

Select Board Special Meeting
Saturday, April 20th, 2019
Senior Center, 32 Court Street
Final Minutes

Members present: Anne Surman, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Niko Papakonstantis, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting.

Annual Goal Setting

Mr. Dean suggested that the board go through the list of the town's responsibilities and plans and identify potential goals or areas of focus for the coming year.

1. Wastewater State Aid Grant.
 - Mr. Dean said this grant would offset the cost of the annual debt service for the Wastewater Treatment Plant by \$700-800,000 annually, which would lower sewer rates for both residents and businesses.
 - Ms. Corson suggested that he bring up this issue in his Town Manager's report at the next meeting and the Board will authorize him to write a letter to the House and Senate that they will sign.
 - Ms. Gilman also offered to join Mr. Dean and Senator Morgan at the State House on this issue.
2. Great Bay Water Quality
 - Mr. Dean mentioned that Exeter is doing its part to address the water quality of Great Bay, which is really a large-scale state issue.
 - Ms. Gilman said she planned to ask the state Environmental Committee about their plan to address the quality of upstream water, since Exeter is treating water from other communities.
3. Ms. Cowan's goals
 - Last year one of Ms. Cowan's goals was to get more people involved in government, and she thinks that's happened.
 - A second goal from last year was to figure out how Exeter can become a "brain keep" of those who are creating jobs and businesses, making the town a hub of job creators. This did not come to fruition, and she would like to keep working on it.
 - This year, she'd additionally like to focus on how people's concerns and how they want to be communicated with, perhaps by doing a survey with the Communications Committee.
4. Ms. Surman's goals
 - Focus on traffic management and communication around this issue. Mr. Dean said that he's planning a meeting between himself, Darren Winham, Dave Sharples, and Chief Poulin on parking and traffic. They plan to list out all of the issues and come to the board only once they have it defined.

- Continue working on a code of ethics and conflict of interest policy. She had created a draft ordinance, but since it would apply to town employees in addition to volunteers it was a bigger issue. She said that a code of ethics is in the best interest of every Board and Committee member, and she's looking for the Select Board's support on moving forward with this project.
5. Ms. Gilman's goals
 - Complete the parking study, traffic, and intersection improvements.
 - Improved communication with the community, Public Works, and the Planning Department to ensure they all have the same vision.
 6. Mr. Papakonstantis's goals
 - Create a Cultural Committee, perhaps in tandem with Parks and Rec. Rather than reestablish an Arts Committee, he'd like to start over, broaden the scope, and have diverse personalities on the committee. The committee could also take the permitting and fees burden off the Select Board. He will have a draft of a proposal soon.
 - Consider the findings of both the Public Safety study and the traffic study. Finally, he'd like to support the Rec project, particularly as it relates to more programming and support for seniors.
 7. Ms. Corson's goals
 - Make the Select Board a kinder place, and have at least a monthly recognition of a town volunteer, employee, or community figure.
 - Work on communication.
 - Look at the Select Board policies and update them as necessary.
 - Revive the form-based code project with Dave Sharples.
 8. Sustainability Office
 - Mr. Dean said that there's not an appropriation for the sustainability office yet, and it needs to go through the process with the town before launching anything.
 - Ms. Corson suggested that they put an item in the budget to hire a consultant to define the sustainability policy. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if it were something Kristin Murphy could do.
 - Ms. Corson suggested that they create a scorecard to determine how Exeter's doing on sustainability projects at present.
 9. Facilities Committee
 - Ms. Gilman said she would like to hear from the Facilities Committee. Mr. Papakonstantis responded that they're looking for a more specific charge from the Select Board.
 - Ms. Surman suggested that they do an analysis of all buildings, looking for potential to sell or maximize the use. Ms. Corson said that this was beyond the scope of their ability, and it might take a \$10,000 line item to get to the next step.
 - Mr. Dean put out the idea of hiring someone from the maintenance budget to work on that project.
 10. Phillips Exeter Academy and other community relations
 - Mr. Dean said that Phillips Exeter Academy has been more active in engaging the town recently, and suggested they keep those connections going.

- Ms. Surman said that years ago, the goal was to create a better relationship with the Academy, the hospital, and RiverWoods. Ms. Corson pointed out that the hospital is changing, and suggested they wait until the hospital has a focus to engage with them.

11. Transportation

- Mr. Dean said that the COAST program is demand/response, and requires a day's notice, so there may be gaps there. The taxi program is not cost effective.
- He is sitting down next week with Parks and Rec on this issue, but he would prefer not to do the program in-house. Ms. Corson suggested connecting the Housing Authority with Parks and Rec.
- Ms. Cowan asked if there were a private solution, and Mr. Dean mentioned the companies Cherry Tree Transportation and Seniorlink as possible players.

12. Meals on Wheels

- Mr. Dean found that Meals on Wheels have a lease agreement with Newmarket and pay them \$285/month for rent. However, he's having trouble finding the will in Exeter to charge them similarly. Exeter gives Meals on Wheels \$30,000/year, so it's possible they could pay a rent-equivalent portion of that allocation into the General Fund.
- He said they should have a formal agreement, insurance, and rent or in kind services.
- He suggested they delegate someone from the Board to sit with the Town Manager, Parks and Rec, and Meals on Wheels to facilitate an agreement.
- He also mentioned that the DAV (Daughters of American Veterans) have an office in the Parks and Rec building and he's trying to assess the availability of that office for Parks and Rec programming.

13. Housing

- Mr. Dean suggested that the town should work to create more housing opportunities and more density, but that it sounded like there was some resistance to that in the recent housing meeting.
- Ms. Gilman mentioned that there are three bills in the house related to housing, and a commission to study how to solve density issues in NH, as well as a "tiny house" study.

14. All-Boards Meeting

- Ms. Corson felt that last time an "all boards" meeting didn't take off because there were too many people and the same things were spoken about, it was just one more meeting.
- She suggested getting the chairs of all these committees into an open meeting with the public to talk about how to communicate between boards, perhaps quarterly or twice a year.

15. Recognitions

- Ms. Corson said recognizing a board at a Select Board once a month will help to create a connection that could facilitate cross-board engagement.
- Mr. Papakonstantis said the recognitions would treat volunteers with the proper respect.

- Mr. Dean agreed that this would help them engage with the community.

The meeting was ended at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary