

**Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833**  
**Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Memorial Town Hall**  
**7/15/19**  
**7:00PM-General Meeting~3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall**

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**Selectmen Present:** Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Charles Durney, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Douglas W. Dawes, and David J. Twiss

**Others Present:** Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:**

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**7:00PM Call to order**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes  
Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC HEARING**

*Public Hearing continued from April 22, 2019-SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way*

**Mr. Bonavita moved to re-open the Public Hearing for SQF, LLC/Tilson request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T small wireless facility in the public right-of-way. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Bonavita moved to continue the public hearing for SQF, LLC/Tilson request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T small wireless facility in the public right-of-way to Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00PM. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Bonavita moved to close the public hearing for SQF, LLC/Tilson. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

*Request from Essex County Greenbelt for 5th Road cycling event Sept. 21st to travel through town.*

Jane Rumrill, events coordinator for ECG. She explained that the event is a cycling event not a race.

Mr. Durkee stated there may be work on North St. and if there is at the time could they change the route. Ms. Rumrill stated that they can change the route if needed. Mr. Durkee stated he would let her know next week.

Mr. Fowler stated that we can add Mr. Durkee as to if there are issues on roads.

**Mr. Durney moved to approve the request from Essex County Greenbelt for the 5<sup>th</sup> Road Cycling Event to travel through Georgetown on September 21, 2019. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

*Request from Ida Wye for appointment as Tree Warden*

Mr. Durkee was present to give information on the Tree Warden position. He gave a handout to the board and stated he is in his 13<sup>th</sup> year as Tree Warden.

Mr. Fowler stated that he looks at what tree warden does and is more public safety. Mr. Durkee stated that he does not have large budget, but he trims dead branches. He stated that he does not have the funds to plant trees. He stated that they have a brush cutter that one staff member uses. He explained this and how the Tree Warden falls under the highway department.

Mr. Fowler stated that he would like to look into combining the Tree Warden position with Highway Surveyor. He stated he would like to keep this under old business and combine in the future and he stated that this position falls under public safety.

Mr. Twiss asked if he had any extra staff. Mr. Durkee stated no it is his Highway staff.

**Mr. Durney moved to appoint Peter Durkee as Tree Warden term to expire June 30, 2022.**

Mr. Dawes stated that he would not vote as he does not have a full packet of information from Ms. Wye.

**Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Dawes abstained.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Police Chief discussion on Harbormaster and Crossing Guards*

Police Chief Don Cudmore and Fire Chief Mitchell were present.

Chief Cudmore explained that the harbormaster position. He stated that the position was a civilian and then became problematic and became a position of the Police Department. He stated that he had a full-time officer who was a trained Harbormaster in the position a few years ago, but he is no longer with the department. He explained the issues at the locations of Pentucket Pond, Rock Pond, Baldpate Pond, and Parker River with boats, canoes, kayaks, swimmers, docks, etc. He stated he is using a part time officer now and himself. He stated that a few years ago they got a free boat that is unusable now and using personal boat now and that is problematic. He stated that with issues on ponds, and to police at level it needs to be there is an issue. He stated that we need an appropriate boat. He stated that if an incident will need to call mutual aid. He explained the Fire Department should be deploying a boat and the Fire Chief will discuss. He stated they have an estimate for a pontoon boat with handles so it can be carried into the water for \$15K.

Chief Mitchell stated that this a low frequency event and the boat we have now is more like a fishing boat and the one looking at is more of what is needed for a rescue. He stated that this boat could also be used on ice. He stated should have one boat not two as small departments. He stated that we should also have something to tow the boat with and would like to purchase a truck to tow. He stated that the truck would also be used for the rail trail.

Mr. Bonavita asked if there were funds for this. Mr. Farrell stated no.

Mr. Twiss stated low maintenance engine is good. He stated that the truck would be used by both departments. Police Chief stated the Fire would use the truck and if he needed the boat the Fire Department would deploy the boat. He stated a town with 4 bodies of water needs a boat.

Mr. Dawes stated \$15K for boat and how much for truck. Chief Mitchell gave estimates. He stated as an estimate for new with boat \$75K. He asked if firefighters are trained for this. Fire Chief stated that they are and he would do additional training.

Mr. Durney asked if this boat is big enough. Police Chief stated that it is and the ease of deployment is a big issue.

Mr. Dawes asked if any engine size restrictions on ponds. Police Chief stated we do not and will discuss at next agenda item with Rock Pond Bylaw committee. He stated Pentucket pond is 10 horsepower.

Mr. Fowler asked if he has seen any additional access points with this vehicle.

Discussion on access points and emergency access with this boat by hand would be easy, and working with the ConCom on this.

Mr. Fowler stated the town does not tax boats and is not sure why.

Mr. Przyjemski stated that access on Pond Street is property of Rod and Gun Club not town of State property.

Police Chief asked for sign off on surplus of old boat.

Mr. Twiss moved to approve the Declaration of Surplus property the 1997 Parker 17' boat. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bonavita asked if would make a difference to purchase off season. Fire Chief stated he will see if they have any models or discounts.

Mr. Bonavita asked if we could get a used truck as not used all that much.

#### *Rock Pond Bylaw Committee Update*

Dr. Clive Patience, Bruce Fried, were present representing the committee.

Members: Beth Harper, Ezequiel Gesualdi, Christopher Crosby, Matt Smith, Paul Moskevitz, Alternates: Eric Harper, Keiko Skinner

Dr. Patience stated that they were formed by this board over some contentious issues on the pond and erosion of the shoreline. He asked if they had the boards report.

Mr. Bonavita stated that they did.

Dr. Patience stated they reviewed the issues and discussed bylaws and did not feel that bylaws were needed at the time. He stated that MGL90B covered most issues. He stated signage was an issue at the ramp and Mr. Fried worked with the state on this and the new signage is in place. He stated that they worked with the Police Department on a No Wake buoy and that is in. Mr. Bonavita asked if there is an officer on the water. Chief Cudmore stated that there is no consistent staff on the pond. Dr. Patience stated that how much erosion does the occasional boater damage, as much as the natural waves.

Mr. Bonavita stated they have the update from Dr. Patience. Dr. Patience stated Rock Pond is in good shape the Pentucket pond needs help with weeds.

Mr. Fried read a letter to the board stating that safety and erosion are a major issue on Rock Pond. He stated he feels they need a bylaw with penalties that the Police Department can enforce. He stated that it would help if the Police went out with cameras. He read a passage on boat wakes and the damage they do. He handed out some pictures of the shore line recent and in the past showing erosion.

Chief Cudmore stated that there are conflicting uses on the pond and this is a small body of water. He stated some boats are too large for this pond. He stated if new bylaws are put in place, he would need the staff to enforce these bylaws.

Mr. Przyjemski stated that there is erosion, and it is 50/50 from ice and boats. He stated that the Conservation Commission has very little control over the boating. He stated that the shoreline is where they have jurisdiction.

Mr. Bonavita asked if we need bylaws. Mr. Przyjemski stated that he feels that we do need bylaws. Mr. Twiss stated that these ponds are not very deep for any large boats. Chief Cudmore stated that it is up to the community as to what they want for the pond.

Mr. Fried gave some pictures of property shorelines

Ezequiel Gesualdi stated that he lives across from Mr. Fried and does not see the erosion. He stated that the season is short and the boats are not causing all the erosion.

Rebecca Chane, 13 Lakeridge Drive stated that boats are speeding on the pond and where it is posted no wake. She stated why is speed not the same as a cul de sac on a road.

Gail Bell, 115 Lakeshore Drive asked if the erosion has diminished with the no wake zone. She stated that one resident wants to ban boats.

Mr. Patience asked if the board should continue. Mr. Bonavita asked that they still work on the issues.

#### *MoU with Boxford for Border to Boston Trail*

Mr. Cashell, Town Planner was present.

Mr. Farrell explained why there was a new MOU with Boxford.

Mr. Cashell stated that he had an update on the Rail Trail and the South section plans for the trail. He stated that they are at 25% design and he gave numbers of funds that we already have for the path. He stated that easements are now needed to go forward and they have 80 plus homeowners to negotiate with. He stated that our attorney states it will take about a year to obtain all the easements.

Mr. Fowler asked where the funds are coming from for legal. Mr. Farrell stated that the funds are coming from the CPC funds. Mr. Fowler asked about easements. Mr. Cashell stated that usually do not need easements and explained the ownership of railroad right of way.

**Mr. Durney moved to approve the MoU with Boxford for the Border to Boston Trail as presented. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.**

#### *Recreational Fields Study Committee Update*

Jeff Moore and Scott McDonald Co-Chairs of the committee were present.

Mr. Moore gave an update of what the committee was charged to do looking at the current fields and looking for new fields. He stated that on Friday they received the draft report. He stated that their committee is meeting on Thursday and the board will go over the report and will look at other areas of town for fields.

Mr. Moore stated that he asked Mr. Cashell to stay as the EDC is looking at the upper fields at the High School for treatment facility and leaching field. Mr. Cashell stated that the land could have dual use and met with the School Committee and have their approval.

Mr. Bonavita stated that Senator Tarr and Representative Mirra were in and have funds for Economic Development. He stated that they may be able to do everything at once.

Mr. Cashell stated that this is the only area for the treatment plant downtown.

Mr. Moore stated that the Greenway parcel is the second parcel they looked at and then a parcel on PennBrook Ave. He stated that once the report is done and final, they will ask Gale to come in and do a presentation.

Mr. MacDonald stated that they would like to see where the treatment plant project is going before they go too far and if we can combine.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he would like to see if there are any State funds for this project.

Mr. Durney asked where the Martel Way lot is. Mr. Moore explained the lots.

#### *Police Chief Discussion on Crossing Guards*

Chief Cudmore stated he has funding but no staff for Crossing Guards. He stated that he has a meeting with the Superintendent to discuss. He stated that in other towns they use School staff. He stated that he looked at a private company but we are too small. He stated it is only an hour in AM and one hour in PM. He stated that the Light Department has donated another crossing light which helps at the cross walk.

Discussion on options.

#### *Police Chief Memo regarding parking at 51 West Main Street*

Chief Cudmore stated that he reviews plans from departments and on this plan on West Main Street with a one-way driveway. He stated that the parking on West Main Street would have to lose spaces as the sight line is not good. He stated that this board would address the parking on West Main Street.

Mr. Dawes stated that coming out of the Eagle Building is very dangerous.

Chief Cudmore stated that he is not sure at what stage the plan is at, at this time.

Mr. Fowler stated that it would be up to this board to decide on parking and whether to take out a parking space.

Fire Chief Mitchell stated that they just have to be able to get in with the Fire Trucks.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### *Water Department Merger Discussion-Fall Town Meeting*

Mr. Bonavita stated that he put this on after hearing of the rate increase. He stated he does not know if the vote would have been different if residents knew about the increases. He stated do they want to put the merger on the fall town meeting warrant.

Mr. Dawes stated that they never said the amount of increases. He stated may have been 15% but with new space and staffing at 25% and 25%. He stated that the boards should be making the request to be on the STM Warrant. Mr. Bonavita stated that Mr. Lawler us in favor of being on the warrant in the fall. Mr. Twiss stated he agrees with Mr. Dawes and there are few people for these jobs. He stated that the merger was not explained well at town meeting. He stated people want good water. He stated a 50% increase is a lot. He stated if we put on warrant would want the boards to be better prepared.

Mr. Durney stated that he trusts Mr. Lawlor wanting to go forward. He stated that the public has to be informed before town meeting. Mr. Twiss stated that they could try sending out information through the School.

Mr. Fowler stated he is willing to move it forward but the Water Department has to come and ask for it. He stated that with the increase the Park & Rec may not have the funds to pay for the water this season.

Mr. Twiss stated that if there was babysitting at town meeting it may help attendance. Mr. Farrell stated that we have had babysitting before.

Mr. Farrell stated that the FinCom wants a STM as they want to set up a fund for Special Ed.

Mr. Dawes stated that the Water and Light have to meet and take an official vote to go forward with the merger.

## **WARRANT and MINUTES**

*Minutes of June 10 and June 24, 2019*

**Mr. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of June 10 and June 24, 2019. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 3-0 vote. Mr. Twiss and Mr. Durney abstained**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

*Notice from the Town Clerk of the resignation of Matthew Newhall from the FinCom*

Mr. Bonavita thanked him for his time on FinCom

*Request from Jeff & Maria's Ice Cream for a Common Victualler License for location at American Legion Park.*

**Mr. Durney moved to approve the *License Agreement and Common Victualler License* for *Jeff & Maria's Ice Cream* at American Legion Park to expire Dec 31, 2019. Mr. Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

*Holiday Events Committee Appointment*

**Mr. Fowler moved to approve the appointment of Jeff Boragine, Joseph Bonavita, and David Schofield to *Holiday Events Committee* term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

## **APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS**

*Appointments*

**Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of *Patrick Maguire* and *Katy Dorrien* to the *Cultural Council* term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Dawes moved to approve the re-appointment of *John M. Cashell*, *Town Planner* as the *Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization MPO Subregion 3 Representative* for *Georgetown* term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of *Dr. Sal Testaverde* as an *Alternate* on the *Rock Pond Bylaw Committee* term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of *Peter Burns* to the *Recreational Field Study Committee* term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Dawes moved to disband the *School Building Committee*. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Discussion on Town Counsel appointment. Mr. Farrell stated that the town went out for proposals over 10 years ago. Mr. Dawes stated that it may take a year to get proposals and discuss. Board to review over the next year.

**Mr. Dawes moved to approve the appointment of *KP Law* as *Town Council* term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.**

## **ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING**

### **SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

##### *National Ave RFP*

Mr. Farrell stated that there were no submittals to the National Ave bids. He stated that he has a call in to KP Law to see what our options are. He gave assessed price and price before divided and with access issue.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he had feedback and was told no offer without licenses in hand and the access is an issue. He stated that we have a reputation for being difficult to build.

Mr. Dawes asked if we have contacted the abutting owners. Mr. Farrell stated that no but they did pull the plans.

##### *Fire Fighters Union*

Mr. Farrell stated that the ASFME Union was disclaiming the Georgetown Fire Department and revoked their membership. He stated that they have let staff know the town will no longer be deducting union dues and staff will fall under the town's Personnel Bylaws. He stated that they can find another unit.

Mr. Bonavita asked if they want to have Fire Chief Mitchell come in and update on the department.

Mr. Fowler stated that they should have him in to further discuss the MRI report and implementation. Mr. Farrell stated that the Fire Chief is following the MRI report

##### *East Main Street Park*

Mr. Durney stated that the gates are open and the closed signs are down at the dog park. Mr. Bonavita stated this is a concern of liability. He asked Mr. Fowler if he had update from the Park & Rec.

Mr. Fowler stated that the board did not meet last week as they went to Planning Board to present a downsized plan for the East Main Street project and that was approved. He stated that once a construction site it will be the contractor's responsibility to keep locked. He stated members are going in to water grass. He stated that they still have to go to Conservation Commission.

Mr. Durney asked why they have trash barrels out if the park is not open.

#### *Town Administrator's Goals FY20*

Mr. Bonavita asked for board's goals for Mr. Farrell before the next meeting. He stated he would like to have the goals for the next meeting.

#### *Teen Rec Center Event*

Mr. Bonavita stated that they had an event and had 100 kids attend. He stated that it was a Glow Event. He stated they plan to hold two more events this summer. He stated they are looking for some State funds and that it is looking good to receive the funds. Mr. Dawes asked the grades.

Mr. Bonavita stated 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades.

Mr. Bonavita stated that they may have a few high school nights maybe a battle of the bands. He stated that there was a discussion on funds and where they are going. He stated going in the right direction. He stated they will be coming to our next meeting to update the board. He stated that they are looking to raise funds, corporate donations, etc.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, August 12th at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room, Town Hall

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Durney moved to adjourn. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved August 12, 2019.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Public Hearing continued from April 22, 2019-SQF, LLC/Tilson Request to place a new utility pole for an AT&T Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way
- Minutes of June 10 and June 24, 2019
- Notice from the Town Clerk of the resignation of Matthew Newhall from the FinCom
- Request from Essex County Greenbelt for 5th Road cycling event Sept. 21st to travel through town.
- Police Chief Memo regarding parking at 51 West Main Street
- MoU with Boxford for Border to Boston Trail
- Appointments
- Request from Ida Wye for appointment as Tree Warden
- Holiday Events Committee Appointment
- Request from Jeff & Maria's Ice Cream for a Common Victualler License for location at American Legion Park.