

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting October 19, 2021

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman, Brian Monahan and Lynn Sweet

In attendance: Jim Andersen, Montgomery Lovejoy

Appointments: Paige Holman and Megan Grondin, Hill Library Director and Youth Librarian

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and payment of bills. Minutes from the October 5th were read and approved.

Montgomery "Monty" Lovejoy, Perry Road, came to the Selectmen's Meeting to make them aware of a situation in his neighborhood. A camper where several people are living is located on a neighboring property. There is no water or septic at the site, and a generator is frequently running. There have been numerous police responses to the property and most recently a break in at his own property. Additionally, the movement of dirt and tree cutting seem to be impacting wetlands. Questionable activity is occurring in a property across the road which is under the same ownership as this property. Mr. Lovejoy has had conversations with neighbors who are likewise concerned, and he is working with the police. The Selectmen thanked him for bringing this to their attention. They suggested that other neighbors send in or attend an upcoming Selectmen's meeting with letters of concern as well

6:00 Paige Holman and Megan - The Selectmen had asked Ms. Holman and Ms. Grondin to attend the meeting to give them an update on the Library's use of the town property next to the Library. Ms. Grondin reported about some of the activities. The children learned about stone walls this summer and built a small wall of their own. There are now 13 gardens on the property with 4 family plots. In all, the garden donated over 140 pounds of food to the Community Kitchen this season. They are also pleased to be working with the students and administration at Strafford School. Future plans include garden expansion, possible terracing the property, irrigation and reaching a wider audience to let them know about programs.

The Selectmen made a few suggestions. The placement for the sign for the Community Garden was discussed. It should be behind the row of stones, so as to stay out of the State right of way on Rte 126. Also, for liability and safety reasons, there should be no parking in that right of way. The Selectmen suggested that the Community Garden sign in some way indicate that the food grown in the garden is given to the Town's Community kitchen and also acknowledge that the property belongs to the Town. Ms. Holman would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony when the sign is unveiled and to acknowledge several special garden volunteers.

Ms. Grondin had asked if the Yoga group who meets at the Library could use the Conference Room at the Town Hall. Board members were not able to grant the request, but suggested the use of the workout room in the basement of the Police Station as an alternate venue. Other groups have used that room on a weekly basis. Ms. Grondin will follow up on the suggestion.

At this time a motion was made by Lynn Sweet and seconded by Brian Monahan to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Roll call was taken as follows:

Scott Young - Aye, Brian Monahan - Aye, Lynn Sweet - Aye

The Board entered non-public session at 6:20PM.

A motion was made by Lynn Sweet to leave non-public session and seconded by Brian Monahan to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Scott Young - Aye, Brian Monahan - Aye, Lynn Sweet - Aye

Public session reconvened at 6:25PM.

No votes were taken or decisions were made during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Brian Monahan and seconded by Scott Young to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Scott Young - Aye, Brian Monahan – Aye, Lynn Sweet – Aye

OLD BUSINESS

The Army Corps of Engineers has reached out to the Mr. Tetreault, from DuBois and King, who is working with the Town on the repair of the Barn Door Gap bridge.

The Selectmen briefly discussed clean up progress being made on Province Road property. They have been working with the owner of the property toward an end of year completion date.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Andersen was in attendance to return the keys for the beach shed. He, Cheryl Sanborn, and Ron and Judy Crickard have “tended” the swim rope this past summer at the Town beach. The Selectmen expressed thanks for their community minded spirit in recognizing and meeting the need.

The Selectmen’s Office will review preliminary budget information submitted by all department heads at the November 30th meeting. Health insurance costs have increased approximately 3.7% for the upcoming year.

The Selectmen discussed the renewal of the multi-year contract with the Town’s current assessing firm, KRT. As might be expected, prices have increased slightly. The Selectmen will make a decision at their next meeting after they learn what price might be offered in a 5 year contract.

The State is in the process of reviewing the Town’s and School District’s information in order to set the 2021 tax rate.

Two appointments are thus far scheduled for the November 2nd Selectmen’s meeting.

Being no further business to address it was motioned, seconded and voted in the affirmative to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:48PM.