

Draft Minutes
Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
(videoconference)

Present

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

Town Officers:
Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, videographer)
Mark Bills (Road Supervisor)

Members of the Public:
Peter Barus (Recorder)
FACTV (Videoconference recording)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:302 p.m.

Review changes to agenda if any

Scheduled members of the public

Unscheduled members of the public

Approve Minutes for March 17, 2021

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes for March 17, 2021, as corrected. Second by Ms. Maggio. All in favor

New Business

Windham Solid Waste Management District re: Termination of the Memorandum of Understanding signed November 28, 2017 for the loan of roll-off recycling container. Bill of sale offered for recycling container conveyed “as is, where is, and with all faults” condition without any warranty of merchantability, or fitness for any purpose. Discussion / Vote

Mr. Jones explained that when the previous system was closed, 3 bins were leant with a Memorandum of Understanding; that the district has decided at last month’s meeting to donate the bins to the town; and that the document certifies the change of ownership; the bins are now in possession of Triple-T; and suggested a discussion with Triple-T offering the bins to them while continuing the present arrangements; and discussed potential liabilities that might be a concern; that VLCT liability policy may already cover town property, whether owning the bins or not; and that the town should respond to WSWMD by June 30.

There was discussion; about whether specific bins are identified; that Triple-T cannot bring a new one without taking away a full one; that condition of bins varies; that other towns are in the same situation regarding loaned bins; that returning the bins to WSWMD would be at the town’s expense, after which bins must be rented from Triple-T at additional cost; that the voters did not vote to end recycling this year, so returning the bins to the district is not in the towns financial interest. It was noted that liability coverage should be verified.

Mr. Jones will call Triple-T to discuss the matter, which will be placed on the **May agenda**.

Green Mountain Power Resiliency Zone Community Plan (microgrid project)

Ms. Maggio explained a “community profile” document about a solar array with emergency power batteries; and noted that backup electricity was needed, although not necessarily in this configuration; and invited comment.

Mr. Jones did not support this project. Ms. Tanza deferred comment. Mr. Tanza suggested that the system would be designed to power the whole town, and should be considered, given recent climate trends; and that many residents with medical concerns may not have home generators. Mr. Mello suggested more research, considering the level of reliability under the current system; and offered to call GMP for more information. There was discussion.

Mr. Mello will call GMP. The matter will be on the **May agenda**

VTrans Capital Project Pilot Program – New infrastructure project in VT for repaving, striping road sections; Roadway reconstruction of a section of the road from the base up

Ms. Maggio discussed a corner on Grassy Brook Road where Mr. Bills had suggested roadbed work be done. There was discussion. Mr. Tanza noted that the criteria pertain to Class 1 roads with few exceptions, and that there are no town Class 1 roads.

Ms. Maggio will call Mr. Clark, WRC, and VTRANS for more information.

Mr. Bills provided additional leads.

May Agenda item.

The town mileage report from February (16.86 total highway miles in the town) was discussed.

Post Town Meeting Thoughts - discussion on email sent by Dan Towler.

Ms. Maggio discussed the email from Mr. Towler, regarding public engagement and communications for Town Meeting, noting a new local newsletter periodical and a question about vetting appropriation requests; Mr. Tanza noted that a binder is maintained in the office and explained the procedure for requesting appropriations, including approval by the selectboard. Ms. Maggio noted that all appropriations had been voted as individual Articles at Town Meeting. There was discussion of the appropriations process.

Roy Mercon Email re: flying his drone in Brookline for a project he is doing.

Ms. Maggio explained that a photographer wishes to fly a drone in several locations. Mr. Tanza noted legal implications. There was discussion. No action was deemed necessary.

Listers request: Helen Holt emailed that she can not access most of the As Billed Grand List files in NEMRC and therefore needs a quorum of the selectboard to email authorization to support NEMRC. A vote is needed on this.

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Mr. Tanza explained the policy that requires permission from the selectboard to access the NEMRC software, and suggested that the selectboard approve access.

Ms. Maggio moved to authorize Helen Holt and Michael Bills to access MEMRC files pursuant to their jobs as Listers. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in favor.**

Email from Shelby Brimmer - regretfully resigning from the Selectboard.

Ms. Maggio moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Shelby Brimmer from the selectboard. Second by Ms. Tanza. All in favor.

Email from Windham Regional Commission re: time sensitive opportunity from the Vermont Department of Public Service which would donate a Wi-Fi Spot in town for the community to use. Installing during the next few weeks. Discussion / follow up

There was discussion; that the town office public wifi system is probably strong enough; that the system on offer is not a free-standing access point. There was consensus that no action be taken.

Old Business

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association acquisition of 187 acres of land in Brookline to be conserved letter. Discussion and vote.

Ms. Maggio discussed recent developments and noted that there had been few resident comments; Mr. Jones had edited a letter provided by WHPA, and circulated to the board.

Ms. Maggio moved to publish the letter of support for the WHPA. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in favor.**

Local Emergency Municipal Plan adoption - Discussion and Vote.

Ms. Maggio noted that the Plan had been updated and Ms. Sabetto had responded

Ms. Maggio moved to adopt and submit the LEMP of April 6, 2021. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in favor.**

Summary / Update / Reports

Town Clerk Report - Guy Tanza

Mr. Tanza reported awaiting the Governor's direction as to when the town buildings may be opened to the public; 50 dogs licensed (currently 125) with expiration date moved to 90 days beyond the end of the pandemic emergency declaration; and anticipating a dog vaccination clinic outdoors, possibly in June.

Selectboard Member Update - Dot Maggio Attending Webinar

Ms. Maggio reported attending online seminars provided by VLCT. Mr. Mello noted that as of May 1 public meetings will be permitted, with masks and distancing, and suggested return to in-person selectboard meetings when possible. Mr. Jones noted the convenience and advantages of videoconferences. Ms. Tanza favored continued videoconferences, noting that many people are still compromised. There was discussion.

Building Commissioner Update - Bruce Mello

Mr. Mello discussed the water system, noting because that state regulations require a backup disinfectant system with 25 people in the building, a \$2,800.00 system had been ordered through Lynde Well Drilling; and discussed details of remaining carpentry projects; a maintenance schedule to be set up; service contracts; cleaning the other buildings and the need for professional mitigation of rodent droppings particularly in the BMH.

Town office cleanup will be on the **May agenda**

Highways & Roads

Road Supervisor Report - Mark Bills

Ms. Maggio thanked Mr. Bills for working late into the night, appreciated by the residents.

Mr. Bills reported working with the temperatures to flatten the roads; a tough mud season, affecting the whole town; crushed stone had been added in anticipation, which helped; there had been some unusually warm nights that made for mud conditions; continuing to monitor. One call had come in suggesting a road closure (Athens Road), which may not be legal; conditions were checked every day morning and night to the town line, noting that the two-wheel drive vehicle was able to traverse the roads; that the mud signs were not put out this year because of certain logging operations, but UPS and FEDEX, fuel and syrup trucks, and commuters still use the muddy roads; suggested signs saying "extreme mud, use alternate route if possible" for next year. Regarding roadside mowing, \$3,400 per week is the rental rate, reserved for first week of June, earlier than usual, but a good time to mow invasives; vendor requests an insurance waiver mailed to Fairfield (Mike Masters, Treasurer, can send); there had been a lot of wind, which dries roads, but takes down some trees; State Police had reported a tree across the road in the town, which was cleared by residents. It was noted that a resident's car had been narrowly missed by that tree, with slight damage. Some other downed trees had also been cleared by Mr. Bills.

Mr. Tanza suggested that early mowing would result in the need to deal with regrowth in August. Mr. Bills had encountered difficulty reserving a rental date, and noted that invasives could be cut back, and the resurgence of tall grass will depend on the rain; and the next budget may permit additional mowing in late summer.

Mr. Mello asked about filters at the school building. Mr. Bills noted that the fire extinguishers had been checked; and discussed documents at the office; and the sand & salt shed, where snow falling from the roof of the new structure may pile up in front of the grader.

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Communications

There was discussion of email from Stan Nova re: cable in Brookline.

Email

- Dan Towler: Post Town Meeting Thoughts,
- WSWMD Termination of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Green Mountain Power Resiliency Zone (renewable power generation).
- Resignation email from Shelly Brimmer on March 34, 2021.
- Request to fly a drone in Brookline - Roy Mercon of Merconphoto.com.
- WRC re: WiFi hotspot.

Regular Mail

- Letters to 6 landowners sent out re: Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association acquisition of 187 acres of land in Brookline.

Pay Orders

Payroll

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Payroll Warrant #21-13, dated March 29, 2021, , in the amount of \$2,416.71. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

Accounts Payable

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #21-14, dated April 7, 2021, in the amount of \$15,458.95. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

Set agenda for the next meeting

- GMP Resiliency Zone Plan
- VTRANS New Infrastructure Grants
- Town office cleanup/mitigation
- Sand & Salt Shed
- Loaned recycle bins

Adjournment

Ms. Maggio moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Mello. All in favor.

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, April 10, 2021