

Select Board Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2021
6:45 PM
Remotely via Zoom
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Daryl Browne, and Niko Papakonstantis were present at this meeting. Town Manager Russ Dean was not present. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:45 PM.

Mr. Papakonstantis read a statement:

As Chair of the Select Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Public notice of this meeting was posted on the town website and on the bulletin board of the town offices at 10 Front Street. As provided in that public notice, the public may access the meeting online and via phone. The usual rules of conduct and decorum will apply.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting and who that person is (son, daughter, spouse, etc...), which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

2. Board Interviews

- a. Mary-Paige Provost for the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission

3. Non Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved that the Select Board meet in non-public session under RSA 91A-311(c) and (l). Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting went into non-public session at 6:52 PM.

The Board returned to public session at 8:10 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to seal the minutes from the non-public session. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

4. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. There were no proclamations/recognitions at this meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: January 19, 2021

Corrections: Mr. Papakonstantis said that on page 10, regarding Article 13 on the Public Safety study, "They couldn't do a feasibility study by September to have a discussion with the BRC this Fall" should instead read "*could* do a feasibility study".

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

- b. Regular Meeting: January 25, 2021

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

7. Appointments

- a. There were no appointments at this meeting.

8. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Town Moderator Updates

Paul Scafidi, the Town Moderator, discussed the Deliberative Session, which took place February 6th. Things went smoothly, but only about 30 people attended. The March 9th election will be just like the election in November. They're opening absentee ballots on the Friday before election, to give them time to address any issues. Ms. Gilman clarified that they're just pre-processing them, and Mr. Scafidi said yes, they're only opening the outside envelope and ensuring the affidavit is signed.

- b. Street Name Recommendation

Dave Sharples, the Town Planner, discussed the E911 Committee recommendation to name a private driveway at map and lot 70/12 "Reservoir Drive." The Planning Board approved a two lot subdivision between Thornton Street and Rocky Hill Road. This driveway is the lot access from Thornton Street, but in order to make it an address on Thornton Street, they would have had to renumber the whole street, as there are no numbers left. They decided to name the private driveway instead. The name was submitted by the applicant; it's not in the Kensington and Brentwood Street directories, and no Exeter Street name is confusingly similar. Ms. Gilman asked if they can require the road to be built to town standards. Mr. Sharples said no, it's proposed as a driveway. If it were used to access more than one lot, they would require that.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to name the private driveway that will access one new home on 70/12 "Reservoir Drive." Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

- c. Squamscott River Siphons Project Update - Public Works

Jennifer Perry, Matt Berube, and Paul Vlasich were present to discuss the progress on the Squamscott River Siphons project. Mr. Vlasich said the consultants have suggested four approaches: directional drilling, sliplining of the siphons, addressing forcemain options in the short term, or waiting to try for extra funding. Mr.

Papakonstantis asked about next steps, and Mr. Vlasich said they would be fine tuning the cost estimates for the options and having discussions about risk management for each. They should also come up with a contingency plan in case there is a failure in the siphon. They could have a preferred option in about a month and a half. Ms. Perry said the DES Shellfish program monitors water quality, and has not detected anything like a sewer break. It could be years before the siphons fail. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if they can get any financial relief from the State, and Ms. Perry said the cost estimates still need to be refined. There's not adequate money to do everything including remediation, a contingency plan, and developing long term capacity. They'll have to go back before the 2022 Town Meeting for a new number. However, they do have enough to do the contingency plan and some approach. She added that DES is aware of this issue; there's some infrastructure investment on the Federal level as well. Mr. Papakonstantis asked when they can expect an update, and Ms. Perry said they should plan for the end of March, but if they have information available sooner, they will present it in an earlier Select Board meeting.

d. COVID 19 Updates

- i. Chief Wilking said today was the best day for Covid rates in NH in a few months, with 121 new cases. Previously it was up to 1000. The numbers statewide, in Rockingham County, and in Exeter are trending in a more positive way. Decisions made by Exeter's Select Board and the Governor are contributing to those trends. Vaccinations are being given at the High School to 500 people a day, 7 days a week. The PPE supply is strong, and they're receiving orders placed in March or April of last year. Some items relating to the vaccine are in shorter supply. James Murray has been fielding many questions on the VAMS vaccine registration system, which citizens are frustrated with. People can call 211 for help. There were no cases of Covid in the FD since the holidays. All personnel are still tested twice a week. Deliberative Session went well, given the circumstances. Ms. Gilman asked about the switch to scheduling the second date at the first shot, and Chief Wilking said he thought it would be live today, but it wasn't; he expects it soon.
- ii. Mr. Murray confirmed that people are frustrated with the VAMS system, and he's trying to help as best he can. 211 has been fairly backlogged. He got a question today about outdoor dining this summer, so that's starting to be on the radar.
- iii. Greg Bisson and Melissa Roy from Parks and Rec said that with the summer coming, they may get permit applications for outdoor events on Swasey Parkway. Mr. Murray has been in contact with the Farmer's Market. The Select Board voted last fall to oversee all permitting, and they wanted to check in with that. Right now, they have zero applications. Ms. Cowan said Parks and Rec should develop event guidelines that follow State Covid protocols, which will be helpful as applications come in. Ms. Gilman said they have some similar guidelines from the Spring. Mr.

Bisson said they're frustrated with the State Task Force, which updates the guidelines without notifying anyone.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to allow Parks and Rec the authority to develop and execute recreational programming that follows the State Covid 19 guidelines after Exeter health officials approve the program. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Bisson said using guidelines they're anticipating will be approved, they have a safe alternative for summer adventure camp. Ms. Roy said last year, 367 participants were scheduled for the program; this year, their capacity is at about 220 kids. They're creating a lottery system for previous registrants. The teen program is on hold; this will be for grades 1 - 7 only. It's an 8 week program. There will be no aftercare, as groups of campers cannot comingle. They're having to raise the cost of the program substantially to support more staff, additional cleaning, and bringing in portapotties. The cost will be \$1200 per child for the 8 weeks. The pool will be open for campers. They will be using a check-in process with screening questions. Mr. Papakonstantis asked about Covid reimbursement. Ms. Roy said last year they got a grant, but she hasn't heard anything this year. They plan to do a payment plan to help families. It's about \$150 per week per child, compared to the Y in Exeter at \$220 per week, and other programs which are even more expensive.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

Mr. Browne was not present for these votes.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit 500 for 19/16/11 and 115/8. Ms. Oliff seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption 115/8 \$236,251. Ms. Oliff seconded. Ms. Oliff seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Gilman read the Solar Exemptions: 24/29, 63/247, 19/16/6, 98/13, 74/108, 98/39, 86/75, 65/148, 70/10, 81/70, 62/44, 29/24, and 70/37.

b. Permits & Approvals

i. There were no permits or approvals at this meeting.

c. Town Manager's Report

i. There was no Town Manager report, as Mr. Dean was not present.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

i. Ms. Oliff has a meeting this Friday of the Housing Advisory Committee

ii. Ms. Gilman had no meetings. Next week is Heritage and HDC. On Feb 24, the Heritage Commission will host a neighborhood meeting regarding the Park Street Neighborhood Heritage Area. This is a new tool from the

Division of Historical Resources to have a community get together in the preservation of their neighborhood without being a historic district.

- iii. Ms. Cowan had a Rec Advisory Committee meeting. They're working hard to offer a summer camp option. At the Planning Board, Brian Griset's project was scheduled but they pulled out.
 - iv. Mr. Papakonstantis attended the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, where Jennifer Perry gave a presentation on the recycling program. Clamshell food containers are now recyclable again.
 - v. Mr. Browne said that regarding the Police Stakeholders Committee, the survey is published on the town website. At the Facilities meeting, they discussed possible options from the Deliberative Session, but there was no outcome there.
- e. Correspondence
- i. Two emails from Renay Allen: one as the Energy Committee chair announcing a student liaison to the committee; the other announcing that on Feb 19 at 7 PM, there will be a Zoom meeting to go over the Jude Hall Pocket Park proposal.
 - ii. A thank you from the US Census 2020.

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meetings are Feb 22, March 1, and March 15.

11. Non-Public Session

- a. There was no non-public session at this time.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary