

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

Monday May 17, 2021, 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Present: William Stewart-Chair, Tom Maher-Selectman, Dave McGuckin-Selectman, and Jennifer Smith-Administrative Assistant to the Select Board and Recording Secretary.

Public Participants via Zoom: Dr. Kathy Hollister- Deputy Health Director, Carol White-Chair Cemetery Trustees and Thomas Smith-Town Treasurer

Chairman Stewart opened the public session meeting at 7:05PM. Selectman Stewart explained the nature of the meeting, indicating it is considered an Emergency Meeting which meets all the State requirements of posting, and noted the availability of a phone number to call if a participant could not connect via Zoom. Selectman Stewart explained the criteria for Emergency Meetings, and stated that all votes by the Select Board would be roll call votes.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of April 19, 20, 22 and May 3, 2021

Selectman Maher made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Select Board Meetings of April 19, 20, 22 and May 3, 2021. Selectman McGuckin seconded and the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

Thomas Smith, Town Treasurer, asked if the Select Board will be making their future meetings available by Zoom as well as live attendance.

Chairman Stewart stated that though the State of Emergency still remains in effect, the Select Board has the option to return to meeting in person. On May 3, 2021 the Select Board decided to resume in person meetings at the Macomber Room beginning June 7, 2021. The Select Board is looking into providing live coverage for people to watch meetings, but those that wish to participate will need to appear in person.

Mr. Smith expressed his disappointment that meetings will not continue via Zoom.

Ann McAndrew, 27 Steamboat Lane, asked if the Select Board could look into a hybrid form of meeting.

New Business

a. Health Director Appointment – Dr. Katherine Hollister

Chairman Stewart announced that while Dr. Hollister's appointment to Health Director was announced at Town Meeting, an official vote of the Select Board still needs to take place.

Selectman McGuckin motioned that Dr. Katherine Hollister be elevated from Deputy Health officer to Health Officer effective July 1, 2021. Selectman Maher seconded and said motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

b. Covid Update

Selectman Maher stated that the numbers in New Hampshire continue to trend downward. One month ago, we had 3329 Covid cases in New Hampshire, with 133 hospitalizations. Two weeks ago, there were 1979 cases, with 80 hospitalizations and a positivity rate of 3.5%. Today, there are 1169 cases, with 46 hospitalizations, with a positivity rate of 2.9%

Dr. Katherine Hollister, Deputy Health Officer, stated that it is nice to finally have good news. Today, 139 people tested positive for Covid, which is the lowest number we've had in once day in 7 months. Vaccines are now available for ages 12 and up. Dr. Hollister closed by stating that she hopes town building will follow similar guidelines as the Post Office when the buildings open to the public.

Chairman Stewart announced that Town Hall will be opening to the public on May 19th with precautions in place.

c. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Chairman Stewart read the pending appointments into the record and recommended that the Select Board extend Steve Tabbutt's appointment as Road Agent only through August 2021 as he will be retiring at that time. Chairman Stewart stated that the sitting members on the Planning Board and ZBA whose terms are expiring are seeking to be reappointed. An additional alternate, Matt Taylor, would like to be appointed to full alternate status

Selectman Maher stated that one member of HDC may be stepping down but he will need to clarify that.

Chairman Stewart stated that Iain Moodie will replace Ron Pasquale on the Conservation Commission and Bill Marshall would like to step down as an alternate. Chairman Stewart stated that he was unable to speak the chair of the Trustees of the Trust Fund, so he is uncertain if David Fitts would like to be re-appointed as an alternate. Jenny Rosenson has moved out of town, so she will no longer be a member of the Library Trustees. Sandra Bisset of the Energy Committee and Guy Stearns of the Recreation Committee are to be re-appointed as well.

Selectman Maher made a motion to accept the appointments as discussed. Selectman McGuckin seconded and said motioned carried unanimously 3-0.

Chairman Stewart stated that there was an error on the Town Election ballot this May. Carol White should have been on the ballot for re-election, but Holly Fraumani's name appeared. The Secretary of State's office has informed the town that we should treat the ballot election as mute as Holly is already in the position and this will cause a vacancy. The Select Board can then appoint Carol White to a full term so the vacancy is filled.

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to appoint Carol White to the Cemetery Trustees. Selectman Maher seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

d. Personnel Policies

Chairman Stewart stated that the town is looking to make a change to the Personnel Policy effective July 1, 2021. The current version needs to be updated to accommodate certain work hours and better reflect what is reflected by New Hampshire Retirement and HealthTrust, our insurance provider.

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to adopt the new Personnel Policies as described. Selectman Maher seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

e. The Common

Selectman McGuckin stated that the opening of the Common went well, with an estimated revenue of \$1000 on Saturday and again on Sunday.

f. Town Projects Update

Selectman Maher stated that the lighting project at the Library, the Macomber Room and the outside of the Rec Building are making good progress. There will be a brief pause in the work while waiting on an order for lighting for specific areas. The project should be completed sometime in early June.

g. Neighborhood Water Improvement Program Update

Chairman Stewart reported that Warrant Article 13 passed at Town Meeting and the next step in the Neighborhood Water Improvement Program will be to establish a Special Assessment District. The draft resolution should be available by this Wednesday and it will go out to the private road participants. That will start the process and we will have to have future public hearings as well.

h. Dedication Ceremony – Pam Cullen

Chairman Stewart announced that the Town had a ceremony last week dedicating the table outside of Town Hall to Pam Cullen. It was a very nice, well attended event and it was a nice testament to the work people overall do in Town Hall.

i. Election of New BOS Chair

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to elect Thomas Maher as the new chairman of the Select Board. Chairman Stewart seconded said motion.

Motion carried 2-0-1, with Selectman Maher abstaining.

j. Adjourn

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Chairman Maher seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Smith
Recording Secretary