

**TOWN OF BROOKLINE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM**  
**Draft 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, Old Business

**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 Historical Society and discussed the situation regarding overhanging trees at the Round Schoolhouse.

**Tree work - limb/tree removal**

Mr. Bills reported that the ash out front is unhealthy and that he had consulted Henry Carr about whether the tree should be removed; Mr. Bloom suggested that the ash was the most immediate concern, it was structurally poor, there was fungus and deadwood; any expenditure should probably be put toward removal.

Ms. Maggio discussed the property line and circulated a map; Mr. Carr had provided a written report on five trees around the building, recommending solutions; he suggested that mitigation would be nearly as costly as removal, noting this was not a formal risk assessment; he addressed questions; he suggested that removal would be fastest and safest for the property; this could be done with or without a crane; a crane would have a lower impact on the property. There was discussion of the Emerald Ash Borer; Mr. Carr explained that these insects only affect ash trees, they over-winter in the trees and kill every ash before moving on. Mr. Mello recommended removal citing wind storms and asked about trees behind the building; there was discussion. Boundaries were considered an issue and it was suggested that the property owners be consulted. It was explained that the building had been located there originally because the bridge washed out and bricks could not be taken to the intended location. Mr. Greene was recognized and favored removal.

Ms. Maggio discussed other issues and funds on hand, and asked about the donation. There was discussion of interior restoration, obtaining period desks. Mr. Bills reported that the tree removal fund (\$600.00 per annum) 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, donor intentions; Mr. Bills offered to donate some lumber to the Schoolhouse Committee for work on the building. He suggested consulting the land owners

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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 cut back early, avoiding the later expense of larger trees; as this is probably on neighboring property this should be considered; Mr. Tanza noted that Ms. Nau had worked on this; Mr. Bills reported one- to five-inch saplings growing 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. Esty introduced himself and discussed his candidacy for Windham County State Senator; he provided copies of his intended speech, but instead spoke extemporaneously discussing his expertise in public utilities and statistics, and 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 ambulance transport; he suggested encouraging people to subscribe to Rescue, Inc., at \$60.00 per family covering three ambulance transports. Medicare reimbursement is insufficient to cover expenses for Rescue, Inc. There was discussion. Ms. Maggio suggested that this be included 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 discussed compiling a priority list for this year's projects based on earlier inspections at SLDC; insurance issues, and discussed coordinating with Mr. Bills; Randy Bills had expressed interest in the work; some things were inside such as a loose tile, switch plates, etc.; most needed work is outside, such as water damage around the air conditioner opening and out front; soffits will have to be removed to ascertain problems; he will report back when the list is more complete. Mr. Jones offered help. Mr. Mello suggested painting the building toward the end of Summer.

Mr. Bills noted that most of the insurance issues had been addressed; he has obtained the tool to close the connecting links on the swing set chains; the air conditioner has been removed.

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

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**Resume Old Business Agenda Items**

**Local Emergency Operations Plan review and adoption vote**

Ms. Maggio provided the plan with updated phone numbers, noting that SLDC was still designated a Tertiary Emergency Shelter.

Ms. Maggio moved that the updated 2018 Local Emergency Operations Plan be accepted. Second by Mr. Jones.

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

**All in Favor.**

**Discussion of June 2 Neighbor Day Open House**

Ms. Maggio asked if anyone would meet for informal discussions with Ms. Parker. 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 30<sup>th</sup> to register their animals. Ms. Maggio will notify the local veterinarian and dog shelter.

Ms. Tanza is at Book 26½ in the digitizing project.

Mr. Mello discussed the Meeting House, noting that 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 recalled 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 be convened in the church with the Advisory Committee to discuss the vision for the building. There was discussion of scheduling such a meeting. Ms. Maggio suggested that 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 certain constraints on making changes for historical purposes, such as adding heat without changing the historic structure. Mr. Tanza suggested inviting some young people (NewBrook students) in the go through the historic materials. Ms. Maggio discussed the "Newfane and New" 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, noting that the traffic ordinances are out of date; he had looked at a VLCT ordinance model, noting that Marlboro's and Waitsfield's all follow it; not just speed limits but traffic control devices (signs), previous existing speed regulations (1989 and 2010), traffic studies

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on Ellen Ware and Putney Mountain roads, Stop and Yield locations (noting that the map in the Office is up to date), parking regulations (one area by the green bridge), one-way streets (none), loaded vehicles, provisions on what constitutes an offence; all this being a wider scope than had been used previously.

There was discussion. An ordinance involves hearings and Warned meetings; policies are simpler to implement. 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 available; Mr. Tanza suggested that putting up signs probably must await a ruling; it was noted that the model ordinance requires a sign after every intersection in a posted area. Mr. Bills displayed the updated Orange Handbook and maps in the Office. Mr. Lavorgna discussed the recommendations from the recent traffic studies; 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 the bags had arrived, and that there are bags on hand from the previous event.

**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. Mr. Bills noted that the 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 regarding compliance with roads & highways rules.

It was noted that some state highways bulk sheds have the same issues with Cargill salt, about not getting orders on time; Dummerston is using American Road Salt Co. Ms. Maggio had paperwork from them and others; they are about \$4.00 per unit more than Cargill, less than others; this could be addressed by RFP.

Mr. Bills discussed whether the salt has parsnip seed in it; American is from their mine in NY; poison parsnip had been thought to come from Chile with salt shipped by sea; it was not known if Cargill supplied it.

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

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

Recent rain and snow had impeded grading; people were using Putney Mountain, but he did not recommend it; there was discussion of signage indicating maintenance will be deferred; this will be on the next Agenda for a vote.

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Mr. Bills recommended waiting another week before opening Putney Mountain road; he noted that 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 designated as “at the ready” project managers; Ms. Maggio 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 a complaint to the health officers about a rented property septic system failing, with photographs of wet ground; Steve’s Septic remembered the property and said they had pumped out the thousand-gallon tank, found water, and informed the landlord, Beverly Waters, at the time that it would happen again because the system was failing; they asserted that the landlord refused to pay the bill, of which a copy was emailed to Ms. Tanza. Ms. Tanza spoke with the tenant and discussed how to prove failure using a dye pack, which could take a week. The tenant had reported buying the dye pack but 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 the landlord 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.

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

**Regular Mail:**

- Beverly Waters re: vicious dog

Ms. Waters has requested the evidence from the trial; Ms. Maggio read from a letter suggested by attorneys, citing the request for evidence. There was discussion; an appeal would have to 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 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM re: Town Plan
- Network Inventory Road and Bridge Standards (for signature)
- VTRANS Annual Financial Plan Town Hires

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**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
- Neighbors Day June 2
- Update on property surrounding the 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 23, 2018*