

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, January 25, 2016

Present: Lorn Buxton, Chair, David McGuckin, Selectman, Bill Stewart, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Anne Tarlton , Peter Tarlton, and Jim Cerny, Town Historian.

1. Approve Select Board Minutes of January 4, 2016.

The Select Board approved the minutes of the January 4, 2016 Select Board Meeting as amended.

2. Public Q&A. – None.

3. Items.

a. Elm trees – Anne Tarlton

Mrs. Tarlton presented her proposal for planting of Elm trees in certain locations throughout Great Island, as a gift to the community, and to say thank you to the Islanders who grew up with these trees. There is a new line of American Elm trees which are Dutch Elm Disease resistant. The Garden Club would pay for the initial planting of a twenty-foot Elm tree hopefully somewhere on the Common. The cost for the tree is \$3,000. Smaller plantings would be in the \$250 range. The Garden Club would then initiate a “friends of elms” program to raise additional funding. If possible she would like to hire an arborist to point out a few suitable spots for the plantings. Her brother’s company would take care of the planting with the advice and assistance of Steve Tabbutt of Public Works.

The Select Board discussed other possible sites, such as by the Town Landing. Selectman McGuckin noted that the center field and wedding tent area in the Common needs to be kept free of impediments which would impact the volleyball, weddings, and other activities, but other locations on the Common are a possibility. Steve Tabbutt needs to weigh in on location and maintenance. Chair Buxton suggested that Mrs. Tarlton get an administrator. She agreed to perform that function so that the Assistant to the Select Board does not have to be involved. Selectman Stewart stated he is in favor of this project and encouraged Mrs. Tarlton to consult with the Conservation Commission. After further discussion, it was the sense of the Select Board to be in favor of Mrs. Tarlton’s proposal.

b. Historic District Commission alternate – Judy Groppa.

The Select Board considered the appointment of Ms. Groppa to serve as alternate on the Historic District Commission. Chair Buxton stated Ms. Groppa moved to New Castle from Darien, Connecticut where she was Chair of the HDC. She has a strong background in the historical field and is presently serving as a Curator of the Warner House in Portsmouth. Jim Cerny asked about the residence requirements for serving on the HDC. Chair Buxton stated the HDC has five voting member, three of whom need to live in the Historic District. Ms. Groppa will serve as an alternate. After further discussion Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Appoint Judy Groppa as an Alternate to the Historic District Commission. Selectman McGuckin seconded. Motion carried.

c. Hours for NH Presidential Primary.

The polls will be open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Board agreed on the following schedule for their coverage:

Bill Stewart – 9-12

Dave McGuckin – 12-3:30

Lorn Buxton – 3:30 to close.

d. 18 Ritson Street. (Town right of way)

Selectman McGuckin expressed concern regarding run-off protection. He contacted the State Department of Environmental Services (“DES”) regarding the haphazard removal and replacement of rocks. Selectman Stewart said there are approved plans which must be adhered to. After discussion the Board agreed to notify the Building Inspector’s Office to check on compliance.

e. Leases-Historic Society (Old Library Museum) and the Common House.

The Board approved the Historical Society lease to run from January 1, 2016 through December 31 2016 for \$1.00. Insurance is to be renewed in July. President Borden needs to sign the lease.

Jim Cerny, NCHS Board member, stated the Historical Society would like the Select Board’s support for the Society’s plan to apply for placement of the Old Library Museum building on the State Historic Registry. After discussion it was the sense of the Select Board to approve the request as presented. Jim Cerny also advised the Board that the Society is considering a project which would result in the return of the Bell Tower to the top of the Museum.

The Select Board then discussed the lease of the Common house by the Police Chief, and approved it for a one-year term of \$500 per month.

f. Road Reserve Fund.

A Motion to Table this item from the January 4, 2016 to the next Select Board meeting was passed at the January 4, 2016 meeting. Chair Buxton made a Motion to take this matter off the table, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried.

Selectman McGuckin reported that he attended the recent CIP meeting and advised them about the establishment of the new fund, and asked if they still favored seeding the fund with \$80,000. CIP wants the fund seeded. Selectman McGuckin explained that the Board is not necessarily required to fund it every year, but supports the initial seeding for the first year. After discussion, Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to add a Warrant Article to go before the voters at Town Meeting to fund the Road Reserve Fund with \$80,000. Selectman Stewart seconded and the Motion carried.

Selectman McGuckin asked if the monies derived from the sale of the Town's old truck could be put into the Vehicle and Equipment Trust Fund to help offset the amount spent for the new vehicle purchases. Chair Buxton will research this and report back to the Board.

g. Handicap ramp.

Selectman Stewart stated that in light of the current broken Handicap Button on the Town Hall's Front Door, he and members of the Building Inspector's Office are considering building a new access ramp at the rear of the Town Hall building. He believes it would provide better access, as there is already a handicapped parking space located there. After discussion, he agreed to get costs estimates and requirements information. Selectman McGuckin expressed support for the proposal. Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Table the matter to the next meeting, at which time he will present his findings. Selectman McGuckin seconded, and the Motion carried.

h. 2016 Town Resident Sticker artwork.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the proposed resident sticker artwork created by Jenny Rosensen, depicting the USS Providence. They commended her for her excellent work. Selectman McGuckin also noted the excellent work to date by Paul Hamblett in heading up the mentoring project with the command and crew of the USS Providence.

i. Budget.

The Select Board proceeded to review their draft budget which will be provided the Budget Committee on January 26th.

4. Other Old Business

Selectman McGuckin had been asked by Police Chief Don White for the Select Board to formally recognize and commend the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments who worked so well together in the handling of the fire at the Tarbell home this past weekend. A brief discussion ensued resulting in Selectman Stewart requesting the Board consider a policy for communications to the press regarding such incidents.

Selectman Stewart reported on the recent meeting of the Emergency Preparedness meeting, noting the Preparathon meeting will be held February 5th, 10:00 AM at the Fire House. The Preparathon will take place in April.

5. Other New Business.

Chair Buxton explained the process used by the NH Municipal Association to identify and either support or oppose currently pending legislation before the NH State Legislature, which specifically affects municipalities. He stressed that New Castle needs to be involved and a Select Board Member needs to be involved
The Select Board approved Accufund as the Town's payroll software provider.

Selectman McGuckin reported that the CIP is keeping a 3% inflation model for the Vehicle and Equipment Trust Fund.

He also reported that Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board, has confirmed she is retiring in 2017, and has begun compilation on a replacement guide for her position. He stated that all are welcome to view what she has produced to date. The guide is designed to help smooth the transition process once she retires.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.