

Draft Minutes
Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 6:30 PM
(videoconference)

Present

Selectboard:
Dot Maggio (Chair)
David Jones
Gwen Tanza
Bruce Mello

Town Officers:
Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, videographer)

Members of the Public:
Stan Noga
Joseph Dutton
Peter Barus (Recorder)
FACTV (Videoconference recording)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m.

Review changes to agenda if any

Green-up Day
Salt & Sand Shed

Scheduled members of the public

Joseph Dutton / Doug Wellman re: Round Schoolhouse \$5000.00 grant

Mr. Dutton noted that the \$5,000.00 left in the Preservation Trust of Vermont grant will be reallocated elsewhere by the Trust if not used. Mr. Dutton had forwarded their letter to members; that the funds must be used for the Round Schoolhouse building and in keeping with the historic nature of the building; that Mr. Wellman and Mr. Dutton had visited the site and suggested refurbishing the windows, not in terrible shape; that possibly \$1,000 would cover it; that Ms. Nau concurred and had asked about insect infestation.

Mr. Mello discussed the powder-post beetle situation; had been to the site in the past month with Mr. Bills, and discussed treatment options applied at that time. Mr. Dutton discussed possible liability issues requiring professional cleaning. Mr. Mello suggested that cleaning and insect mitigation would not be a major expense.

Mr. Dutton discussed contracting for the window renovation work by the first of August, and the possibility of hiring professional restoration expertise. There was discussion of humidity and antique books in the building and electric service. Mr. Dutton noted the committee's consensus that electricity would not be appropriate in this case; and Ms. Na's opinion that old books in the building were probably not contemporary; that there had been electric service to the shed around the mid-1940s; that the committee recommended against it. Mr. Mello noted discussing electric service with Dompier during a recent visit. Ms. Maggio asked for specifications to be written up on the scope of work. Mr. Noga discussed a previous visit with the representative from the Preservation Trust and requirements for the use of the grant.

Mr. Dutton will correspond with Ben Doyle of the Preservation Trust to ascertain the grant specifications, and will research the types of insect mitigation done as to pesticides.

Stan Noga re: Open seat on the selectboard

Mr. Noga was recognized and discussed the possibility of service to the town; had been a selectboard member previously and a Lister for many years; and offered to serve out Ms. Brimmer's one-year term. Ms. Maggio acknowledged Mr. Noga's offer, suggesting that it would strengthen the board. Mr. Mello acknowledged that Mr. Noga had been indispensable to the town for many years and would be an asset as a member of the selectboard.

Approve Minutes from the April 7, 2021 meeting

Ms. Maggio moved to approve the minutes for April 7, 2021. Second by Mr. Mello. All in favor.

New Business

Historical Society RE: Round Schoolhouse \$5,000 grant (discussed above)

Open Selectboard seat (discussed above)

Old Business

1. Green Mountain Power Resiliency Zone – Bruce Mello

Mr. Mello noted that the GMP representative had requested attendance at the meeting May 5, 2021. Mr. Mello will confirm.

Broadband & Wifi @ Town Hall – Dot Maggio

Ms. Maggio noted that the selectboard had decided not to act on the offering of a wifi hotspot at town hall, and suggested revisiting the question to find out more about what is offered; that Vt Dept of Public Service and WRC offer of a no-password public wifi service. Mr. Jones had raised a question previously about performance impacts on the office internet, but was not opposed; and suggested that making the service available farther from the office would be possible without additional equipment.

Mr. Tanza noted that information had been received after the previous meeting, that the range would be up to 400 feet from the office; that it would not slow the town's network; and that signing up for this offer would allow the town to have a voice in the matter, and acceptance could be canceled later; that the town would be responsible for payment for the repeater on the pole. Ms. Maggio suggested that more specific information should be obtained. Mr. Jones suggested accepting the offer.

Ms. Maggio will accept the offer on behalf of the town..

Salt & Sand Shed

Mr. Jones discussed paperwork that Mr. Bell had been preparing for VTRANS; that Newfane has a similar plan underway, and their plans are with

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VTRANS for review, and Chris Hunt of Vtrans had suggested that Brookline hold off until Newfane's review has been completed, as many of the changes made to that plan could be addressed for Brookline, possibly saving some steps in the process; and discussed prices of construction and materials being higher than usual; that when the RFP is published the costs may be so high as to price Brookline out of the market; that Mr. Hunt had expressed concerns about this as well, and that this could delay the project for a year; that the grant deadline is June of 2022, but Mr. Hunt had expressed the belief that an extension could be obtained without much difficulty; that the town should keep this in mind; that obtaining bids before winter was questionable.

There was discussion; of a review by Mr. Bills and Mr. Clark; that there had been errors in the plans from Newfane, and it would be good to have these two experts review the plans; of the potential impact of market changes on the 20% matching grant.

Green-up Day

Mr. Jones noted that he will not be coordinating the event this year, and there was expressed interest on the part of a potential volunteer; that bags will be made available at the town office as usual. There was discussion about how this information will be disseminated.

8. Summary / Update / Reports

A. Town Clerk Report – Guy Tanza

Mr. Tanza reported a busy tax season and many title searches; 61 dogs registered; the tag deadline moved to May 15 under the pandemic emergency; and confirmed that NEMRC access had been granted to the treasurer's assistants.

B. Selectboard Chair Report – Dot Maggio

Ms. Maggio reported that two plots had been sold; and noted discussion about possible accounting issues for the May agenda; and that that the contract had been signed for the one-week rental of the over-rail mower.

C. Building Commissioner Report – Bruce Mello

Mr. Mello discussed the SLP building, a light-timer installed; water softener system installed; the UV system "flawless" and easy to maintain; that future maintenance costs should be lower; that a six month schedule for maintenance by the town will be set up next; the CDC recommendations for safe rodent cleanup at the town office, with anticipated costs of \$2,327.00. There was discussion. Mr. Mello acknowledged the valued assistance of Mr. Bills.

D. Highways & Roads Supervisor Report – E. Mark Bills (not in attendance)

9. Communications

A. Email

- Stan Noga – Selectboard seat
- Sally Cutts – Lister Position
- Camilla Roberts – Thank you note re: Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association
- HP Fairfield Mower Lease – Insurance request for 5-31 to 6-4-2021

B Regular Mail

10. Pay Orders

A. Accounts Payable Warrant

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant # 2021-16 Dated 4-21-2021 in the amount of \$5,370.29. Second by Ms. Tanza. All in favor.

B. Payroll Warrant

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Payroll Warrant # 2021-15 dated April 15, 2021, in the amount of 1,750.86. Second by Mr. Jones. All in favor.

11. Set Agenda for next meeting – Wednesday May 5, 2021

- WSWMD recycling containers
- 2020-2021 FY preliminary review of budget line items
- Noga appointment
- Round schoolhouse grant
- GMP representative presentation
- Wifi hotspot
- Office cleaning

12. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Mello moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Tanza. All in favor.
The meeting was Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, April 24, 2021