

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

Meeting Minutes July 17, 2023

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *D. Dawes, Chair, Amy Smith, D. Lamonica, Rachel Bancroft and Robert Hoover*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
Administrative Assistant, Maureen Shultz participating on Zoom.*

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence was taken by the Board.

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

D. Dawes motioned the Board to approve the 12th Annual Coast to Cure Bike Ride 2023 to take place on Saturday, September 9, 2023, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor. Representative Kim Trainor spoke on the event to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: ESSEX GREENBELT ASSOCIATION:

Chris Lapoint gave an update to the Board on Essex Greenbelt Association -Land Conservation Project in the Town of Georgetown. No vote was taken. \$750K was the purchase price which was less than market value price -all of our properties are free to all-88 acres land at Ballpate Road , Spofford Street , family had been spoken to since 1974, reached an agreement , a year to put together ,protected land , trail standpoint gives more opportunity, wooded hillside ,great wild life habitat ,funding plan for this ,a lot of funding sources ,state grants ,private fundraising ,would like the Town to partner with us , want to share the information and asked for feedback .

D. Dawes spoke on structures on this land or is it all raw land, spoke of a point of when the Town did use Greenbelt on Jewett Street conservation restriction -was suppose to be used for farming how can we be sure that something is going to be done instead of very little being done for that piece of land and it has been a few years and it is unused and unclean.

Chris Lapoint stated the land is still privately owned -Greenbelt is not managing private land, appropriate structure -greenbelt owns the land used for trails, thinks they do a good job with the properties they own.

D. Dawes asked if Greenbelt sees a place for people that are outdoor sportsmen like bow hunters and is concerned that the land does not just sit there, wants people to use it.

D. Lamonica asked if Greenbelt has been pursuing the owners of them, spoke on protecting land forestry under brush, spoke of forest fires, species living there.

R. Hoover asked about access areas.

GOATS TO GO:

Mr Alan Paulson from Goats to Go gave an update to the Board regarding new coat collars & no fence / GPS system from a phone system-tracks the goat's whereabouts all the time.

R. Bancroft suggested the public gardens could use these goats.

A. Smith asked if these GPS Systems have been tested.

POLICE CHIEF SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Chief Donald Cudmore spoke on his suggestion on how the process and timeline of hiring a new Police Chief should be conducted, received resumes, we have a list of thirteen candidates, possible one took their name out, community can do a variety of things to hire the next Chief.

Selection Committee can cut a lot of expense out interviewing and hiring and will end up getting the Board a bullet proof candidate.

Police Chief Don Cudmore stated that the Community can do a variety of things to hire a Police Chief and commented that the process we have used in the past has been successful

Using a Selection Committee is recommended due to the fact that there is already a pool of candidates that have already applied to a posting of the position.

Option 1–Six (6) member committee would consist with Chief Don Cudmore as a non-voting member, Police Command Staff member, Board of Selectman member, Town Administrator, Fire Chief and possibly one resident.

Option 2-five (5) member committee would consist of Fire Chief, Town Administrator, member of the Police Command Staff member, Board of Selectman member, Town resident, and the Police Chief Don Cudmore as a tie breaker.

Chief Cudmore stated that we have received originally thirteen application and the posting is closed and one candidate has pulled his name from the candidates list.

R. Bancroft asked if we are capping the candidates at the number (13) thirteen.

Chief Cudmore spoke on the process of having five (5) candidates to be formally interviewed, final number will be three (3) candidates applied that is how many we have receive so far and the posting date has passed, after that the three finalists will participate in an assessment center, rating review then will be interviewed by the BOS who will make the appointment, timeline begins this week.

Prepare and interview the 5 candidates, then get that amount down to three candidates they will then get them to an assessment center that has been chosen by the Selectman Committee.

R. Hoover asked for an example of what the Assessment Center will do.

Chief Cudmore went on to give examples of an assessment center and stated they will do whatever it is the Board request.

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to approve Option 2 that was presented by Chief Cudmore, seconded by R. Bancroft. Roll call was taken all in favor.

Master Plan/OSRP: Discussed as follows:

H. LaCortiglia, Chair of the Georgetown Planning Board submitted a letter to the Board of Selectman.

MBTA Communities Act 3A the Town has to be in compliance with.

A. Smith mentioned that the Open Space Committee is behind this plan.

R. Hoover commented that the letter from the Georgetown Planning Board is great.

Georgetown 250 Committee:

A. Smith spoke on getting ahead with a committee named Georgetown 250 Committee to start to plan a celebration in the community. D. Schofield of the Electrical Department, and D. LaMonica stated they both are willing to serve/ help with this committee, volunteers needed. Ad Hoc Committee and fundraising will be part of the committee, inquired if possibly the Veterans, School Department and the Library would be interested in serving.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

D. Dawes informed the Board and the community on the upcoming purple Heart Presentation at the Johnny Cash Show at the Concert Series at American Legion Park. on August 13, 2023-Raindate will be August 20, 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the Feasibility Study Contract Amendment/ Public Safety Building. The following was discussed, comments were taken back to the feasibility committee, idea of campus planning.

O. Pacheco, spoke on R. Hoovers ideas but not sure he is articulating his vision - maybe it can be written down, all might be thinking the same thing.

R. Hoover important to keep in mind not to add any more money or to increase the contract—keep it moving forward-campus planning how do they bring that in and what is a tangible result that will help them develop the scope and fee.

R. Hoover spoke on the upfront face when they are looking at a new building where business takes place -front door -separation now with the gravel parking lot -that may or not be the best solution to maximize the building –need to be aware of what they are doing with their building.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator believes their lead designer and is feeling the same way, will make sure they do come on site -civil piece.

D. LaMonica asked for clarification on the public safety location asked what plan are they speaking of, asked if the public safety was staying where the current site it.

O. Pacheco will bring up specific ideas.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

604B Grant Award: The Town has received a 604(b)-water quality in the amount of \$26,600. This was the grant the Town applied for in April of 2022 for assessment and conceptual design work for water at Rock and Pentucket Ponds. The amount awarded is less than the total project cost so we will need to modify the scope with our engineering consultant CEI. We did meet with DEP this week and presented a conceptual modification but are still short \$12,900 to complete the project. Our goal is to develop a final report that will put the Town in a position for a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant. Wet Water Treating was mentioned -unspent CPC funds and in ComCom.

Rock Pond and Pentucket were combined was mentioned by R. Bancroft.

R. Hoover stated that something happened to the water and the fish and the bait fish was wiped out would like to go over the contract with DEP.

MPPF Grant Increase:

The Town has received an additional \$22,500 towards the current grant for the Town Hall windows. This brings the total grant award to \$113,00. We still have 4 windows that need to be installed for completion of that part of the project. The new storm windows should be on site by the end of August/Early September, do not believe any more money is available.

D. LaMonica asked already spent funding and asked that it does go back into the general fund can look at this figure like a rebate.

VFW Memorial Park (SHRAB Grant):

We have started work on the State Historical Records Advisory Board to improve the VFW Memorial Park. We have sought some guidance from Mr. Hoover and had the monument cleaned and restored this past week. We should be done by the end of the summer on the project. Pictures were shown to the Board and in the packet of before and after restoration picture of the headstones. Between the church and cemetery. R. Hoover landscape design to help us out.

Border to Boston Shared Use Path:

Update was given by John Cashell, Town Planner. Mass Dot has approved extension of the B-to-B Path contract with the Town of Georgetown that had expired in December of 2022-has now been extended thru the end of this year 2023. All letters and any information needed for abutters including appraisals will be mailed out to abutting property owners along the former Railroad Row, starting from the Boxford / Georgetown line to W. Main Street.

MVPC SS4A Planning Grant:

The Merrimack valley Planning Commission has received a safe street and roads for all planning grant for the region. If there are any particular roadways and intersections that you feel need to be looked at, we should compile the information and send it to MVPC as they start their process in October 2023. Safety Streets for all. Road accidents that could lead to fatalities.

A. Smith asked if sidewalks were part of this grant.

R. Bancroft asked if speedy areas in Town are included in this grant.

D. LaMonica inquired about speed tables and or speed bumps was asked by

D. Dawes asked O. Pacheco, Town Administrator about the 604B Grant award that he had applied for in 2022 and questioned if Senator Tarr or Representative Mirra was instrumental in this grant.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator answered no to the above question but also stated they do / can write letters of support.

R. Hoover asked what does it mean in the grant the wording “conceptual design “work.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the water quality testing, why the state wanted to support this grant.

R. Bancroft stated that if some people in Town come across algae bloom no sure if the residents know what to do if they find algae bloom it was suggested they call the Board of Health for testing and wants to have it on the Board of Health Town website page.

R. Hoover how will this work, the two water bodies are precious to the Town, character some serious issues inquired about the water shoreline, asked if this will this work into the picture a big contribute with the shoreline -witnessed years ago a resident spraying the vegetation, I am sure it is highly toxic.

R. Bancroft mentioned the Town’s by Laws not to be nasty there for a reason back yard on the pond not strict to be nasty but strict to keep everyone safe.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated that these toxins would show up in water quality testing and stated this spraying should only be done by a professional.

D. LaMonica asked about the status of the new Town's website and inquired if each Department would be able to update their department page in real time.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator suggest to use Phosphorus Free Fertilizer there is no by law making people do this but it is suggested.

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS:

D. LaMonica motioned to appoint Officer Taylor Ford as an Interim Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer, seconded by R. Bancroft. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

D. LaMonica asked who the primary sexual harassment grievance officer is.

R. Hoover motioned the Board to re-appoint Peter Kershaw to the Affordable Housing Task Force for a term of two-year term to expire June 30, 2025 seconded by R. Bancroft. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

R. Bancroft motioned the Board to re-appoint Selectman Robert Hoover to the Affordable Housing Trustees / Selectman Liaison for a term of two years to expire June 30, 2025, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

R. Hoover mentioned he attended a meeting of the Affordable Housing Trustees and commented a lot of great work being done the Board sacrificing their time helping people with applications.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board decided to meet on August 7, 2023 & August 28, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Hoover motioned the Board to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. with D. Lamonica seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

All Board of Selectman Meetings can be viewed on our Town Website at <https://www.georgetownma.gov> - Under the Community TV tab on the left side.

Documents used in the meeting:

Annual Coast to Cure Bike Ride application.

Essex Greenbelt Association informational packet including a map.

Request from Mr. Alan Paulson / Goats to Go.

Planning Board letter / MBTA Communities Act 3A

Town Administrator's Report

