

## **MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE SELECT BOARD**

**Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. (Macomber Room & Virtual Meeting via Zoom)**

**Members Present:** Thomas Maher, Chair, Dave McGuckin.

**Members Absent:** William Stewart.

**Others Present:** Jean Bertschmann, Jane Finn, Chris Robillard, Andy Schulte, Curt Springer.

Chair Maher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **1. Approve Select Board minutes of February 7, 2022 meeting.**

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to approve the February 7, 2022 minutes as amended. Chair Maher seconded. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 2-0.

### **2. Public Questions and Answers.**

Curt Springer spoke about the committee for the upcoming New Castle 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, as there was a question about this at the last Budget Committee meeting. Mr. Springer confirmed that the New Castle 400 committee consists of Dawn Lake, Nancy Borden, and himself.

### **3. New Business:**

- a. Acceptance of Safe Path Donations – RSA 31:19 II.

Chair Mayer stated that the acceptance of the latest Safe Path donations will be delayed to the next Select Board meeting, which will be the first meeting in March. Funds have been received by the Town, but the information was not available for the meeting this evening.

- b. Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England Walk-N-Roll – Common.

Jean Bertschmann, Executive Director of the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England, spoke about the planned event at the Common. The Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England is responsible for NH, ME, MA, VT, RI, and CT. They have an event each year, usually one in Maine and one in Massachusetts. Ms. Bertschmann explained that the Association would like to move the Maine event to New Hampshire this year, as it would be a more desirable location given the number of members in NH. The location at the Common is very suitable for the event, as people typically do a one mile walk/ride and the bathrooms are ADA accessible. Ms. Bertschmann felt that it is a beautiful spot to enjoy lunch as well. Northeast Passage brings in wheelchairs and equipment, and there are adaptive sports demonstrations.

Ms. Bertschmann stated that they would likely rent pavilion 3 for the full day to allow time for set-up and clean-up. She expects 100 to 150 people will attend the event. Chair Maher felt that everything seemed to be in order. He noted that the Garden Club holds an annual event in May, so the Select Board would need to make sure there is no conflict with that event. Jane Finn stated that the Garden Club sale is May 21. Selectman McGuckin felt that Saturday, May 14 would be ideal for the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England event given the general timing for the season opening at the park. Chris Robillard added that that would be the absolute earliest the Common would open and begin charging. Chair Maher concluded that by the end of the week, he expected to close out this matter once Jennifer Smith returns.

c. Adoption of the Radiological Emergency Response (REP) Plan.

Chair Maher stated that the Radiological Emergency Response Plan is an addendum to the Emergency Response Plan that was approved at the last Select Board meeting. Chair Maher read the plan. Selectman McGuckin motioned to adopt the Radiological Emergency Response (REP) Plan for 2022. Chair Maher seconded. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 2-0.

d. Cemetery tree trimming.

Selectman McGuckin stated that the Cemetery Trustees are responsible for maintaining the two cemeteries in town, and came to the Select Board last week with concerns that significant pruning and tree removal had occurred at the Riverside Cemetery. The Trustees prune the trees over the years to improve visibility for mowing crews, and there was concern that there may be a perception that the Trustees were the ones responsible for the latest trimming. The Select Board respectfully requests that nobody do any cutting of shrubbery or trees in the cemeteries. Only the Cemetery Trustees and their designates have the authority to do so. Ms. Finn asked where the trimming had occurred. Selectman McGuckin responded that it was very recent and occurred mostly along the shoreline, which improved the views of nearby properties.

e. Water Project.

Selectman Stewart was unable to connect to the meeting this evening, so Chair Maher provided an update on the Spring Hill Road and Lavenger's Lane water project. It appears that the project will be moving forward this spring. The Town is managing the project, and the line will be taken over by the Portsmouth Department of Public Works.

#### **4. Old Business.**

Chair Maher stated that significant progress has been made on the technology plan over the last few months. In the next week, emails and files will be moving to an online server in the Town Hall, and firewall will be installed shortly. All Town employees and departments will use Microsoft Outlook 365 moving forward, which is more secure. This transition will occur on

Wednesday, March 2. Chair Maher felt that this will be a massive improvement for both security and efficiency in the town.

## **5. Committee Reports.**

Chair Maher stated that the Capital Improvement Program Committee work concluded last Wednesday. Many new members joined this year. The Committee will be sending recommendations to the Select Board on the allocation of vehicle and equipment funds, buildings, and highways/roads/streets. There will be a focus on paving town-owned roads on a schedule each year. Mr. Robillard added that the Public Works has a good schedule planned and will maintain the roads as best as they can.

## **6. Adjourn.**

Selectman McGuckin moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Maher seconded. The motion carried, unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rumph  
*Recording Secretary*