

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: April 25, 2023
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Finance Committee Chair Laura Allen, Ellen Rudley, Neil Fox, Moderator Stephen Cohen, and for part of the meeting Town Clerk Juliette Haas, Council on Aging Administrator Peg Muskrat and Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Tom Reynolds. Present via zoom were Housing Committee co-Chairs Doug Mishkin and Judi Goodman, Board of Health Chair Chuck Ogden, French Park Dog Park Committee Chair Amy Krassner, Grant Administrator Peg McDonough and Mary McGurn.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

Action on the minutes of the March 28 meeting were deferred for review of proposed edits. The minutes of both the executive session and open sessions on April 11 were accepted with minor edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amy Krassner reported that the Dog Park has been uneventful. Signs have been updated, there are 80 dogs registered and users seem to be self-regulating themselves and are fully invested in the community at the dog park. Collection of donations is fairly successful and the account currently has \$750 though an additional \$1,250 will be needed to make the July payment for waste removal. The Committee is planning to reach out to local businesses who serve pets for donations. Waste removal costs about \$4,000 per year. The Committee meets next on May 9. There will be some changes in membership of the Committee in June and Amy will be stepping down.

The Selectboard recognized Jeff Nathan as the most recent member of the Conservation Commission to obtain certification through the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. The Board will thank and congratulate all members for their participation in the program.

The Board voted unanimously to promote Bruce Bernstein as an associated member of the Council on Aging and to appoint JoAnn Rock to the Council.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Egremont Land Trust request to utilize the Town Hall parking lot on April 29 from 10am to 12noon for its First Annual event to distribute trees in honor of Arbor Day.

The Board voted two in favor, with Selectboard member Brazie recusing, to allow town employees to use a vacation day on Monday July 3, while the July 4th Holiday will be observed on Tuesday, July 4, with the caveat that Town Hall must remain open on Monday, July 3.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman McGurn reported that the Mount Washington Selectboard has reviewed the agreement

reached regarding the fire services assessment and has sent it along to legal counsel for details on amending the Fire Services Agreement with Egremont. Egremont's legal counsel will be authorized to speak with Mount Washington's legal counsel. The revised assessment calculation will be used for the FY 2024 assessment. A reminder of the outstanding balance due on the FY 2023 assessment will be sent to Mount Washington.

The Board listened to the concerns of Ellen Rudley and Neil Fox in regards to the pickleball courts under construction in French Park, which included drainage, noise and parking issues. The Board agreed to placing no parking signs along Baldwin Hill Road. Signage directing traffic to the main parking area of the Park and to consider vegetative screening around the court will be considered.

GRANTS:

Peg McDonough reported she has submitted the second report for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding program.

Peg continues to work on the grant submission for the new Buildings and Grounds building under the One Stop For Growth program which is due on June 1.

Peg is working on the filing of the Municipal Vulnerability Action grant for the 3 components for the Water Department: engineering assessments for the hydrologic studies; preliminary work for the backup water supply; and regulatory updates. The Town's 10% match will come from ARPA and in-kind. This grant is due on May 4.

Peg is filing a grant with Berkshire Taconic Community Trust Foundation to help cover the costs of the Fire Department study in hopes of lowering the amount that was set aside in ARPA funds.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of about \$350 from the Municipal Fiber Grant to cover the costs of the wireless pole attachment agreement with Verizon.

TOWN MEETING/BUDGET REVIEW:

The Board went over the motions for each article on the warrant. The Board will make all motions but will ask other town officials who were proponents to speak to their respective articles. (The motions as drafted are attached.) Preliminary calculations show that the Town will be approximately \$197,000 under its levy limit.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

It was agreed that the Board will send a letter to MassBroadband Institute confirming that the grant award to FiberConnect can be closed out and final payment made.

The Board agreed to place the recent Regional School District Planning Board update on the town's web page but not to distribute it via email.

The Microtransit Program the Town is participating in with Great Barrington and Stockbridge will start on May and is offering free rides to residents to the Town Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be on May 16 at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23pm

Mary Brazie,

Office Administrator

minutes.23/ap25

*The recording of the minutes is posted on the Town's web page at www.egremont-ma.gov for 90 days.
Any attachments noted are on file at Town Hall.*