

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: September 15, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Also participating were Juliette Haas, Police Chief Jason LaForest, Laura Allen, Eileen Vining, Kevin Zurrin, Rolfe T the road essem, Mary McGurn, Joyce Frater, Marge Wexler, Marc Bernstein, Jim Noe, Chuck Ogden, Jeff Lazarus. Joining later was Jayne Smith.

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the September 1 meeting were accepted with edited.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Jeff Lazarus and Rolfe Tessem reported an issue that has been encountered in getting the MassBroadband Institute (MBI) financial agreement signed by Fiber Connect (FC). The MBI financial agreement is for both Egremont and Monterey. FC won't sign the financial agreement until the operations agreements with both town's are finalized. Egremont's agreement has been waiting for signature since January, 2020. Monterey's agreement has yet to be drafted. There are three possible avenues to move the agreement forward: 1. Monterey concludes it's agreement negotiations. This is not likely to happen anytime soon; 2. FC feels comfortable enough to sign the MBI agreement and the Egremont operational agreement. As the MBI agreement requires liens be placed on FC's assets for both Egremont and Monterey this is not likely to happen either; 3. MBI separates Egremont and Monterey into 2 agreements. The Board agreed that a strong letter opposing a joint financial agreement will be sent to MBI. Jeff Lazarus and Rolfe Tessem will follow up with both MBI and FC verbally. Chairman McGurn will urge Monterey to move quickly on their agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Egremont Garden Club asked for the Board's permission to plant a tree memorializing Nancy Sanders at the Library, but as some had concerns over that location, it has been agreed that this tree will go in the Pollinator Garden at French Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marc Bernstein resurrected the issue of parking along both sides of the road at the gap at Prospect Lake. With the increase in population during the pandemic the area has been so congested with parked vehicles it leaves one lane of very unsafe travel putting drivers, bikers and walkers in danger. He proposed signage so that parking was only on the lake side of the road and signage directing users up the road to the state parking area. The Board voted unanimously to put up signage and authorized enforcement. The Police Chief and Road Superintendent will put this plan in action.

The Shared Streets grant program has added additional funding for restaurants to allow town's to purchase equipment such as heaters and tents lease restaurants to allow for extended dining outdoor. It was agreed to focus our application on these items to help our restaurants.

The Board reviewed the draft Special Town Meeting. The meeting scheduled for October 13 cannot take place via zoom. The formatting for the Planning Board's ADU article needs improvement. It was noted that the funds for the removal of dangerous trees around town buildings and at the park has been cut down to \$8,250 from over \$13,000. The amount needed for the transportation van is still being finalized. The Board discussed the possible addition of an article for police cameras and audio. Chief LaForest will confirm pricing before 9/22. The Board may include funding for a Covid-19 Compliance Officer. Final review of the warrant will take place on September 22.

The Board will ask Legal Counsel for a final draft of the Zurrin host community agreement for its meeting on September 22.

The Board will finalize plans for an in-person with Housatonic Valley Association at its September 22 meeting.

COVID-19:

The Board is meeting with the Board of Assessors and the consultant of Regional Resource Group later in the day to discuss staffing and training in the Assessors office.

The status of the dog park will remain closed after it was made aware to the Board that there is continued disrespect taking place there. Though consideration was given to chaining the driveway, it was decided not to since work will begin soon on the Pollinator Gardens. Dog Park signage will be enlarged and placed in more prominent places.

The Board discussed the Remote Learning Enrichment Program specifically as it related to the Greenagers request to have a program at April Hill located at 61 Undermountain Road. The Board agreed to hire Jayne Smith as a consultant to coordinate this, which will likely move into a COVID-19 Compliance Officer consulting position with the Town on an as needed basis. The Selectboard will be the Municipal Approving Authority. The Board unanimously voted to appoint an inspection team to include Jayne Smith, Police Chief Jason LaForest, Fire Chief Joe Schneider, Ned Baldwin Inspector of Buildings and a Board of Health representative. Jayne Smith will coordinate the necessary inspections. Personnel Director Cara Becker will be asked to draft a job description for the position of COVID-19 Compliance Officer for the Board to look at on September 22. Jayne Smith will send her credentials.

FOLLOW UP/UPDATES:

The Operations Subcommittee of the School District Planning Board is meeting September 16 at 5:30pm.

SELECTBOARD ISSUES:

The Board will meet on September 22 at 10am via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44pm.

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.