

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

**Meeting Minutes 09/26/2022**

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

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**Selectmen Present:** D. Dawes, Chair, Vice Chair P. Kershaw, G. Fowler, A. Smith, and D. Lamonica

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

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**7:00PM CALL TO ORDER**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance-Douglas W. Dawes

**NEW BUSINESS: Website**

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on a new website design from Revise and a re-design of the current Town website, -feels the cost for a re-design with the current website is not appropriate to have this for a long-time customer -recommendation is for a new website , currently we do not have funds in the Budget, the Board could authorize the use of ARPA funds -Revise would be the new vendor and we can split the payments , total cost would be \$28k –which includes the host fee agreement, which is less than what the Town pays now. \$7K for the first year and we would put Likins the remaining in the operating budget.

D. Dawes asked if we have received all of the ARPA funds including the county.

D. Lamonica asked what the balance of the ARPA money is now, asked if there are any other municipalities that uses this new proposed website vender and does the Board want to take a look at these. 1.3 available funding from FEMA currently was answered by Orlando

A. Smith spoke on the current website and stated she has heard many cannot find things on the website. spoke on training for people in Town Hall or any Department -attending easier use navigating this new website/vendor / training of staff the new vendor will provide will make sure vendor has time available to train

G. Fowler questioned for clarity the two figures that O. Pacheco, Town Administrator had mentioned-how much is our budget going up or is this a savings, concerned about everything that raises the budget -pay for out of ARPA money could save us money in the Host agreement -attend most of the finance meeting they keep meeting minutes and agenda but they don't have a secretary and the chair changes who will do the website for this Board, questioned do we have to pay someone to do the website. Who is going to be the responsible person -if the chair refused to not do - do we somehow put finance e meeting minutes to a staff member with out increasing their

*workload –asked about finance meeting minutes -attend most of the meeting minutes they do not have secretary as other boards and the chair does change -if the chair chooses not to do that do we ask put finance to a paid staff without increasing their workload.*

*P. Kershaw asked if there is an urgency to change this, inquired if the Town receives complaints, what is driving this changing of the current website. Appreciated a saving in the budget –why is this request being driven -how are we going to how is a new website going to be managed -after we have spent the \$28K -asked how is going to be equipped to take this task on -on going changes, transparency issues.*

*P. Kershaw spoke on using the ARPA money when some members don't want to use this funding- more and more ways to spend it not doing a great job on identified how to spend and some members have always declined voting on using the ARPA funds, haven't decided where this money is to be used.*

*D. Dawes asked Pacheco, Town Administrator as the Finance Director for the Town what would his recommendations be.*

*O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on holding cash, spread out the payments without interest build payment in into the budget*

*G. Fowler suggested looking at some of these sites and put this website discussion on a future meeting so some more research can be done.*

*D. Dawes asked if they can build a Parallel sight and just cut over was asked.*

*D. LaMonica asked what happens if the money request doesn't get approved by the Town*

*D. Dawes asked what the Board what they want to do or use to pay for this request, doesn't want to be using the ARPA funding as a piggy bank for items.*

*No Vote was taken Website discussion will be added to the October 3, 2022 agenda.*

### **VOTES OF THE BOARD:**

*G. Fowler motioned the board to approve a request from Kiwanis Club to hold the Annual tootsie roll Toll Day on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 9-1PM, Seconded by D. LaMonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*D. Lamonica motioned the Board to approve the request from the Library Department to surplus miscellaneous equipment as presented, seconded by G. Fowler. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*G. Fowler motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from April 11, 2022-no second.*

*G. Fowler opened the discussion and asked that the meeting minutes be amended to have the time the Board entered executive session reflect that time frame. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*G. Fowler motioned the Board to approve the amended meeting minutes from April 11, 2022, seconded by P. Kershaw. Roll call vote was taken 4-0 in favor. D. Lamonica voted nay on the motion he was not present at meeting. Roll call vote was taken 4-0 in favor.*

*G. Fowler motioned the Board to approve meeting minutes from September 12, 2022 as presented, seconded by D. Lamonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

### **COUNCIL ON AGING APPOINTMENT:**

*The Board thanked Marie Collins for her service to the Council on Aging.*

*G. Fowler motioned the Board to appoint Sue Gardiner as an alternate member to the Council on Aging Board with a term to expire June 30, 2023, seconded by A. Smith. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:**

*Applicant Ida Wye, 1 Andover Street, Georgetown, Mass was present regarding her application for consideration as an appointee to the Conservation Commission.*

*D. Dawes asked applicant Ida Wye why she has applied to be on the Conservation Commission Board, she was asked if she had the ability to work with them to get a project completed.*

*Ida Wye spoke on the following topics about herself and her experience:*

- *Experience in Wetland and Soil Sciences.*
- *Works with clients*
- *Experience in NH and Mass regulations.*
- *Ability to work with residents*
- *Advocate for her clients*
- *Her job working with a client is to make sure they don't run aground and don't anger the Conservation Commission. (Current employment / position).*
- *Adhere to the regulations*
- *Expert in wetland areas*
- *Represent clients who need to adhere to projects and mentioned one project she worked on in Newburyport and Rye NH (Seacoast).*
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- Referenced the wetland by law-spoke about an understanding difference in the state of Massachusetts versus the Town wetland by laws
- Finding a solution with her clients who she has worked with in the past with Conservation Commissions to not being fined by the conservation make them happy along with the client.
- Trying to find a solution -best water quality we can.
- Willing to work with anyone who could not afford a land surveyor if that was asked or recommended of them.
- State she believes that no conservation has any jurisdiction over portions of communities.

*D. Lamonica asked about her ability to be working with applicants and residents, conclusive to both the conservation and applicants wants, timelines can be excessive - spoke on timelines, help residents achieve what they are trying to get.*

*P. Kershaw, mentioned her impressive resume and asked her how she would advocate for her beliefs if she was on the Conservation Commission, stated he likes the word compromising, and asked how she felt about being vocal and being voted down, how do you feel positioning yourself with seven other Board members and advocating for a certain project.*

*O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated that people would say the Conservation Board is an uncompromising board, asked about water quality asked how do we get from hard line on a buffer zone which is fine as long as its equitable for everyone, encroaching in the wetland, fish passage, dam removals, gave example of turtles and asked why we can't get things done. Religion in the wetland I don't understand how they get to that point sometimes -just saying when things come out -keep hearing is why we can't do things -what side of the wetland issue are you on was asked Odoes not recommend going against any massachusetts regulations -the Town are more stringent  
We have to allow to the Georgetown regulations or the state*

*G. Fowler thanked Ida Wye for coming to the meeting and for her patience, when you opened you said you felt it is the job of the Conservation Commission to protect the wetlands , G. Fowler stated he believes it is the by-laws of the town of Georgetown that protects the wet lands and it is the job of the Conservation Commission to be able to adjust and work with the Town's residents and landowners to adjust if needed and to enforce the Town's by law, asked for clarification on what she stated regarding the 100 feet of a wetland , G. Fowler stated sometimes solutions can be easy , example of church in Byfield waived the 100 feet situation was looked at and adjusted , a little area of land one acre want to built off of that -how would you feel -would you look at it -would you suggest an engineer ,who did the delineated / designation was asked by Ida Wye to G. Fowler ,order of conditions were mentioned , engineers have to be brought in which cost money doesn't believe a engineer needs to be brought in all the time. G. Fowler asked about some concerns within and under the eyes of the Conservation Commission that is*

*list of parcels and with large parcels some of it is worked along with the Essex County Greenbelt and they like to see it left I don't believe that is how land or anchorage and forest should be managed I believe it should be maintained, I don't see any of that being done -fire lane or cart lanes or wood roads as they were referred to , Lufkin Brook was mentioned -gravel pit 60 years looked like, mentioned fire department access , how are you going to maintain this was asked.*

*D. Dawes asked if she will be pro-active in the conservation land under their purview. Proactive within the community – funds can be asked through the Community Preservation Committee at this time.*

*A. Smith reminded the Board that Ida Wye had already stated earlier she was willing to work with some who might not have the money to hire an engineer.*

*O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated that minor construction should be an easy process, major construction there should be a level of review.*

*O. Pacheco, Town Administrator stated that there are concerns that the conservation Commission does not work well with landowner's-including homeowners, to help with construction projects getting approved.*

*A. Smith motioned the Board to appoint Ida Wye, 1 Andover Street, Georgetown, Mass as a member of the Conservation Commission for term of three years, June 30, 2025, seconded by D. Lamonica.*

*P. Kershaw -further discussion, read aloud the policy on appointments, mentioned the tremendous back ground and experience of Ida Wye, read aloud the appointment policy And stated when he looks at our policy, questioned do we have a reflective background on that committee including experience asked the board members to think about that mentioned the chair and the commissioner and the years of service / cross section of the Board not an easy decision.*

*Roll call vote was taken – G. Fowler, P. Kershaw and D. Dawes voted against the appointment -Motion failed.*

*A. Smith asked a process question to the Board members on how long were they going to keep this seat open and inquired would this be open until you find someone you like and what kind of diversity is the Board looking for.*

*P. Kershaw stated he feels like they are not actually representing the committee with this appointment.*

*Ida Wye was thanked by the Board for coming in.*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** *O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the the Following:*

**High Fidelity /Agreement / Withdrawal:** *The Town has received from High Fidelity they will no longer pursue a cannabis; license to operate in Georgetown, Mass. No need to cannabis; license pursue a transfer of the hoist agreement; it was suggested the Town should discuss any potential plans with Peak Limited to understand operations and work on permitting the site for the future. Host agreement was never authorized so there is no further action required from the Board. Suggested to have a conversation with Peak Limited in the near future. No Vote was taken.*

*G. Fowler asked if the Board would be discussing host agreements in the future.*

*D. Dawes spoke on a future discussion on Social Cafes.*

**Air Quality Monitoring:** *Air quality sensors from Airly were suggested and the Board was asked to review and develop a funding strategy for implementation if this is desirable , explore with Board of Health, grants may be available to be able to purchase certain sensors, the sensors should measure air quality that will provide well rounded data.–DEP Grant that was issued did not measure the things you would want measured - DEP has provide more information -diesel fumes in air quality from traffic on Route 97 & 133 can be measured , Capital Plan request in the future, we don't have a base line to measure -we take air quality for granted , traffic, truck volume high \$1000. per unit per model was suggested and five monitors were suggested.*

*G. Fowler questioned grants versus budget item -small cost what will we get out of this, are we pushing for electric vehicles with this.*

*P. Kershaw stated that diesel fuel is never going away, spoke on outdoor seating and questioned if air quality is a reachable goal.*

*D. Lamonica inquired if the Town puts these sensors up what are we getting in return - what is the point of spending the money and they come back and it says the air quality is bad then what do we do, what funding source are we using for this was asked.*

*MIIA Grant / Town Hall Flooring:* *The Town has received a grant in the amount of \$10, 000.00 to replace the rugs in the basement of Town Hall in accordance of the Air Quality Report.*

*Library Long Range Plans:* *plans were given to the Board for the Library's 2024-2028 long range plans-The proposed plan will be posted on the Town website for all to read-supporting these efforts trying to implement a salary study and assist in getting the facility open on Thursday in the future. The Board was asked to look at the plan.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*G. Fowler moved to adjourn at 8:37 P.M. with P. Kershaw 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:*

*ARPA Funding Request / Spending Request.*

*Revise Custom Design Quote.*

*High Fidelity agreement / withdrawal.*

*Meeting minutes.*

*Application and resumes of various applicants.*

*Surplus Property-Library.*

*Library Long Range plans.*

*TA Report.*