

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: July 12, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present in-person were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others participating via zoom: Mary McGurn, Marj Wexler, Chuck Ogden, Eileen Vining, David Seligman, Peg McDonough.

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 28 meeting were accepted with minor edits.

COVID:

The legislature is still working towards approval of an extension of the allowance for fully remote meetings. If this legislation cannot move out of conference committee before July 15 then meetings have to return to full compliance with the Open Meeting Law which requires at least the person chairing the meeting and a quorum of the governmental body to be present in person.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Line Rock USA Bike Tour to take place on October 9, 2022. The bike route is out of Connecticut along Route 41 to Mount Washington Road into Mount Washington and over to New York. Police Chief Jason LaForest has advised that no detail officers will be needed.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Municipal Vulnerability Plan Committee's request for a tax bill stuffer regard hazard preparation for households in Egremont. The stuffer will go out in the October 1 tax bill.

The Board voted unanimously to make a public announcement regarding the launch of the Town's new web page. The web page is receiving very positive feedback from all areas. Vice-Chair Vermeulen would like to see content added with an eye to visitors. The Team that has worked to build the web page was thanked.

The Board voted 2 to 1, with Chairman McGurn abstaining, to hire Mary McGurn at the rate of \$85 per hour for no more than 10 hours per week for at least 2 months, at which time the board will revisit the position, to act as Web Administrator/Master posting content on the web page and training town officials to post their meetings and content, with up to \$10,500 of the funds being paid from ARPA and \$2850, as needed, from computer administrator funds. Rolfe Tessem has agreed to keep the photos and videos current. The position may be made long term or permanent at a future town meeting.

The Town will receive \$10,671 over the next 15 years as a result of the National Opioid Settlement. These funds can be appropriated at Town Meeting for the purposes of Opioid addiction

treatment, education, etc. A regional group is discussing asking the Towns to pool their funds for organizations such as the Brien Center and the Recovery Center.

A member of the Highway Union has asked to be paid for 5 days of vacation pay under a new clause on the contract that took effect July 1 in which employees can ask after 5 years of employment that the Board convert 5 days vacation time to 5 days pay. It was noted that the contract requires the request be made no later than June 1, which might lead one to believe it was meant to be June 1, 2023 to close out the fiscal year as the contract clause did not come into effect until July 1, 2022. Action was put on hold so that Chairman McGurn could confer with Personnel Director Cara Becker as to the intended intent of this new clause.

The Board delayed action on the draft Tree Warden job description in order to speak with Personnel Director Cara Becker. The Tree Warden position does not become appointed until May of 2023 there is no rush. Cara will be invited to a meeting in the near future.

State Officials and Conservation Commission members are viewing the Friedman cabin at 84 Jug End Road on July 14. The Selectboard has a conflict that day, but would like to view the cabin as well before it is demolished by The Nature Conservancy, which has to be done by 2027, though the Board has no legal jurisdiction. The land on which the cabin sits is the town owned water protection land. Conservation Commission Chair David Seligman said he would take Board members anytime they wanted to, A date will be set in the near future to do so. David Seligman noted that the Forest Management plan was a baseline study of the land and expressed concern over invasive species on the lower end of th property. Jim Kelly may be invited along to discuss the possible remedies.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board agreed that it would coordinate songs and kids activities for the Town's Birthday Celebration on August 28.

The Board voted 2 to 1 with Selectboard member Brazie abstaining, to not re-appoint David Campbell to the Conservation Commission. The Commission is already considering a possible replacement who responded to the prior posting regarding the vacancy on the Commission which was filled by Joyce Frater.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is in desperate need of a member and two alternates.

The Planning Board and Conservation Commission have vetted volunteers for the Vision 2035 committee to update the Comprehensive (Master) Plan and the Open Space & Recreation plans and have submitted names to the Board for appointment. The Board would like to meet the volunteers before making appointments. This will be done on Tuesday, July 19 at 10:00am.

The Board unanimously approved the following end of year transfers:

\$674.28 from Treasurer Collector Clerk to Tax Collector Tax Title Expenses

\$945.29 from Police Wages Secretary to Police Vehicle Expenses

\$709.96 from Health/Dental Insurance to Social Security/Medicare

Town Accountant Paul Lisi is closing out the following grants: CTCL Covid 19 Response Grant, CDBG, MIIA Wellness Grant, DARE, Community Policing, and Mass Tech Collaborative. He reported that the Inspectors Revolving Fund may be overdrawn though it was thought that all the June revenues may not have been posted.

GRANTS:

The Board reviewed the final report for the Community Health Inclusion grant to look at accessibility for those who are mobility challenged to Prospect Lake. The Board will make a final review at its next meeting.

The Board made Grant Administrator Peg McDonough the liaison for the Municipal Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment grant. She will work with the Green Committee on the grant.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Board's next regular meeting will be July 26 at 10:00am. The Board will include on its next agenda a discussion with Juliette Haas about her memo regarding the increased costs at the Transfer Station.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/jul12

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.