 1.9% and 0.879%.

Swanton signed the HES Feasibility Study Agreement which was reviewed by town counsel.

Special Town Meeting articles

The Selectmen decided to meet at 6:30pm on Tuesday, June 14th prior to the meeting. At this time they will vote to take a position on these articles. The Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow night therefore the board wanted to wait until they had voted. Capital Committee Chair Debbie Ricci came to the microphone to report CPIC unanimously voted to recommend the additional funds needed for the Hildreth House project be funded through debt. This will allow for maintaining a healthy balance in the capital stabilization fund. If the town meeting does not approve this the funds can be taken from capital. Von Loesecke agreed with this approach however Wallace and Sklar supported the vote taken at the annual town meeting to use free cash. Von Loesecke clarified the vote at the atm was simply to not move free cash into the capital fund. The board debated the best way to fund the project and will take a vote on Tuesday.

War Monument Restoration Committee

Sklar proposed forming a committee to restore, replace, refurbish or create monuments, to honor those citizens that served our country. On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the proposal and start work on this.

Bond and Bond Anticipation Notes

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to endorse bond anticipation notes and bond.

Upper Town Hall Use Policy

Swanton and Wallace reworked their first draft making changes to who can use the space and available times. They also adjusted the fees. On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to accept use policy presented.

Liaison assignments

Swanton asked his fellow members to provide him with suggestions and they will finalize at the next meeting.

Selectmen reports

Sklar reported the MRPC is holding another stakeholders meeting on the economic impact of Devens in Phillipston tomorrow morning. He will attend and encouraged other members to consider attending as well. Bragan provided copies of the information that will be discussed.

Sklar also mentioned the Park & Recreation Commission has a vacancy.

Ron Ricci reported the task force working to establish a traffic calming measure on Ayer Road is considering two locations for a roundabout either near Gebo Lane and the Post Office or across from Dunkin Donuts. They have met with the Conservation Commission who was not fully supportive. They intend to meet with them again.

Wallace reported the Council on Aging is preparing for their move down to the old library. She said meals will be served at St. Theresa's on Tuesday and Thursday while the Hildreth House is under construction.

Wallace also reported the accessibility group is working on several access entry points that will be attractive and economically feasible. She anticipates a report at the next meeting or in July.

Swanton reported the Conservation Commission has come with a proposal to CPIC to purchase 50 acres on Sherry Road. They would ask the Capital Fund for a \$400,000 loan, which would be paid back once state grant funds have come through. If the commission does not receive the grant, no land would be purchased and the money would be returned to the Capital Fund. This would be an item for the Special Town Meeting to be held in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Documents referenced:

Swanton volunteer form – dated 5.27.2016

Elm Commission – Tree Planting Policy – dated 5.2.2016

Broadband Committee charge – dated 6.5.2016

War Monument Restoration Committee charge – dated 6.7.2016

Upper Town Hall Use Policy – dated 6.6.2016

BOS Minutes