

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833 Meeting Minutes from the
Ph. (978) 352-5755 □ Fax (978) 352-5727
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
08/22/2022
7:00PM-General Meeting
Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, D. LaMonica.

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

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes
Pledge of Allegiance

CORRESPONDENCE / PROCLAMATION:

P. Kershaw read aloud the Proclamation for the Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Georgetown.

RECENT FIRES UPDATE:

Brian Coolidge, Fire /Admin/ EMT & Deputy Chief Matt McKay updated the board on the recent brush fires in the Town and surrounding communities.

The following was discussed:

- Fire started as a two (2) acres fire has now grown to 10 acres.
- Knocked down a good portion / used the Trails as a natural fire break.
- Dryness / access to the trail / Mutual Aid great support / State Forest Patrol. Break Heart Reservation.
- Hydrant systems.
- No end in sight.
- Taking water into consideration, updated notices out to residents, using shuttles of water, using tankers, time consuming, has been a challenge.
- Brush fires becoming more frequent -need to be planning for the future, State issue not just a North Shore issue.
- Grilling very dangerous / take precautions / open flame safety.
- Forest Fire Bureau and Cape Cod came up mutual aid / hot spots still in place /can be still be down 12 inches /losing vegetation /losing trees / need more rain.

- Asked residents not to tie up the 911 call lines -they are aware of the smoke.
- Fall season normally brings more water.
- DCR from Bristol County and Barnstable were recognized by Brian Coolidge.

D. Dawes asked about Land Management.

G. Fowler asked if there is anywhere to pump out of in Georgetown.

P. Kershaw asked for clarification regarding a cul-de-sac development / True Lane.

D. Dawes asked if the fire may have started due to Spontaneous combustion -camp fire they believe started by human cause/ error.

D. Lamonica asked about the Fire Department's personal, sustainable issue, how long can they sustain this work load.

APPOINTMENTS: Tristen Straker / Police Department.

D. Dawes asked Police Department candidate Tristen Straker for some background on himself.

G. Fowler inquired how this appointment will affect staffing levels at the Police Department.

P. Kershaw asked candidate Tristen Straker how the academy was.

Deputy Chief Scott Hatch gave the Board some background on candidate Tristen Straker, Deputy Chief Scott Hatch spoke that this is the first time that the Georgetown Police Department has ever hired someone from the outside who was inexperienced that we didn't know, attended Fitchburg University, had a High GPA, thorough background check was completed with nothing bad said about applicant, parents in attendance, will finish the academy September 9, 2022.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to appoint Tristen Straker as an Officer for the Town of Georgetown effective date will be September 9, 2022 with an expiration June 30, 2023, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

APPOINTMENT: Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector-Kevin Daly present.

Kevin Daly, 2 Dana Drive, Groveland, Mass was present and gave a background of himself, currently working in the Town of Danvers, comes highly recommended and has over twenty-seven years of experience, currently teaches at the Essex Technical Highschool.

D. Lamonica inquired on how many hours needed to cover Georgetown and if he can handle the 10-15 hours recommended in Georgetown.

P. Kershaw stated that Mr. Daly had a good resume.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to appoint Kevin Daly, 2 Dana Drive, Groveland, Mass as the Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the Town of Georgetown with a term to

expire June 30, 2023, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

APPOINTMENT: Georgetown Light Commission:

Mr. Wayne Snow, 291 North Street, Georgetown, Mass candidate to the Georgetown Light Commission was present.

D. Schofield, Light Department Supervisor spoke on his experience with candidate Wayne Snow and is stated that Mr. Snow is valuable to this appointment.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to appoint Wayne Snow to the Georgetown Light Commissioners with a term to end at the next Election in May 2023, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

CANDIDATE FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: no appointment made.

Resident Andrea Cervenka, 17 Marlboro Road, Georgetown, Mass informed the Board about herself and her desire to serve on the Conservation Commission. gave her address to the Board and was asked to inform the Board about herself and her desire to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

A. Smith asked Ms. Cervenka if she was not appointed to this Board would she be interested in serving on any other volunteer Board in Town.

D. Lamonica asked how her role on the Conservation Commission would be interacting with residents and customers.

P. Kershaw recognized her profession as Nurse and thanked her for putting her name in the mix, likes a fresh set of eyes, every effort we make to work with candidate -if you're not chosen feel free to step in on other openings.

G. Fowler read through year of meeting minutes commented the Conservation Commission isn't always new construction could be septic systems, rebuilding a deck, wet land laws, asked how she would interpret the laws and come up with solutions.

VOTES BY THE BOARD:

G. Fowler motioned the Board to approve the amended meeting minutes as presented from June 27, 2022, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Traffic / Speed Sign discussion: Deputy Chief Scott Hatch gave an update.

- 2019 Radar trailer -this was brought as a used trailer after that -data control
- Mobile sign only gives the speed,
- SD card used in sign, runs by a solar panel, last only about 4-5 days -depending on sunlight.
- Data graphs were shown to the Board, some concerns that the info looks at times deceiving when cars can look to be going slower or faster than they actually are.
- Four (4) electric mounted signs are currently on Tenney Street, Pond Street, Woodland Street and North Street, receives data every hour.
- Light Department helps the Police Department with putting their signs up
- Signs on poles are from grants
- Programs run by the Police Department / Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
- Permanent pedestrian sign in front of the Perley Sign.
- New model with message board-Blue Tooth right to the station, sign can be changed,
- Enforcement Officer -Officer Jenkins -on the website all data from all the streets in Town, gives a rough idea of what people are doing -examples of data was read.
- 519 cars stop just for speeding in Town.
- Message board has a lot more data, add a permanent sign -real time -camera-has a lot of features, stainability of another camera
- Maintenance service does not come with it.
- One year warranty
- Any other services are up to the Town
- Batteries have gotten better over the years comes with a back up charger
- All Traffic Solutions /total cost \$17, 504.69.

G. Fowler spoke about the 12-month equipment alert and asked if that is a yearly cost - questioned the yearly maintenance, say the quantity says two, no fees to pull the data - onetime fee, concerned with pictures being taken of everyone -tamper alert was spoken of asked about funding.

D. Lamonica has received numerous calls about speeding, spoke to the Police Chief Cudmore and Deputy Chief Hatch about that and mentioned the sign, lacking in staff, can be used to their advantage, multi-functioning.

D. Dawes asked if this camera could be used for ticketing. lead time for this.

P. Kershaw inquired about the app -12 months.

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to Authorize the Georgetown Police Department to acquire a Traffic Sign Board Traylor Road sign in the amount of \$ 17504.69 using ARPA funds, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 in Favor. G. Fowler voted nay on motion.

P. Kershaw motioned the Board to approve a sufficient number of Police Officer's, but not less than 1, at the polling location at every election therein to preserve order and protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections, as required by Section 72 of MGL Chapter 54 which was changed in section 13 of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022. Further, move to designate the Police Chief the authority to assign specific police officers according to scheduling and availability. The Town Clerk will advise the Police Chief on the location and time the officer is needed, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call motion was made all in favor.

G. Fowler asked if the Town needs Police Officers for early voting, and asked if the Town ever uses Constables.

BUILDING FEE DISCUSSION: O. Pacheco spoke on the following:

- *Building fees have not been increased in 2010.*
- *Building activity in Town is going up /Increase in Revenue for the Town.*
- *Current Building Fees are off compared to the market.*
- *Handout was given to the Board on current and proposed fees which had been discussed with the Building Inspector.*
- *Other communities are charging currently \$12 per 1000 feet and will probably will be transitioning to a \$13 fee.*
- *Georgetown is at \$10 per 1000 feet per*
- *Recommendation of new fee is \$13 per 1000 feet.*
- *On line filing fee instead of being a 10% charge suggested changing to a flat fee of \$10.00.*
- *These fees are being paid in other Communities without any issues.*
- *Feels not fair that the Georgetown tax payers bare the brunt of a lower cost.*
- *Spoke on the GEO System.*
- *Transferring to a new module for on line permitting.*
- *Departments got together had a demo with Permit Link.*
- *Permit Link is used in many communities / well like/ less expensive*

D. LaMonica asked what was the reason for the 10% fee that the online permitting charged.

G. Fowler asked about the Certificate of Occupancy permit fee of \$50.00 that had not changed for commercial and industrial and asked if that was an oversight. O. Pacheco stated the fee should be \$75.00 and is on the new proposed change sheet.

G. Fowler asked about a Building Commissioner's pay information provided on the sheet that was given to the Board asked how do these compare on compensation to an inspector was asked. And do we take into consideration the cost of health care that is being given and retirement.

D. Lamonica asked beside the fee schedule has not been changes in a while is their any other reason why increase-covering the cost -all the budgetary are being covered.

D. Lamonica asked for clarification on the fee schedule for commercial fees.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to approved a new Building Department Fee Schedule with a change to amendment to the certificate of occupancy's fee to be changed to \$75.00, seconded by P. Kershaw . Roll call vote was taken 4-1 D. Lamonica voted nay on motion.

FLAG POLICY:

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the Flag Policy that has been worked on which provides some guidance on flying flags in the Town of Georgetown.

Board members discussed removing the Flag of the United Nations -No formal vote was taken to have this removed from the policy. Flag of United Nations will stay as part of the policy.

G. Fowler motioned the Board to approve the Flag Policy as presented seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken 4-1 D. Dawes voted nay on the motion.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

ADA Improvement Grant (s) : *Applied for two (2) –has been submitted / automatic doors at the middle high school & center for living and working assuming we get funded /wheel chair lift can use some fixing but we might be able in house.*

604B Grant Application : *Pentucket Road & Rock Pond Watershed Based Planning -water quality grant -lead to a 319 grant implements the study from the 604B grant -both are impaired bodies of water from the DEP.*

Warrant Article Approved :

Office of the Attorney General has approved warrant article 11 from the Town of Georgetown's Special Town Meeting on May 2, 2022 to amend the general by laws chapter 15, Animals". Relating to dogs and licensing of dogs and fine, this new change of the Animal Control by Law comes in affect in 90 days.

G. Fowler questioned the Attorney General's letter to the Town that Warrant Article 11 was on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. And not the Annual Town Meeting, asked if someone was going to reach out to the resident who made the amendment to Article 11 which was approved. Town Clerk, Kerri McManus will reach out to that resident.

Permit Link Online Software

Is a Massachusetts base company, training session was done at the Town Hall, nice transition for the Town, at first when program starts up everyone will have to sign up, trying to make it as user friendly, notes from the inspectors can be added to the program so that everyone can see all the notes, electronically signing it after approves it, not fixing any problems in the field.

D. Lamonica asked how long will it take to be up and running.

Board of Assessor member Dave Bogna was present and recognized by D. Dawes

0 National Avenue Purchase & Sales Agreement :

Agreement has been officially signed / in the permitting process working with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

D. Dawes recognized P. Kershaw and O. Pacheco for their hard work on getting this signed.

Building Commissioner Search:

Search has started, Admin Assistant Robyn Hoyt came in over the weekend to get caught up on filing, office running smoothly.

P. Kershaw inquired on what resources are being used to advertise this position.

P.O. Pacheco stated the advertisement is on the Mass Building Inspector and Commissioner Association, Massachusetts Municipal Associate and is on the Town's website.

Shared Maintenance:

New discussion meeting with the school department staffs and resources -best value or the most efficient contract out o many vendors -HVAC vendors-are the most expensive for services -we old support a custodian and supervised by the School Department -school wants also to hire a HVAC person -Police working with the schools on a pilot program right now and is working out well -will share more data to share at a later date.

G. Fowler questioned a custodian position he questioned -it's a cost -no benefits that go along with that -asked if the highway department has been brought into this discussion, should other department should be included asked about Parks and Recreation.

P. Kershaw asked who would manage this person.

Highway /Parks & Recreation Maintenance Transition:

The Highway Department will be taking over -volunteers taking over -not how we want to do things regarding mowing and weed waking-should not be done by parks and recreation needs to focus on programs' not the mainatence of grass, -highway can do this going forward.

Highway can fertilize the fields- staffing at American Legion Park, monitor peak schedules at the beach.

D. Lamonica asked if the highway Department is aware if this change.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Lamonica moved to adjourn with P. Kershaw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM. meeting minutes transcribed by Maureen Shultz, Administrative Assistant.

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 Meeting:

State Forest Map

Meeting Minutes from June 27, 2022

Flag Policy

Building Department Proposed Fee Scheduled

All Traffic Solutions Quote -Traffic Sign