



TOWN OF MENDON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

Tel: 508-478-8863 Fax: 508-478-8241

Notice of Meeting

May 7, 2018

Mendon Town Hall

6:30 PM

Board Members

Christopher Burke, Chairman

Mark W. Reil, Jr.

Richard W. Schofield Jr.

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2018

Open Meeting & Pledge

At 6:30 PM a regular Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order. Present: Chris Burke, Mark Reil, Rich Schofield, Kim Newman and Laura St.John-Dupuis.

Mr. Burke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 3/26/18
- 4/9/18

Mr. Reil made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 3/26/18 and 4/9/18. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence to the Board

Consider allowing the Lions Club to Hold a Toll Road May 18, 2018, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Mr. Reil made a motion to allow the Lions Club to Hold a Toll Road, May 18, 2018 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider allowing parking on Lot 3 North Avenue & Lots 6 & 20 Milford Street & Fee Waivers for the Lions Club Circus on July 9th.

Mr. Reil made a motion to allow the parking on lot 3 North Avenue & lots 6 & 20 Milford Street & waive associated fees for the Lion's Club Circus on July 9th. Second by Mr. Schofield. The Motion passed unanimously.

Interview and Consider Appointment of Ellen Pond to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire March 31, 2021.

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Ms. Pond for appointment to the Board of Registrars.

Mr. Reil made a motion to appoint Ellen Pond to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire March 31, 2021. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Interview and Consider Appointment of Moritz Schmid to the Mendon Town Forest Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Mr. Schmid for appointment to the Mendon Town Forest Committee.

Mr. Reil made a motion to appoint Moritz Schmid to the Mendon Town Forest Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2020. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Green Electricity Aggregation

Ms. Anne Mazar addressed the Board to discuss Green Electricity Aggregation. Ms. Mazar stated that Colonial Power has the minimum 13% renewable energy. She would like to look at other companies that have a higher percentage.

Mr. Schofield stated that he would not be in favor, unless the savings are neutral or better. Ms. Mazar stated that is what she would be looking for.

Ms. Mazar requested the creation of an Energy and Sustainability Committee, as MVP and Green Electricity Aggregation do not fall under the Land Use Committee. Ms. Mazar had spoken to people who are interested in this type of committee and would be interested in applying for grants as there are a lot of recycling grants and this committee to help with that and Green Communities would have a committee to work with. This committee would include a Board of Health member, the Conservation Commission and the School Committee.

Mr. Schofield expressed his concern is to have another committee as it is hard to get people on committees. Ms. Mazar stated that she knows people who would be interested. Currently, this topic is under the Land Use Committee and it's too much and she feels it is a good time to start a new committee to spearhead this.

Mr. Burke indicated that he does not have a problem with this if Ms. Mazar is willing to set the committee up.

Ms. Mazar will speak with Ms. Newman on the details including the makeup of the committee.

Discuss Municipality Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Ms. Mazar stated there were two, MVP -four hour workshops held with good participation from Fire, Police, Board of Health and Con Com. the draft report has been put together and it is being passed around to people to make sure it's accurate. It will be posted to the Town's website. Ms. Mazar is seeking comments anyone may have, then from there things can move forward and start to work department heads to make improvements.

Mr. Ted Beauvais, of the Blackstone River Watershed Association, addressed the Board and stated that the Association is involved as the facilitator as the State came up with this program. The draft report is approximately 15 pages and will be on the website for review and comment.

Ms. Mazar handed out an update to the Board and stated that for 30 years Mendon has had the highest income in the Blackstone Valley.

Mr. Beauvais stated that some action items would be to have bi-yearly interdepartmental meetings. There is an emphasis on nature based approaches that the commonwealth has. The action time is a very quick turnaround. Being an MVP certified community would be a plus for grants.

Mr. Burke asked what the target date to complete some of the items. Ms. Mazar stated that on May 18th is the grant deadline. Mr. Beauvais stated that the Commonwealth is looking for a 25% match. For the Inman Hill facility communications tower, it may be possible to get a generator in there. The Town would still have to come up with some funds for that.

Mr. Beauvais stated that Mendon as a small town has a lot of strength, with interest and volunteers. The Department heads and employees all had a lot of interest as well.

Ms. Mazar stated that when the report is done in June, we will have department head meetings and would like to get into the next grant round, possibly for next May.

Mr. Reil stated that he attended the workshops and the lack of backup power for the communication tower on Inman Hill Road, is a high priority short term on the matrix. It is probably something we can take care of in the short term.

Ms. Susan Thomas of the Blackstone River Watershed indicated that the final report will include the initial risk matrix, those will identify what is pure strength and pure vulnerability.

Chief Harris added that the tower at Inman Hill Rd is a complete detriment to the Fire Department. There is no generator, and during a storm we had no communications whatsoever as the power went out.

Discuss Clear Cutting with Conservation Commission

Members of the Conservation Commission and the Building Inspector participated in the discussion.

Mr. Burke stated that the way he understands this situation is that the Conservation Commission gave permission to the property owner on Lake Nipmuc to do vista pruning. The Conservation Commission has jurisdiction on this matter, and the Board of Selectmen received inquiries from the residents wondering if this was done in accordance with Mass General Law or DEP regulations. It is his understanding that the Conservation Commission is working with the DEP and the homeowner to rectify the situation.

Mr. Reil stated that he is not sure on that and that the Conservation Commission gave permission to the owner to do so and further stated that this is where the issue started. Since the owner has been made aware they are working with DEP and the Conservation Commission to make sure things like this never happen again.

Mr. Aicardi of the Building Department stated that the owner did make an inquiry to do some trimming. Generally, we do allow trimming in the buffer zone and that the owner obviously took it a little too far and the Town got involved with the DEP. The DEP gave us some good feedback on how to manage this for the future. When people apply to do work this area, they suggested that anybody in the buffer zone have a meeting and notify all of the abutters and contact the DEP if it is sensitive enough. Currently, the owner is under an enforcement order through the DEP.

Mr. Reil stated that per Damon Tinio, the Conservation Commission Chairman, the DEP has given a process to the Commission to make this more transparent to avoid situations like this.

Mr. Aicardi stated that that years ago, when DEP was not fully funded, Towns did not get any support. There was a time DEP did not want any paperwork. There is support there now and the DEP wants paperwork.

Mr. Schofield stated the funding level of the DEP should not impact how we follow our process. It is clear in this case we did not receive a notice of intent and then did not issue an order of conditions.

Mr. Burke stated that there is a process in place, we are moving forward with the process and we want to ensure we are following the process. If the DEP wants to change the process, we have to ensure that it is done. As long as you we are managing in the way you are supposed to be, there should not be any issues.

Ms. Jane Lowell asked how the information is going to be given to the residents. Mr. Aicardi stated that when someone comes in to file a Notice of Intent and obtain an abutters list of 300 ft. The abutters will be sent a notice.

Ms. Newman stated are looking towards live streaming for meetings in the building next door and information will be televised for the public and we will be more transparent.

Ms. Jane Lowell asked why/how would I know to file a notice of intent.

Mr. Coffin stated if you are altering vegetation within 100 feet of a wetland you are supposed to come before the Conservation Commission for permission.

Mr. Burke stated that we understand this was a big project, the Conservation Commission is working with the DEP and the owner of the parcel. Clearly the expectation is that the Conservation Commission procedures should be in accordance with state laws.

Consider Renewal of Junk License - Bob White, 50 Cape Road

Mr. Reil made a motion to approve renewal of Junk License for Mr. Bob White, 50 Cape Road, pending positive routing slips. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Year End Interdepartmental Transfers

Ms. Newman addressed the Board regarding the remaining year end interdepartmental transfers. Ms. Newman anticipates two more Finance Committee meetings and is trying to gather as many transfers as she can. Ms. Newman further stated that some are housekeeping issues transferring Town Counsel line item and Town Administrator contract increase, Con Com for their own budget, Accounting Services to fund the salary line. The Police Department salary and wages \$36K overtime \$10K uniform allowance, \$3,300 Chief salary line item.

Mr. Reil made a motion to approve year end interdepartmental transfers as presented. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours Prior to Meeting

Consider Approval of Parade Permit- American Legion Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 28th.

Mr. Reil made a motion to allow the Roger L. Wood Post #355, Department of Massachusetts American Legion to hold a Memorial Day parade on May 28, 2018. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session - Purpose 3 for Executive Session, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares- Mendon Town Hall Union Local 272, Mendon Highway Department Union Local 272, Mass. Coalition of Police Union AFL-CIO Local 188, Mendon Police Civilian Dispatch Union Local 188A and Mendon Permanent Firefighters Union Local 4936 I.A.F.F.

At 7:56 PM Mr. Burke made a motion to enter into Executive Session under purpose 3 M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares- Mendon Town Hall Union Local 272, Mendon Highway Department Union Local 272, Mass. Coalition of Police Union AFL-CIO Local 188, Mendon Police Civilian Dispatch Union Local 188A and Mendon Permanent Firefighters Union Local 4936 I.A.F. Second by Mr. Schofield. The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Burke- Aye, Reil-Aye, Schofield-Aye

Adjournment

Mr. Reil made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Schofield, the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by: Laura St.John-Dupuis

Date Approved: 8/20/18