

TOWN OF BROOKLINE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 18th, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Approved Minutes

Present:

Selectboard: Dorothy Maggio (Chair), David Jones, Gwen Tanza, Chris Webb, Bruce Mello

Members of the Public: Henry Carr, Wayne Estey, Tom Bloom, Doug Wellman, Gary Lavorgna, Jack Greene, Mark Bills, Guy Tanza (Videographer), Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

Review changes to agenda if any

Advance discussion of the tree

Scheduled members of the public

Henry Carr - Carr Tree & Timber LLC

Members of the Brookline Historical Society

Tom Bloom - Bloom Enterprises LLC

Old Business

Round Schoolhouse - \$500.00 donation - how best to use it

Ms. Maggio introduced the Committee and discussed the situation regarding overhanging trees and their affect on the building, danger, etc.

i. Tree work - limb/tree removal

Mr. Bills reported that the ash out front is unhealthy, he had consulted Henry Carr as to recommended action; whether the tree should be removed or otherwise addressed; the Historical Society (Tom) suggested that the ash is the most immediate concern, structurally poor, fungus and deadwood; any expenditure should probably be put toward removal

Ms. Maggio discussed the property line and circulated a map;

Henry Carr had provided a written report on five trees around the building, recommending solutions; mitigation would be nearly as costly as removal; not a formal risk assessment; he addressed questions.

Removal would be fastest and safest for the property; could be done with or without a crane, which would be low impact on the property;

Mr. Bills asked about ash borers; only affects ash; over winters, kills every ash, moves on.

Mr. Mello recommended removal; wind storms; he asked about trees behind the building;

There was discussion; the boundaries are an issue; property owners should be consulted.

Building was located there when the bridge washed out and bricks could not be taken to the intended location;

Mr. Greene was recognized; favored removal;

Ms. Maggio discussed other issues and the funds on hand; asked the Committee to discuss the donation.

Use the money for the interior, perhaps some restoration, desks;

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Mr. Bills reported that the tree removal fund (\$600/yr) may have \$1,200.00. He will discuss the highway budget with Ms. Zwick; the other trees are probably outside the town boundary;

There was discussion of funding sources, the donor's intentions;

Mr. Bills offered to donate some lumber to the Committee for work on the building. He suggested consulting the land owners regarding the tree work; The Selectboard will compose a letter to the landowners, asking them to review and plan with the Selectboard; Ms. Maggio asked that the Historical Society notify the Selectboard of any meetings.

Mr. Bills noted that there is a lot of young brush coming up behind the school, and it could be maintained early, avoiding the later expense of larger trees; as this is probably on land owners' property this should be considered; Mr. Tanza noted that Ms. Nau had worked on this; Mr. Bills noted one to five-inch saplings behind the shed;

ii. Humidity problem - mold/mildew

iii. Repairs - inside/outside

iiii. June 2 Neighbor Day Open House (discussed below)

Approve Minutes from April 4, 2018 Regular meeting

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes from April 4, 2018 as amended. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Unscheduled members of the public

Mr. Estey introduced himself and discussed his candidacy for Windham County State Senate; expertise in public utilities and statistics; made several points about education, renewable resources; VTRAN and road conditions, and internet service quality. He addressed questions.

Ms. Maggio expressed the Selectboard's thanks.

Gary Lavorgna

Mr. Lavorgna discussed some issues with emergency call transport; suggested encouraging people to subscribe to Rescue, Inc., \$60.00 per family for three ambulance transports; with Medicare reimbursement, Resuce, Inc. cannot cover expenses.

There was discussion. Ms. Maggio suggested that Jorda include this in the Tax Letter.

Suspend Old Business to OPEN BIDS at 7:00 P.M.

Open Bids for SLDC Carpentry Repairs Review/Discuss/Vote

Mr. Mello had done work on the inspections at SLDC, compiling priority list for this year's projects; insurance issues; coordinating with Mr. Bills; He reported that Randy Bills had expressed interest in the work; some things inside such as a loose tile, switch plates, etc.; most needed work is outside; he discussed water damage around the air conditioner and out front; soffits will have to be removed to ascertain problems; he will report back when the list is more complete. Mr. Jones expressed willingness to help out. Mr. Mello suggested consideration of painting the building toward the end of Summer.

Mr. Bills noted that most of the insurance issues had been addressed; there was discussion of the chains

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on the swings; he has obtained the tool to close the connecting links. The air conditioner has been removed;

Mr. Mello discussed the heating system repairs from past years; he proposed to monitor the system closely.

Resume Old Business Agenda Items

Local Emergency Operations Plan review and adoption vote

Ms. Maggio provided the plan with updated phone numbers, SLDC no longer designated a tertiary emergency shelter;

Ms. Maggio moved that the updated 2018 LEOP be accepted. Second by Mr. Jones.

In discussion Ms. Maggio noted that WRC had reviewed the updated LEOP, and she had signed and dated the document.

All in Favor.

Discussion of June 2 Neighbor Day Open House

Ms. Maggio asked if anyone would meet with Ms. Parker to discuss ideas informally. There was discussion of holding an event the afternoon of the Strolling of the Heifers. There were several suggestions for a community gathering.

Summary/Update Reports

Guy Tanza - Town Clerk report

Mr. Tanza reported that postcards have been sent to the last unregistered dog owners; he reminded that it is all about rabies; owners have until May 30th. To register before a \$50.00 fine will be imposed on top of the Registration fee and late fee. Ms. Maggio will notify the local veterinarian and dog shelter. Ms. Tanza is at Book 26 ½ in the digitizing project.

Mr. Mello discussed the Meetinghouse; he had watched old video footage of meetings; he asked if anyone was not in favor of installing heat in the building; there was discussion. Mr. Lavorgna noted that there had been heating in the back, but that the front is not insulated; Mr. Mello discussed the status of the Committee and the building, noting that the Committee serves at the pleasure of the Selectboard; he discussed adding an insert to the tax bill letter; he suggested that in Summer a Warned meeting with the Advisory Committee be convened in the church to discuss the vision for that building.

There was discussion of scheduling such a meeting. Ms. Maggio suggested Mr. Mello create an agenda. He noted that there is just over a year until the next grant cycle;

Mr. Webb asked about what a restoration would look like. Mr. Lavorgna discussed some of the history of the building, suggesting that a history should be written and circulated in the Town, up to the present work. Ms. Tanza noted that there are historical materials in the office that have not been examined.

There was discussion of constraints on changes for historical purposes, adding heat without changing the historic structure. Mr. Tanza suggested inviting some young people (NewBrook students) in to go through the historic materials.

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Ms. Maggio discussed the Newfane Anew organization as facing some of the same kinds of challenges regarding public participation.

New Business

Chris Webb - Town Traffic Ordinance Draft for discussion

Mr. Webb provided his printed report; traffic ordinances are out of date; looked at VLCT ordinance model, Marlboro's and Waitsfield's, all follow VLCT; it isn't just speed limits, but traffic control devices (stop signs); previous existing speed regulations (1989 and 2010); traffic studies on Ellen Ware and Putney Mountain roads; Stop-and-yield locations (map is up to date, in the Office); parking regulations (by the green bridge there is one area); one-way streets (none); loaded vehicles; provisions on what constitutes an offence; a wider scope than had been used previously;

There was discussion; ordinance involves hearings and Warned meetings; policies are more simple.

Mr. Tanza discussed the public's right to call a hearing on an ordinance, noting that the goal is transparency;

Mr. Webb discussed the traffic studies; Mr. Bills noted that there are signs; Mr. Tanza suggested that signs probably must await a ruling; the ordinance requires a sign after every intersection in a posted area. Mr. Bills noted the updated Orange Handbook and maps in the Office.

Mr. Lavorgna discussed the recent traffic studies' recommendations;

There was discussion of the criteria for speed limits; Mr. Jones noted that the purpose is to establish limits on roads that have never had limits.

There was discussion.

Mr. Webb will continue his research.

David Jones - Green Up Day

Mr. Tanza noted that bags arrived; there are bags on hand from previous;

Highways & Roads

Current projects and plans

Mr. Bills reported that there had been some erosion on Putney Mountain from the last snowfall; it will need some shoulder repair on the new pavement in the summer.

There was discussion of 110 total inches of snow this winter.

New Orange Handbook has some new regulations; Ms. Zwick had discussed grants; there will be more information; he provided documents for the Selectboard to sign re compliance with roads & highways rules;

Some state highways bulk sheds have the same issues with Cargill salt; not getting orders on time; Dummerston is using American Road Salt Co.

Ms. Maggio has paperwork from them and others; there was discussion of cost differences; this could be addressed with RFP.

He discussed whether the salt has weed seed in it; American is from NY; poison parsnip had been thought to come from Chile with salt shipped by sea; not known if Cargill supplies that;

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Working on grants; he asked if any member would sit in on meetings on grants. Mr. Jones and Ms. Maggio will attend if possible. Mr. Bills will work to schedule such meetings so that they are available.

Ms. Maggio asked about the box culvert on Grassy Brook Road; Mr. Clark is working with ANR and has discussed with all interested parties; part of the approval involved a change in diameter, this has been approved; the structure is probably on order; waiting to hear a schedule; Ms. Zwick is addressing the financial part; the project will go ahead.

Rain and snow has impeded grading; people are using Putney Mountain, but he would not recommend it; there was discussion of signage indicating maintenance will be deferred;

this will be on the next Agenda for a vote;

Mr. Bills recommended waiting another week before opening Putney Mountain road;

Mud season has been mild;

Salt - Sand Shed Federal Grant - Discussion on hiring Municipal Project Manager through Windham Regional Commission.

Ms. Maggio reported that Ms. Zwick has forwarded information on several companies online designated "at the ready" project manager; she asked for assistance in researching the information; Mr. Tanza reported that WRC would not be working on this, lacking staff; there was discussion;

Mr. Jones will assist in assessing the "at the ready" project manager research or other methods.

Communications

Email: Jessica Bahr re: Septic and Well concerns @ 74 Merrill Dr.

Ms. Tanza reported that Ms. Bahr contacted health officers complaining that her rented property septic system is failing; sent photographs of wet ground; there was information that the system had been worked on; Steve's Septic was in TN when called, and he remembered the property and he did pump out the thousand gallon tank, found water, told them at the time it would happen again because the system was failing. Beverly Waters refused to pay his bill, of which a copy was emailed to Ms. Tanza. Ms. Tanza spoke with Ms. Bahr and discussed how to prove failure using a dye pack, which could take a week. Ms. Bahr reported that she bought the dye pack; she is leaving at the end of the month;

Ms. Maggio asked the Selectboard's opinion on what should be done; Ms. Tanza suggested that it must be established that the tenant had informed Ms. Waters of the problem; Mr. Tanza suggested ANR would be involved; there had been previous tenant complaints;

There was discussion.

Ms. Maggio noted that there is a health issue, Ms. Tanza will consult the health officers through their website and ask what steps should be taken.

There had been concerns about the well at the property being polluted by the septic system; this had not been addressed so far.

Ms. Maggio noted an inquiry from Wendy Brown about the price of a cemetery plot (\$200.00)

Regular Mail: Beverly Waters re: vicious dog

Ms. Waters has requested the evidence from the Vicious Dog Hearing; Ms. Maggio read from a letter suggested by attorneys, citing the request for evidence. There was discussion; an appeal would have to

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go to Superior Court.

- Magazines
- Zoning Forum
- Seveds newsletter
- HP Fairfield re: mower rental June 18 through June 29
- Public Hearing at Brookline Office May 7th at 6:00 PM re: Town Plan
- Network Inventory Road and Bridge Standards (for signature)
- VTRAN Annual Financial Plan Town Hires

Pay Orders

Payroll

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2018-41 dated 4/18/18 in the amount of \$1,614.48. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor**

Accounts Payable

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2018-40 dated 4/18/18 in the amount of \$15,455.28. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor**

Set agenda for meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Green Up Day - Saturday May 5, 2018

Traffic Ordinance Review

Recycle Decals for 2018-19

WRC - Public Hearing at 6:00 PM re: Town Plan

Posting open Committees

June 2 Neighbors Day

Update on property surrounding round Schoolhouse

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, April 19th, 2018