

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: August 9, 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, and Police Chief Jason LaForest. Present via zoom were Helen Kuziemko, Ethel Patterson, Jim Noe, Marj Wexler, Fred Gordon, Juliette Haas, Jana Laiz (for a short time), Chuck Ogden, and Mary McGurn.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 19, July 21, July 26, and August 1, 2022 meetings were accepted with minor edits.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board interviewed Helen Kuziemko for the position of Police Department Administrative Assistant. Both the Police Chief and the Personnel Director have interviewed Ms. Kuziemko, have worked with her in the past position with the Town of Great Barrington, and highly recommend her. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Mz. Kuziemko to the position.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to increase the inspection fees for the Plumbing, Gas and Electrical Inspectors to \$75 per inspection. The prior fees were \$60 and \$70 so the increase is minimal.

Board of Health Director Juliette Haas presented data on the Town's solid waste tonnage and costs to haul and dispose of for Fiscal year 2022. Tonnage was 362 down from prior years. Costs are up due to the inclusion of a significant gas surcharge implemented last year.

Juliette Haas reminded the Board that effective November 1, 2022 mattresses are banned from the waste stream and must be recycled. The Town has been invited to partner with Sheffield's program and have Egremont residents take their mattresses to Sheffield. It was agreed that this was not the best option for Egremont's residents. The Town can get a 40 cubic yard container that will hold 60/80 mattresses tightly packed. Egremont residents brought 35 mattresses to the Transfer Station last year. The cost to haul and dispose of one container is \$3,000. The cost of the container can come from RDP funds which the Town has been awarded. Residents would continue to pay at least the \$50 charge they have been paying for mattresses. Juliette proposed inviting Alford and Mount Washington to participate with Egremont. It was also noted that only mattresses in good condition were accepted. The Board asked that a detailed plan be presented at the next board meeting and Vice-Chair Vermeulen will speak with Juliette about details before the meeting.

Legal Counsel will be consulted about the legalities of placing a link to the French Park Dog Park waste removal PayPal account as the funds are not coming in to the Town's Treasury.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen reported on the visit to the town's 213 acre Water Shed Protection property and the Friedman cottage at 84 Jug End Road. The cabin has to be demolished by The Nature Conservancy who holds the current lease on the 5 acres surrounding the cabin within the next 5 years. The Board voted unanimously to retain the current caretaker to continue to mow the road access twice a year at \$200 each mow. The Nature Conservancy has been asked to keep the town in the loop on their actions.

The Board proposed a few edits to the Grant Administrator Job Description and will ask that the Personnel Director check on the degree of qualifications that the current Grant Administrator possesses.

OLD BUSINESS:

After discussion surrounding the ambiguity of the verbage in the Highway Union contract regarding payment of 5 days of vacation time, the Board voted unanimously to pay the employee for the 5 days of vacation time but to request a meeting to discuss clarifying the issue in the contract and possibly clarifying some other issues, as well as to point out that only one payment will be made in a fiscal year.

The Board voted unanimously, after a short interview, to appoint Fred Gordon to a 3-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Board voted unanimously, after a short interview, to appoint Ethel Patterson to the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Advisory Committee.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the Town of Mount Washington informing them that at the August 23 Egremont Selectboard meeting the Egremont Fire Chief will be invited to discuss the mobility of the Egremont Fire Department to the Town of Mount Washington whose residents are dependent on the Egremont Fire Department services.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be on August 23, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen reported that she attended the signing of documents with the New England Rotary and Housatonic Heritage supporting Egremont's Pollinator Garden. An award of \$6,000 was made to the gardens and signs will be installed recognizing its significance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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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.