

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 1, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, and arriving late Board member Mary Brazie.

Others present via zoom: Chuck Ogden, Eileen Vining, Elia Delmolino, Liz Keen, Jane Ralph, Jennifer Brown, Judi Goodman, Katherine ?, Mary McGurn, Peg McDonough, Amy Krassner, Robylon, Ronnie Sacco, Tom Reynolds, Adam Kronenberg, Suzanne Taylor.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 12, January 18 and January 26 meetings were accepted as edited.

COVID-19:

The Board discussed with Board of Health Chairman Chuck Ogden the possibility of purchasing air purifier units for town offices and buildings. It was agreed that Chuck Ogden would discuss further with Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Tom Reynolds and bring more details back to the Board at the next meeting.

The Town's buildings will remain closed to the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board unanimously approved the request of the Egremont Garden Club to use the Town Hall parking lot on May 21 & 22 for a plant sale.

The Board recognized Patrick Riordan for achieving certification through the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions. Patrick is recognized for the many things he has done and the various events in which he has participated in to educate Egremont's residents.

The Board unanimously approved Full-time Police Officer Kozlowski's request for leave, which will include the use of vacation days, some sick days and unpaid time, when his child is born.

The Egremont Village Inn had notified the Town that its sign was destroyed by a vehicle for the 4th time in 8 years. They were seeking to move the sign to a new location, but subsequently decided that the new location was not appropriate and will replace the sign in the current location.

James Kelly has completed the French Park Forest Management Plan. French Park Committee Chair Jen Brown said that Mr. Kelly has offered a walk through of the parks forest land if anyone was interested. The Board voted unanimously to accept the plan.

The Town has been notified that the transportation van originally ordered is no longer available. A different van is being offered which is a bit larger, has the wheel chair ramp in the back instead of the

side and can seat two wheel chairs instead of one. There is no cost to the Town. The Board voted unanimously to approve acceptance of the new van.

OLD BUSINESS:

Elia Delmolino, Greenagers Conservation Director, presented a revised French Park Trail Stewardship plan with the addition of \$470 for a one time trail blazing project. Basic Trail Upkeep will be annual and cost \$960. Both proposals include labor and materials. The Board voted unanimously to approve the costs for Trail Stewardship with funds being paid from ARPA. Elia also presented a proposal for a garden crew to do extensive work on the Pollinator Garden in the coming year to make subsequent years upkeep easier. The cost of the first year \$25,980.22. Liz Keen, Chair of the Agricultural Commission, said that last summer the upkeep was overwhelming and she actually paid Greenagers herself for some help, spent hours there herself weekly and had multiple volunteers helping. She was unaware that Greenagers was making this proposal. The Board took no action and will discuss further at its next meeting.

After some discussion about concerns with town information going out via Egremont NeighborNet and Egremont Posts instead of the town's official email group, the Board voted to adopt a Social Media policy which requires Town Departments to send their posting to the Selectboard and the Office Administrator before sending out. (Policy adopted is attached.)

Juliette Haas asked for the deferment of discussion regarding an updated Buy Recycled Products Policy to the next meeting.

The Board voted unanimously to make no changes in the current Use of Legal Counsel policy. A reminder of the policy will be sent out to all departments.

Ronnie Sacco presented a proposal to the Board regarding the operation of the French Park Dog Park. The group proposes that all users register on the Town's web page, replacement of signage consolidating the different messages relayed, video surveillance, limit registration to two dogs per owner (with a case by case evaluation for more than 2 dogs), public education, in-site monitoring, create a web site page specific to the Dog Park, and formation of a Committee. The Committee will conduct fund raising to cover the costs of dog waste disposal. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Amy Krassner, Ronnie Sacco, Suzanne Taylor, Kyle Smith, Robbie Bogard and Robert Kronenberg to the French Park Dog Park Committee. Further discussion regarding the proposal was deferred to the next meeting.

GRANTS:

One Stop for Growth:

Peg McDonough is filing 5 Expressions of Interest (EOI) for projects under the One Stop For Growth program. The deadline for submission is February 4. There are 9 grant programs under the One Stop umbrella. The Board voted unanimously to support the submission of 5 EOI's as noted below.

1. Housing funding for pre-building, site development work.
2. Planning Board support for zoning bylaw review and building public support
3. A look at under-utilized buildings
4. Support for small businesses
5. Technical Assistant for the Egremont Fire Department.

Tom Reynolds asked to speak to clear up misinterpretations regarding the request for a new buildings and grounds shop. The Board agreed to give him time at the February 15 meeting.

ARPA:

Construct's Jane Ralph presented a request for funds from the Town under the American Rescue Plan Act Program (ARPA) in the amount of \$5,500. \$500 would be in addition to the annual contribution of \$1,500. \$5,000 would be to help cover costs of Construct assisting the Town with its housing development. The Board voted unanimously to approve the \$5,500 from ARPA. Ms. Ralph also noted that Construct's request for an annual contribution will increase from \$1500 to \$2000 in FY 2023.

The Board discussed additions to the new web page that have added cost. Launch Assist and a conversion of the current pdf permit/license applications in the amount of approximately \$1,000, and Chatbox, a virtual direct message dialogue, which costs \$3,572 to implement and then has an additional annual cost of \$4,725. Both of which can be added later. No action taken.

Discussion ensued over the proposal for Wi-Fi Hot Spots in the villages and Broadband to the Water Plant. Both of which could be paid from ARPA or a grant applied for under the Municipal Fiber Grant program. The MFG is clearly a perfect avenue to fund Broadband to the Water Plant, and not so clearly for the Hot Spots. No action taken.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 10:00am. The Board is meeting in special session, on February 3, with the engineers to discuss the Mount Washington Road reconstruction project.

The Board will begin review of FY 2023 budget in the very near future.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STRATEGY:

No closed session was held as the Board awaits the draft agreements for review.

Adjournment 12:16pm

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/feb1

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.