

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: June 14, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard members Chairman George McGurn, Board member Mary Brazie and for part of the meeting Police Chief Jason LaForest. Present via zoom were Selectboard Vice-Chairman Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, James Dipisa, David Seligman, Doug Mishkin, Eileen Vining, Joyce Frater, Juliette Haas, Mary McGurn, Peg McDonough.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 17 and May 31 meetings were accepted with minor edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed options with the Police Chief to make the crosswalk in front of the School Safer in light of a couple of recent incidents. The crosswalk will be moving to in front of the bank when the road reconstruction project is done. The area is not an ideal location for a crosswalk with a sharp curve and a blind hill. When an officer is present during school drop off and pick up there are no issues. As this is a state highway, the Town cannot undertake any permanent solutions. Abutting property owners will be approached to see if they are agreeable to the placement of temporary warning signs. It was noted that there is only two weeks left of school. The Police Department will try to spend more time in the area.

The Board voted unanimously to make appointments (attached) to town boards/committees with the exception of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Housing Committee, Conservation Commission, Water Commission and French Park Committee. Those appointments will be considered at the June 28 meeting.

The Board was emailed a draft Municipal Vulnerability Plan that was over 200 pages. The Board asked for a printed copy. Juliette Haas noted that there have been some amendments and she will get the Board an updated copy. The Board will have to take action at its June 28 meeting as the deadline is June 30.

The Board approved the following end of year transfers:

\$1220 from Compactor Operation to Compactor Substitute wages
\$35 from Water Audit to Water Utilities. It was noted that there are still two months of utilities to pay and no request was made to cover those.

Notification has been made to the Conservation Commission that the lease is up on the Friedman cottage and ownership will revert to the Nature Conservancy who has until 2027 to remove the structure. The Selectboard was not notified directly and has asked to be done so with all future correspondence. The cottage is on town land purchase in 2002 with the help of the Department of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Egremont Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. As per the conservation restriction the building must be removed and cannot be used for any purpose after the

Friedman lease expires. There are concerns over access for emergency purposes that will need to be ironed out the Town Departments as the Friedman's caretaker will no longer be involved.

The Town has received a letter from the Community Development Corporation South Berkshire suggesting the Town pay pre-development costs for an Affordable Housing Project on town land and suggesting that a 40-50 unit development is the only size that would be profitable. It was agreed that neither the Selectboard or the Housing Committee will make a response at this time.

The Board has scheduled a meeting with the Regional School District Planning Board on June 28 to hear a report on the Board's findings and recommendation. Egremont's School Committee members will be invited to attend.

In light of the increase in charges for mattress and furniture disposal the Board voted unanimously to increase the charge to residents for all items being charged less than \$50 to \$50 per item. Current charged ranges from \$25 to \$75.

OLD BUSINESS:

There have been re-occurring issues at the Tennis Courts since they opened for the season. The Board agreed to re-implement the reservation system that was used throughout the Pandemic.

The Board discussed with Conservation Commission Chairman David Seligman the need for one agent from the Commission to be delegated to sign off on Building Permits instead of requiring review by the whole Commission. Commission Chairman Seligman said that has been the process and did not understand the issue. He will speak with Building Inspector Ned Baldwin.

GRANTS:

Key individuals will be meeting in the near future to discuss planning for the Forest Management Stewardship Grant for French Park.

The next round of the Taxi/Livery grant has been submitted.

There are no current ARPA updates.

The Police Chief is working with Peg McDonough to apply for a Municipal Road Safety Grant for equipment.

FOLLOW UPS:

The final payment for Fire Services has been received from the Town of Mt. Washington. The Town should receive a copy of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission report regarding the fire service agreement soon.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be June 28 at 10:00am.

Adjournment took place at 11:15am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/jun14

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.