

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

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Memorial Town Hall**

**9/24/18**

**7:00PM-General Meeting~3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room, Town Hall**

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

**Others Present:** Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Michael Farrell, Town Administrator

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**7:00PM Call to order**

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

**OLD BUSINESS**

*National Ave Discussion-John Cashell, Town Planner to be present*

Mr. Cashell stated that this is a follow up from the EDC meeting last week. He stated that the board wanted an update. He stated what was decided by the EDC was to look into subdividing the property along the wetlands. He stated that the southern area has about 5 acres and the northern area has about 14 acres. He stated that subdividing will give the town the most potential. He stated that we now need a survey and then an ANR plan submitted to the Planning Board. He stated that this is what the EDC feels is the best course of action.

Mr. Sadler asked him to explain the benefit to the town.

Mr. C stated that they are looking to see what the development possibilities will be. He stated the wetland is a divide and it makes sense to have two lots. He stated that the south area would have direct access to National Ave. He stated that the north area is problematic and that an abutter holds access and it looks like we will have an agreement with that abutter.

Mr. Dawes stated that there still are 6-8 acres of wetland on the lot. Mr. Cashell stated that there is.

Mr. Cashell stated that there is a lot of options for the 14 acre lot.

Mr. Dawes stated that subdividing will give the town the best potential.

Mr. Fowler asked if a certain part must be upland. Mr. Cashell stated the lots must meet zoning for the area.

Mr. Cashell stated that he is meeting with a surveyor tomorrow at 10AM with Steve Przyjemski, ConCom Agent and any others who would like to attend.

Mr. Fowler asked how the northern lot effects Rowley. Mr. Cashell stated that it does abut Rowley but does not have any road that access the property.

Mr. Durney asked how long an ANR process takes. Mr. Cashell stated it is just the time to draw the plan and then once submitted the Planning Board has 21 days to vote on the plan.

Mr. Bonavita stated he wanted to know the expectations of this board. Mr. Cashell stated that the board would have to allocate funding for the survey.

Mr. Bonavita stated that he talked to Mr. Farrell about some options on funding. He stated that this should be an easy process. He stated that they need to get the property ready for the bidding process. Discussion on funding and Mass Development Grant.

Mr. Bonavita stated that Mr. Farrell has already started the paperwork for the bidding process.

Mr. Cashell stated that he wants the board to know that we also want to be sure town council is a part of the process.

#### *Planning Board*

Mr. Cashell stated that Planning Board wants the board to consider funding to update the zoning bylaws. He stated that they have not been updated since 2011. He stated that they have an estimate from General Code for \$4K to \$5K to update online and hardcopies. Mr. Fowler asked if we want to consider any changes before we update. Mr. Cashell stated usually the code is updated annually and is only \$1500 to \$2K per year.

#### *Senator Tarr and Representative Mirra*

Sen. Tarr stated that he and Rep. Mirra have an update and would like to partner with the town on EDC. He stated that they are working to get funding for Schools and Municipal Government. He gave a handout to the board and explained the handout. He stated \$1,000,000 has been allocated for EDC for the Town of Georgetown. He stated that they would have to convince the governor to release the funds but he and Rep. Mirra will work with the town.

Mr. Bonavita asked if there is a time limit to the funding. Sen. Tarr stated that 5-10 years but the town should identify a project in the first 5 years. He stated that it does not need to be just one project if can phase or stretch out over a couple years and that is best. Mr. Bonavita asked how long it takes to get the funds. Sen. Tarr stated that it can take up to a year or maybe longer. He stated if the town invest some funding to the project it helps to move a project forward.

Mr. Dawes asked if this was just for Economic Development. Sen. Tarr stated yes it is.

Mr. Fowler stated if we came up with something that benefits other regional communities would this help to get the funds. He stated parking and traffic in the downtown is something needed along with sewage. He stated that he sees the sewage at a later part of the process.

Sen. Tarr stated a regional project could have significance in planning, design, and construction.

Mr. Sadler wanted to thank them for the opportunity. He asked if other communities are in this pool and could they combine funds. Sen. Tarr stated that we could.

Mr. Durney thanked them for this opportunity.

Mr. Mirra asked if they wanted to talk about what they can use Marijuana funds for. Mr. Tarr stated he had tried to connect the BoS Chair with the Chair of the Cannabis Commission. Mr. Bonavita stated he has not had heard from him. He stated that the board has a lot of ideas and are reluctant to use the funds. He stated that we are trying to be patient but want to start the planning.

Mr. Mirra gave an update on State funding and an increase in Chapter 70 for the schools to keep property taxes down.

Sen. Tarr stated that this region started the push to get more funding for Schools. He stated the State has to pay for things we promised. He stated that there will be an increase in school per pupil spending, funding for vocational school busing, and circuit breaker increase for Special Needs. He stated that they are starting to have funding for the foundation budget. He stated that they have to review the foundation budget more often.

Mr. Dawes stated that he is excited to hear the circuit breaker being funded. He asked if the State Legislature has any plans with the Marijuana funding they will be receiving. Sen. Tarr stated they plan to use some to offset budget and will use some funds from Gaming and Marijuana for Schools. Mr. Dawes stated that the town does not want to use the marijuana funds for operational cost at this time. He stated that he wants to see the towns have more flexibility with host agreement funds. Sen. Tarr stated that he would work with them on this.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the town is struggling with space for fields for children. He explained that the board put together a board to review fields and would these funds work for this type of project. Sen. Tarr stated no but they do have a Parc grant that the town could apply for.

Sen. Tarr stated that Ms. Jacobs has helped moving these initiatives forward with a committee of Superintendents that she chairs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *Highway Department Update-Peter Durkee to be present*

Mr. Durkee stated that Central Street was milled and they will pave this week depending on rain. He stated that they are making Nelson Street a T at Central Street. He stated that on October 3 they will start milling Thurlow and paving that street on October 10. Discussion on timing. He discussed Nelson Street, the T intersection, and a path to the rail trail that they are working on.

Mr. Dawes wanted to thank him and Chief Cudmore on the lighted pedestrian sign on East Main Street.

Mr. Durkee state that he has plans with Complete Streets for some other improvements. He stated the Light Department is interested in suppling a few other pedestrian signs. He stated that the Light Department helped take down some oak trees and still some more. He stated that there are a lot of dead oak trees. Mr. Durkee stated that he will also be paving Philips Ave off of Thurlow at the same time.

Mr. Bonavita asked how he is set for winter. Mr. Durkee stated in November they get ready for winter. He stated that they will need salt and the cost has come down from last year.

Mr. Durkee stated that the house next door on Central Street will come down soon. He explained that they are just waiting for the gas to be capped off at the street. He stated that it has been turned off in the home.

Mr. Durkee stated he is on fields committee and Marblehead has great fields and they do not use fertilizer. He stated that there is a lot that can be done you can use compost, he explained options. Discussion on putting sand on the side of fields for turtles and this will keep them off fields.

Mr. Surface, member of fields committee was present and stated he just left a meeting and could update the board on the fields committee. He stated that they will be looking at all fields and Gale is going to come back to them with some ideas. He stated that the committee wants to look at all the previous studies before they start another one. Mr. Bonavita asked that the committee come to the board after they are done with the study and give a presentation. Mr. Sadler stated that Sen. Tarr stated that there is a Parc grant that they can look at.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

*Light Department Open House-October 11th - 2PM - 4PM*

Mr. Bonavita stated that there will be a Light Department open house on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 2PM to 4PM and the public is invited.

*Town of Georgetown Scholarship Award*

Mr. Bonavita stated that Nicole Kelley was awarded the Town of Georgetown Scholarship and they have an award letter to sign. Ms. Pantano stated that the Georgetown Scholarship Committee reviewed the application and selected Ms. Kelley for the award.

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

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*Park & Recreation Line Item Transfer-Water Bill*

Mr. Bonavita stated that they have the Line Item Transfer for the Park & Rec commission and it has been approved by the FinCom.

**Mr. Dawes moved to approve the Line Item Transfer for the Park & Recreation Commission for a water bill from FY2018. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS**

*Contract Negotiation Sub-Committee-Police Chief*

Mr. Bonavita stated Chief Cudmore's contract is due to be renewed and he would like to put together a subcommittee to negotiate with him and Mr. Farrell. Mr. Sadler volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Mr. Bonavita stated that Mr. Fowler was not happy with the Fire Chief subcommittee procedure and asked what changes he would like to see. Mr. Fowler stated that he has stated in the past they met as a whole board and then a subcommittee and then come back to the board. Mr. Bonavita stated that if the board meets to discuss it would have to be executive session. Mr. Fowler stated if not in executive session a workshop. Mr. Bonavita stated the will talk to Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Bonavita stated that the Town Administrators contract is also coming up and has to be negotiated. He stated that Mr. Fowler and Mr. Dawes were present for the last contract for Mr. Farrell. Mr. Fowler stated that they had met in executive session. Mr. Bonavita stated he would put something together. He stated that first they will work on the contract for Chief Cudmore and then Mr. Farrell. He asked Ms. Pantano to send a copy of the current contract to each member.

*Parks and Recreation Update*

Mr. Bonavita stated that after the meeting it is time we have a conversation of a staff member for Park & Recreation. He stated that the make-up now does not seem to be getting the job done.

Mr. Dawes stated is a Park & Rec director a paid staff member what is needed.

Mr. Bonavita stated he has been approached by people who would be interested in a director position and to have their own people. Mr. Dawes stated members should not be hand picking a committee. Mr. Dawes stated that this board is the appointing authority. Mr. Sadler stated that

what he got out of the meeting was that they need a paid position. He asked how we would fund the position. Mr. Bonavita stated he feels this is a seasonal position but has to be enough to entice someone. Mr. Sadler stated that they should get a list of duties from the Park & Recreation. He stated that at the end of the term make any changes to the committee. Mr. Bonavita stated look at a director now and then review the committee.

Mr. Fowler stated that if he could work with Mr. Farrell as to who is the hiring authority the board or Park & Rec and that if this fits in the town bylaw. He stated that we need to find out the cost and how this would work. Mr. Bonavita stated he is overly frustrated with East Main Street Park and that things have not been filed correctly.

Mr. Dawes stated that Park & Rec does not sleep over the winter they still meet.

Mr. Fowler stated if he is talking about disbanding the Park & Rec and hiring a director then they need to get this out there and he would be open minded. Mr. Bonavita stated that the best case scenario is a change but we are making strides to get projects done. Mr. Fowler stated that CPC will be meeting for funding soon for projects.

Mr. Fowler stated he asked Mr. Farrell if the Park & Rec can have alternates. Mr. Fowler stated that he would be willing to go on the committee. If not as an alternate then a member. He stated that he would resign if they have anyone interested in appointment to the committee.

**Mr. Dawes moved to appoint Gary Fowler to the Park & Recreation Commission term to expire June 30, 2019. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Mr. Fowler abstained.**

## **WARRANT and MINUTES**

Minutes of September 10, 2018

**Mr. Fowler moved to approve the Minutes of September 10, 2018. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

## **SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Mr. Sadler stated that Mr. Farrell sent something out about a light department solar project at Highway and he would like to have them in for a conversation on this.

Mr. Dawes stated that after the update received from the water department we should have a conversation with the board. He explained some information he received from the Water Department.

Mr. Sadler stated he sent the Chair a template on the merger of water and light department and some questions on financial issues and impact to the rate payers. He stated he would like some answers.

Mr. Dawes stated last week was the Camp Denison Open House and they cooked 200 hot dogs. He stated that there was good attendance and it was a great day.

## **NEXT MEETING**

October 15, 2018 at 7:00PM, 3rd floor meeting room

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Minutes transcribed J. Pantano.

Minutes approved October 15, 2018.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Minutes of September 10, 2018
- Light Department Open House-October 11th - 2PM - 4PM
- Town of Georgetown Scholarship Award
- Highway Department Update-Peter Durkee to be present
- National Ave Discussion-John Cashell, Town Planner to be present
- Park & Recreation Line Item Transfer-Water Bill
- Contract Negotiation Sub-Committee-Police Chief