

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: May 26, 2020
Time: 10:06am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others in participating: Rolfe Tessem, Mary McGurn and Mark Holmes.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Joan Goodkind, Chairwoman of the Housing Committee, has asked in an email to be placed on the next meeting agenda to give an update to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

After a recent Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hearing, Nick Keene emailed the Board about Elliott Snyder's visit to the Egremont Village Inn/The Barn just before the meeting. This concerns the Board. The other two members of the ZBA, Cathy Fracase and Mark Holmes, will be sent the email. All board members listened to the recording of the hearing in which Mr. Keene withdrew his application before the ZBA. Mary McGurn noted that members of the ZBA can be removed by the appointing authority for cause upon written charges and after a public hearing. The board voted to recommend that the ZBA call a reorganization meeting and that the Board recommend that the members change the chairmanship of the ZBA and that the Board get advise from legal counsel regarding the possibility of removing a member of the ZBA.

OLD BUSINESS:

There has no been no further word from the Mount Washington Selectboard re: the fire services fee.

It was noted that wave parade coordinated by the Fire and Police Departments was a smashing success. A formal thank you will be given to the Departments. A full gun salute was a part of the private ceremony at the Village Green.

There has been no response to the transportation grant application as of yet. The Board deferred signing the contract with Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation to Friday, May 29. The grant for purchase and operation of the Town's own transportation for vulnerable populations is due in June.

Bruce Bernstein and Lucinda Vermeulen reported on the meeting with Tom Ryan regarding the Working Forests Initiative. Members of the Conservation Commission and the Trails and Greenways Committee and Egremont Land Trust attended an outdoor meeting. Egremont has an enormous amount of forests, a significant amount of which is managed by Berkshire Natural Resources, and a large number of Ash trees. Lumber can be sold to pay for the removal of invasive growth. The Conservation Commission will follow up on applying for the grant.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES/NOT TO FORGET:

COVID19:

The Tennis Courts will re-open on May 27. Reservations will be required. (Guidelines are attached).

Vice-Chairman Vermuelen has spoken with users of the dog park and will be drafting re-opening guidelines that will limit the number allowed in the fences area, require all dogs be on leashes, removal of dog poop and possible reservations and time limits. This will be further reviewed on Friday May 29.

The Board will review the curb-side pick-up re-opening plan for the Library. (Draft attached.)

After last weeks meeting with MassDOT officials and the Engineer for the Route 23/41 reconstruction project Vice-chairman Vermeulen sent an email to the representatives stating that the detour is clearly preferred over a one-lane road closure. Member Mary Brazie said that she did not necessarily agree when looking at the amount of traffic, 6300 vehicles today with 9% of those being trailer trucks, traveling on a small rural road with a turning radius that currently did not accommodate trailer trucks.

There is an upcoming School Consolidation meeting in early June. No minutes have been released from prior meetings.

It was noted that residents are ecstatic with the verbal agreement between MBI and FiberConnect. The Board expressed its thanks and congratulations to Rolfe Tessem as one of the team members who worked hard to accomplish this feat. Rolfe said he would plan to apply during the next round to again get Wi-Fi in French Park. The Town is being asked to approve the placement of FiberConnects operations building in the park at the Annual Town Meeting.

TOWN MEETINGS:

The Board reconsidered the amount of \$150,000 for road repairs and voted unanimously to ask for \$100,000.

Vice-Chairman Vermeulen will seek one more quote for removal of the large tree that is down in the private Mt. Everett Cemetery.

The Board voted unanimously to conduct this years Annual Town Meeting at French Park with the following considerations:

Begin at 6pm.

No tent

Tables and Chairs for town officials - town has.

Podium and Chair for Moderator – town has

PA system to include mics in the audience and multiple mics for town officials.

Each attendee gets warrant, voter slip and disposable mic cover

Masks available for those who don't have.

A designated area for those refusing to wear masks.

Attendees must wear masks, bring own chairs/blankets, and bug spray

Mics in audience - at least three. Disposal mic covers for all attendees

Mics for each town official so there is no sharing

Cost for PA is about \$500 with mics and covers

Lighting for town officials
One entry makes it easy to control all attendees and maintain a quorum
Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/may26

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.