

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: June 28, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard members Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Present via zoom were Eileen Vining, Juliette Haas, Joyce Frater, Charles Ogden, Justin Eichenberger, Dough Mishkin, Adam Chait, Bob Noonan, Peg McDonough, Mary McGurn, Rebecca Turner.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were adopted with minor edits.

COVID:

The allowance for fully zoom meetings ends on July 15. At that time meetings will be required to have the person chairing the meeting and a quorum of the governmental body in person. All others can still participate via zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to disband the French Park Committee, that creates a direct line to the Selectboard as the Trustees in charge of the park. There have been issues with governance, jurisdiction, procurement, and lack of communication with some Committee members.

The Board voted unanimously to declare the 2022 Truck Bed/body as surplus so that it can be sold to the highest bidder. The bed/body came off the new Buildings and Ground Truck when it was converted to a flatbed dump body.

The Board voted 2 to 1, with Chairman McGurn abstaining, to sign documents certifying that Fiber Connect has met Milestone 2 of the MassBroadband Institutes grant agreement. Fiber Connex has achieved coverage in Egremont that has resulted in not less than 50% of the additional residential premises being currently serviceable. Sheffield Road is on line. Mount Washington Road will be within 2 weeks. A portion of Mount Washington Road from the Avenue to Greenwood Circle has ongoing make ready work taking place. Areas remaining to be build out are Rowe Road, part of Jug End Road, and Brookvale/Hilltop which is on hold. Supply chain issues have held up some work. Costs of fuel are affecting prices and delivery.

Kenver Real Estate LLC, 39 Main Road, has applied for a temporary sign permit for six flag/banners announcing their sale. The Board agreed that this violated 4.3.2.5(b) of the Egremont Zoning Bylaw that prohibits signs that move. The Board voted 2 to 1, with Vice-Chair Vermeulen abstaining, to deny the permit.

Board of Health Director Juliette Haas and Grant Administrator Peg McDonough, along with program representative Justin Eichenberger, presented information on National Grids Municipal Electric Vehicle Program. The current grant opportunity will allow ICF to look at our current fleet and assess

which could be converted to electric vehicles. A future grant would include the costs of the electric vehicle and the charging station. The assessment would recommend only converting to electric when replacing a vehicle at the end of its useful life to the Town. The board voted unanimously to approve moving forward with the program and partnering with ICF for the assessment report. The Town must appoint a liaison to work with ICF for about 5 to 10 hours over a 3 month period. No appointment was made.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposal from Native Habitat Restoration for a second round of treatment to the invasive flaming bush near the old chapel site at French Park. The cost of the \$3,000 will be taken from the French Park Committee Expenses and the Board voted unanimously to approve a carry over of these funds.

Rebecca Turner reported that the proposal of holding the Town's August 28 birthday celebration at Town Hall in conjunction with the Friends of Prospect Lake tag sale was not going to work. The Pavilion at French Park has been booked for the event. The group will utilize other areas of the park and is aware that the park remains open to the public. The Fire Department plans to be involved. She asked the Board to let her know what their involvement would be.

The Board reappointed Richard Allen, Mark Holmes, Elizabeth Keen, Judith Goodman, Bruce Kafenbaum and Doug Mishkin to the Housing Committee, and appointed new member Bob Noonan. The Board agreed to limit the Committee to no more members.

It was noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals is desperate for a full member and two alternate members. Cathy Fracasse, who had asked to not be reappointed, has agreed to stay to get the Board through the very important upcoming hearings.

The Board voted 2 to 1, with Chairman McGurn abstaining, to appoint George McGurn as the Town's representative to the Southern Berkshire Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Board voted to disband the Human Resources Committee.

The Board unanimously appointed Joyce Frater as a full member of the Conservation Commission. The Board took no action on re-appointing Dave Campbell and will consider that at a future meeting.

It was noted that there seem to be factual issues and some outdated data in the Municipal Vulnerability Hazard Mitigation Plan. After being assured that the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the plan as per MGL Chapter 40, Section 4.

GRANTS:

There is no deadline for the Forest Stewardship Grant Program as it is a rolling application process until funds are depleted. The grant is being drafted and just awaits details on the plan for invasive removal and tree harvesting.

Peg McDonough reported that the application for the second half of the American Rescue Plan Act funds has been filed. The funds should be in hand by the end of summer.

FOLLOW UPS:

As school is out, solutions for the school crossing will be put in place before school starts again

the end of August.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Town's new web page has had a soft launch for town officials to review it. Users are starting to use it. Feed back has been positive. An official announcement will be made in a couple of weeks when all issues have been corrected.

The Board's next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 12 at 10:00am.

Adjournment took place at 11:28am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/jun28

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.