



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, August 16, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Randy Bunnell, Rick Hussey, Steve Smith, Richard Winsor

Members Absent: Jamie Connelly

Staff Present: Matthew Scruton - Town Administrator

Also Present: Marcia McLaughlin – Chairman, Weeks Library Trustees; Dennis Cote – Emergency Management Director & Health Officer

Chair Smith opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:30 p.m. It was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded. Attendance was taken by roll call: R. Bunnell – present, R. Hussey – present, R. Winsor – present, S. Smith - present.

I. APPOINTMENT

1. Southeast Land Trust – Jeremy Lougee

Jeremy Lougee, Southeast Land Trust, was before the Board on Monday, June 21, 2021, to discuss Great Bay Farm. He updated the Board that he had been scheduled for the Conservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021; that meeting was cancelled due to member availability. He is scheduled for the Conservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 08, 2021.

A \$400,000 request has been submitted to L-Chip by the Southeast Land Trust. They will be submitting an application for \$300,000 to the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. A letter of support must be submitted with the application from the governing body of the municipality where the property is located; a letter for Board review and approval was included in their informational packet. The property appraisal is underway but is not expected to be complete until October.

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to approve the letter drafted by Jeremy Lougee, Southeast Land Trust, to the Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the letter. Second – R. Bunnell; three in favor, one abstained (S. Smith). MOTION CARRIED

J. Lougee will be back before the Board after the Conservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 08, 2021.

2. Appointment of Alternates – Weeks Library Trustees

Marcia McLaughlin, Weeks Library Trustees Chairman, was at the meeting on behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Weeks Library. The Trustees requested that Kari Bivona and David Phreaner be appointed as alternates to the Weeks Library Trustees, terms to expire in March 2022. Both have been long-term supporters of the Library as well as on committees for the opening celebration.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to appoint Kari Bivona and David Phreaner as alternates to the Weeks Library Trustees, terms to expire March 2022. Both must be sworn in by the Town Clerk prior to their next Trustees meeting. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

M. McLaughlin updated the Board on several items: (1) There is currently an interim Library Director. The Trustees have selected a candidate and made a job offer, conditional on a background check. (2) The Trustees are addressing open items required for the Occupancy Permit. (3) The fire lanes have been painted. (4) The Board was invited to see the beautiful building.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, August 02, 2021

MOTION: R. Bunnell moved to approve the minutes of Monday, August 02, 2021. Second – R. Winsor; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Coakley Update

TA Scruton advised the Board that the Coakley Landfill Group used the conference call system for its own members but the public was not invited to participate remotely. That gave the appearance of cutting the public off from remotely participating.

S. Smith has sent a letter (the Board received a copy in their informational packet) to the Portsmouth City Council expressing concerns. The template of the letter has been shared by others and was shared with TA Scruton. The letter requests that the Coakley Landfill Group meetings be open to the public and allow for remote participation.

S. Smith clarified the letter was for informational purposes. The Town has not had a Coakley Landfill update from NH State Representative Dennis Malloy or NH State Senator Tom Sherman recently. R. Winsor requested the Coakley Landfill be added to the agenda for every meeting and the Board be updated monthly by Representative Malloy and/or Senator Sherman. He also requested that NH State Representatives and the NH Congressional Delegation receive a copy of the letter to the Portsmouth City Council.

The Board also received an excerpt from Senator Shaheen that was in the Manchester Union Leader regarding clean water.

2. Other Old Business

National Night Out: R. Hussey thanked the Fire Department for their help during National Night Out.

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

300th Anniversary Committee: S. Smith updated the Board that the Governor has been invited. Governor Sununu's scheduler is working on the request for him to attend the opening ceremony on Saturday, September 11, 2021, before the Band Concert.

Bethany Church: TA Scruton thanked the Bethany Church for allowing the use of their facility as a back-up location should it rain on the evening of the concert. S. Smith added that the School would be voting on the use of the building as a back-up; however, the Bethany Church was a better venue due to size of the hall and location. Bethany Church is not charging for the use of their facility. S. Smith will update Pat Walsh, School Board Chairman.

V. NEW BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Great Bay Waterkeeper Boat Trip

The Board has been invited by the Great Bay Waterkeeper on an educational boat trip around the Bay. Several years ago, the Board was invited on a similar boat trip. Up to five passengers can make the trip. The Board discussed several dates that were available. TA Scruton will contact the Great Bay Waterkeeper about a date the week of September 20, 2021.

TA Scruton explained that the Waterkeeper was a volunteer non-profit organization that monitors the Bay. During the 2019 tour, the Waterkeeper explained the health of the Bay and the effect of contamination, etc. The Waterkeepers are very pro-active in keeping the Bay healthy and monitor the nitrogen outsourcing and other water quality issues. The Conservation Commission was also notified about the opportunity to schedule an educational trip.

2. Other New Business

An update from Dennis Cote, Emergency Management Director and Health Officer, regarding the Town's COVID status was included in the Board's informational packet.

VI. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

1. Payroll Manifest 21-17

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to approve the Payroll Manifest, pay date August 19, 2021. Gross amount, excluding payroll liabilities: \$65,581.14. Second – R. Winsor; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. General Fund Manifest 21-17

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to approve the General Fund Manifest of Unpaid Bills Detail as of August 19, 2021, in the amount of \$640,186.35. This manifest includes a Greenland School District payment in the amount of \$535,000 (\$285,000 and \$250,000). Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 16, 2021 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By – Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant