

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: July 14, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others in participating: Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Tom McMahan, Joan Goodkind, Fred and Donna Gordon, Barbara Kalish, Ken Gogel, Susan Warshaw, Juliette Haas, Stephen Cohen, Marilyn Liebowitz, Sarah Frank, Eileen Breindel, Moriss Partee, Cindy Schneider, Rick Ramsay, Deb Ramsay, Lainie, Zoe Hersch, Marilyn Derector, Noah Kusklufsky, Joyce Frater, Robert Derector, Rich Montone, Lisa Williams.

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

MINUTES:

The minutes of June 30 and July 7, 2020 were accepted with minor corrections.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Town Clerk Juliette Haas asked for time on a future agenda to talk about elections-past, present and future-and how elections will proceed fro September and November, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board made the following appointments to town boards/committees:

A.D.A. COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Brazie HR Committee
Tom Reynolds

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION:

Sara Love
Peter Maggio

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Max Kolb

DEPUTIES: Bonnie Bassis
James Olmsted

APPEALS, BOARD OF:

Alternate: Chuck Ogden,

BERKSHIRE COUNTY REG'L PLANNING COMMISSION:

Jared Kelly, Representative
Alternate

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

Bruce Bernstein
Chairman Board of Selectmen

BURIAL AGENT:

Juiette Haas

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mary McGurn
Eileen Vining

Richard Allen
Richard Slutzky
Chet Delaney
Stephen Goodman

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

James Noe
Corinna Barnard
Mary Brazie
Jared Kelly
Jason LaForest

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

David Seligman
Logan Malik, Associate on leave
Joyce Frater, Associate

COUNCIL ON AGING:

Bruce Bernstein
Georgette Kinney
Chet Delaney
Eve Goldberg
Carolyn Palmucci
Margaret Muskrat, Administrator Assistant

E-911 COORDINATORS:

Mary Brazie
Fire Chief Joe Schneider

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

Edward McCormick
Assistant William Brinker

FENCE VIEWERS:

Kevin Wheeler

FIELD DRIVER:

David Sheldon

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Joseph Schneider, Chief
Jim Olmsted, Assistant #2
James Golden, Captain
Dave Guidi, Captain
Roger Meyer, Lieutenant
Paul Sierau, Lieutenant
Dave Katzenstein, EMS/Tech Rescue Captain

FOREST WARDEN:

Joseph Schneider

FRENCH PARK COMMITTEE:

George McGurn, Trustee
Lucinda Vermeulen, Trustee
Mary Brazie, Trustee
Hilary Penglase
Zoe Hersh
Melody Lamb
Elizabeth Spaulding
David Guidi

Jana Laiz
Darya Geetter

GAS INSPECTOR:

Robert Gennari
Robert Kruspki, alternate

GREEN COMMITTEE:

Juliette Haas
Robin Goldberg
Marj Wexler
Richard Allen
Pat Konecky
Corinna Barnard

HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR:

Edward McCormick

HEALTH, BOARD OF:

Ellen Maggio

HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

Barbara Kalish

Housing Committee:

Richard Allen
Joan Goodkind
Frederick Gordon
Craig Barnum
Mark Holmes

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

George McGurn
Laura Allen
Charles Ogden

MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INSTITUTE:

Jeff Lazarus, Liason

MUNICIPAL COORDINATORS:

Edward McCormick

PLUMBING INSPECTOR:

Robert Krupski
Alternate: Bob Gennari

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief: Jason LaForest
Full-time Patrol Officer: Hans Carlson
Maximillan Kolb
Matthew O'Sullivan

Part-time Patrol Officers:

Joseph Pravia
Michael Renton
Jeffrey Spratt
Malcolm McCain
Police Details Only: Brian Shaw

Police Administrative Assistant: Margaret Avenia

POLL WORKERS:

Juliette Haas, Town Clerk

Marlene Soudant, Warden
Susan Turner, Warden
James Olmsted, Constable
Barbara Shultis, Marj Wexler, Gerard Lanoue, Peg Muskrat, Monica Lanoue,
Jeanne Peck

POUND KEEPER:

Bonnie Bassis

REGISTRARS, BOARD OF:

Juliette Haas, Chair

Marcia Arland

Lizzie Spaulding

Carissa Mann

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER:

Peter Barrett

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

Lucinda Vermuelen

Jeff Lazarus

Rolfe Tessem

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE:

Bruce Bernstein

David Seligman

Lucinda Vermeulen

Pat Konecky

Patrick Riordan

Marshall Bouton

Lizzie Spaulding

Will Conklin

Ari Zorn

TOWN COUNSEL:

Firm of Hannon, Lerner, Cowhig, Scully & Bell

Lead Attorney: Jeremia Pollard

TOWN HISTORIAN:

William H. Wood

VETERANS' AGENT:

Laurie Hils

VETERAN'S SERVICES:

Thomas Gage

WATER COMMISSION:

Ray Palmucci

WIRE INSPECTOR:

Ted Piontek

Alternate: Robert Clausen

The Human Resources Committee will meet in the near future to discuss the grievance filed by Matthew Sutton.

In response to a complaint about speeders and the safety of walkers and bikers on Jug End Road, Chief LaForest, who could not be present, had reported that they have stepped up patrols and are looking for permission to park in driveway's to do radar.

The Board approved the following inter-departmental transfers:

\$400.16 from Police Dept chief Expenses to Police Dept Expenses

\$656.63 from Draft Hydrant Expenses to Fire Department Expenses

\$481.56 from Highway Construction to Highway Vehicle Maintenance

OLD BUSINESS:

The Conservation Commission has been given a login and password to access the Building Permit online program. Every time an application for a building permit is filed the Commission will get notified and they can log in to the program to determine if they have jurisdiction and take appropriate action.

Road Superintendent James Noe has contacted Eammon Coughlin, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, to seek guidance on the Shared Streets grant program.

Selectwoman Brazie moved to not consider an Host Community Agreement with Emerald River LLC at this time. She noted that she did not agree with all of the points that the many opponents have made but felt that the Board should listen to the many residents who have made their opposition to the marijuana shop being at 195 Hillsdale Road. She noted that if Emerald River found a different location the Board could re-consider. There was no second to the motion. Chairman McGurn said the issue would be brought up again at the Thursday, July 16 meeting.

COVID-19:

The Board discussed further re-opening of venues at French Park. Board of Health Director Juliette Haas noted that the Town has no liability if someone contracts COVID-19 and tries to say that they were exposed at the Park. The Board agreed to the following:

Pavilion: Allow gatherings limited to 44 people under the Pavilion. Outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 by the Commonwealth. Signs noting that users are at their own risk, must social distance and wear face coverings will be posted.

Ball fields: Allow users of groups of no more than 25 to use the field following protocols established by the Little League organization. Again signs will be posted noting the limit, own risk, social distancing and use of face coverings.

Dog Park: The Board agreed to keep the current status quo until July 28. Meanwhile Office Administrator Brazie will research what other towns with dog parks have done.

Tennis Courts: The users are happy with the current system. The Board agreed to make no changes.

Horse back riding ring: Commonwealth guidelines allow for 25 users in group events. The ring is likely to never have that many users at a time. Spectators at horse shows will be limited as per the Commonwealth guidelines of 1 per youth rider. No riding lessons will be allowed. Signs will be posted.

The Board approved the request of the Fiddlers group and the AA Women's Group to meet at the park with limited numbers. Office Administrator Brazie will get more details as to how many attendees and what day/time.

FOLLOW UPS:

The Board approved the attached t-shirt design for the Town's birthday celebration. T-shirts will be sold for \$20 with \$10 going into a fund to pay for expenses for the 250th celebration which is 5 years away. The committee formed to plan this years celebration has determined that a virtual celebration will be held with no on-site celebration. Videos are being made.

Chairman McGurn has asked the engineer for the Route 23/41 project for the method used to determine the traffic count. It is normally determined by a counter placed across the travel way.

The School Consolidation Committee will meet again on August 13.

The MBI broadband agreement has been given to Fiber Connect. It is expected to be signed shortly. The Technology Team has begun work with Holyoke Gas & Electric for the emergency backup operations agreement. There will be a monthly cost of \$250 once this agreement is signed. The Town will need to budget for that.

Chairman McGurn said that he has seen many positive developments coming out of the Housing Committee and he encourages pursuit of those directions.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

Vice-Chairwoman Vermeulen attended an online Cyber Security webinar. She asked that this topic be included on a future agenda for discussion on ways to protect the town and its citizens.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be July 28 at 10am.

The Board approved the request of the Friends of Prospect lake to hold their annual tag sale in the parking lot of Town Hall on August 22 and 23, 2020.

Vice-Chairwoman Vermeulen thanked all those in attendance and noted how thrilled she was to have them attendance. She hopes that people continue to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/jul14

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.