

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: September 1, 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 attendance: Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Evan Abrahamson(Pollinator Constultant), Bill Tynan(Conservation Commissin), Liz Keen(Agricultural Commission), Frank Penglase, Danile Kelly and Marci Bush(School Committee), Francine Groener and Robin Goldberg(Assessors), Bryan Frank(Finance Committee), Patrick Riordan, Eileen Vining, Missy Bryne.

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the August 18, 2020 were accepted as edited.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Evan Abramson, Pollinator Consultant, presented the draft design for the Pollinator Garden in the upper field at French Park near the Dog Park. The garden area includes an approximate 5000 square foot stand of invasives which will be removed with more plants being removed later. Mr. Abramson is not a part of the removal of these invasives. Native shrubs and plants will be planted. The path to the trail in the woods will be extended for visitors. Signage will be installed. Some of the area is wet due to natural run off from the hill so native vegetation that is tolerant to wet areas will be planted. All plants are available locally, though some seeds may need to be ordered from the mid-west. (The draft design and plant list is attached.) Greenagers has offered to help though there may be some cost associated. The plantings will bloom from March to October. Maintenance will require only hand weeding and will be done by volunteers. Installation will cost about \$150 per day. No compost will be needed. Some straw mulch and wood chips may be used. In dry weather some watering maybe needed. Liz Keen said that the Agricultural Commission will volunteer to do the maintenance along with members of Greenagers. The Agricultural Commission has met with Building and Grounds Superintendent Tom Reynolds. Bill Tynan, Chair of the Conservation Commission, said that a Request for Determination (RDA) hearing is being held soon to determine that extent of permitting needed for working in or near the wetlands. The Board voted unanimously to move forward with this project as presented.

CITIZENS TIME:

Missy Byrne expressed concern regarding child care needs during remote schooling. Several organizations are trying to come up with solutions to this very important problem that will effect many families in Egremont, as reported in a recent article in the Berkshire Edge.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Planning Board has submitted via email the proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw. The Board noted its receipt and noted its inclusion on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Assessors Francine Groener and Robin Goldberg presented their case for allowing the members of the Board of Assessors to be in the office together again. Chairman McGurn proposed a meeting with the full Board of Assessors and the members of the consulting firm Regional Recourse Group to discuss

the duties of each and the needs of the office. This will take place as soon as possible.

School Committee member Danile Kelly updated the Board as to the school district re-opening plan. School will open September 14 fully remotely until September 28, at which time a hybrid model of certain grades in school on Monday and Tuesday, all remote learning on Wednesday, and then other grades in school on Thursday and Friday. At the South Egremont school it worked out that about half of the 14 students enrolled at pre-k and the other are kindergarten students. Pre-K will attend two days and kindergarten will attend the other two days. All Covid-19 guidelines will be enforced. She also reported that the schools elementary playgrounds are being rebuilt. At South Egremont this includes a cement pad that will be covered with mulch. She noted they are very aware of the issue of family child care and difficulties with remote learning, but have no real solutions at this time. Danile said that she felt safe in sending her children to school. The Board thanked her and Marci and the administration for their work during this very difficult time.

The Board reviewed the draft October 13 Special Town Meeting warrant. Article 1 will be the Planning Board version of the ADU and article 2 the petitioned version of the ADU. The Board will not include the adoption of the CPA on the warrant, nor will the funding for the Town Hall parking lot be included. The Board will include and estimate of \$8,800 for the projected overage in the Transfer Station budget as the center is operating at record high levels, an estimate of \$2,500 to pay the obligatory costs in the emergency/backup broadband operations agreement, \$7,000 to begin the planning and engineering for a new Building Maintenance building, funds for removal of dangerous trees at Town Hall and possibly French Park, and adoption of a sales tax applicable to short-term rentals.

The Board approved the request of Erika Ludwig to move her Fiddler meeting to Saturday mornings at French Park.

COVID-19:

The Board agreed to allow doubles matches at the Tennis Courts at French Park.

Chairman McGurn referenced an article by the Berkshire Edge in which there is a great outpouring of organizations working to help families with child care and remote learning needs. The School may be gathering the information into a data base for distribution.

FOLLOW UPS:

Legal Counsel is nearing completion of review of the Zurrin Host Community Agreement.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet again on September 15 at 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/sept1

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.