

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

Monday June 7, 2021, 7:00 PM

Macomber Room / Zoom

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

Public Participants: Curt Springer, Barbara Moore, Elijah Quimby and Sandra Bisset

Public Participants via Zoom: Carol White and Pam Cullen

Chairman Maher opened the public session meeting at 7:00PM. Chairman Maher explained the nature of the meeting, indicating it is a hybrid meeting in which Zoom viewers will be allowed to participate during the public questions and answers portion of the meeting. After that, the meeting will move to visual only for those in attendance via Zoom. Anyone on the agenda is expected to be physically present.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of May 17, 2021

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Select Board Meetings of May 17, 2021. Selectman Stewart seconded and the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

2. Public Questions and Answers.

Pam Cullen, 11 Becker Lane, requested via Zoom that the next time the town performs street painting that the "no parking" space located at the corner of Walbach and Main streets be repainted. Additionally, Ms. Cullen requested that notice be sent to two home owners on Piscataqua St. informing them that their shrubs/bushes will need to be cut back within 30 days as they are interfering with the public way.

Carol White, 40 Vennard's Court, requested via Zoom that she be allowed to speak to the Historical Sign request on the agenda under New Business.

Chairman Maher allowed the discussion via Zoom.

Selectman Stewart questioned whether the sign was conforming under the town's zooming ordinances.

Ms. White stated that she would check with the Building Inspector to make certain the sign complies.

Chairman Maher made a motion to approve the proposed Historical Sign pending the Building Inspector's approval. Selectman McGuckin seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

New Business

a. Covid Update

Chairman Maher gave a brief update on Covid in New Hampshire. Currently, there are 353 active cases in the state, with 27 hospitalizations and a positivity rate of 1.6%. On May 17th, the state had 1169 active cases, with 46 hospitalizations and a positivity rate of 2.9%. The trends continue to be very positive for the state and our region and the Town continues to look at the science to be safe.

b. The Common – Volleyball/Yoga

Elijah Quimby, of My Social Sports, stated that his group is seeking permission to hold their weekly recreational adult league Volleyball at the Common. This league has been utilizing the Common for approximately 12 to 14 years, with the exception of last year due to Covid restrictions. Mr. Quimby stated that typically the league meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings throughout the summer from 6pm to 8pm. There are usually 45 to 50 participants per hour. An attendant is located at the gate to provide directions and instructions regarding speed to attendees. Their anticipated start date is July 13th, with the program lasting approximately 9 weeks.

Selectman Stewart reminded Mr. Quimby that the league needs to make certain they leave space for patrons of the Common to walk the beach at high tide and dogs are not allowed.

Selectman McGuckin asked if rain dates could extend the program further into September.

Mr. Quimby responded that it is possible for rain dates to extend the program longer than 9 weeks.

Chairman Maher stated that the question of fees is still being ironed out with the group.

Selectman Stewart offered a motion to approve My Social Sports use of the Common during the time frame discussed pending confirmation of the fee arrangement. Selectman McGuckin seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

c. Garden Club – Request to use Macomber Room

Barbara Moore, President of the New Castle Garden Club, requested authorization to use the Macomber room for a number of dates for the Garden Club's meeting. The Garden Club typically used the Macomber Room in the past for their meetings.

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to approve the Garden Club's scheduled use of the Macomber Room for its meetings from September of 2021 until June of 2022. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

d. Town Clerk - Vacancy

Chairman Maher stated that Priscilla Hodgkins will be stepping down as the Town Clerk/Tax Collector on June 30, 2021. The Select Board will be appointing a replacement to fill this position until Town Election next year. There is presently an individual interested and hopefully in two weeks' time we should know

who is going to fill that role for the remainder of the year. Chairman Maher further stated that the town is very grateful for the work that Ms. Hodgkins has done and thanked her for her 14 years of service to the community.

Ms. Hodgkins, via Zoom, stated that the position is a very important job with a lovely mix of a lot of bookkeeping and lots of socializing with residents. Ms. Hodgkins expressed her hope that a lot of people will show interest in replacing her.

e. Neighborhood Water Improvement Program Update

Selectman Stewart reported that the draft petition establishing the Special Assessment District has been approved by counsel and is now in the hands of the private road petitioners. Once the town has that signed petition back, it can begin engaging with the engineers to get a time line together for the project.

f. Committee Reports

Chairman Maher stated Police and Fire reports will be attached to the minutes.

g. Coalition Communities 2.0 – Encumberment of Funds

Selectman McGuckin stated that the invoicing for the Coalition Communities 2.0 lobbyists has been delayed and the Select Board has been advised to encumber \$1,400.00 because the funds will not be spent by June 30, 2021.

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to encumber \$1,400.00 for the coalition Communities 2.0 invoice which will be received after this fiscal year ends. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

h. Energy Committee Request

Sandra Bisset, Chairman of the Energy Committee, requested the Select Board authorize the Energy Commission to engage in an energy audit for the town with Eversource. Ms. Bisset opined that there is a lot of opportunities available to the town to create savings. Eversource will come and assess the town's energy efficiency, but they would like a written request before beginning the process.

Selectman McGuckin asked if there would be a cost to the town to perform the audit.

Ms. Bisset replied there would not.

Ms. Bisset also complimented Christiane McAllister, Town Finance Director, on the fantastic job she has done compiling the documentation needed to begin this process.

Chairman Maher stated that the Select Board will look further into what has been presented tonight and will vote on the matter at its next meeting in June.

i. 4th of July Unofficial Parade

Curt Springer, 98 Cranfield St, requested permission to celebrate the 4th of July with a mini private car parade through town and dispersing at the Common. Mr. Springer further stated that the 4th of July Committee has voted to not do anything in the form of a celebration this year and they are okay with this taking place. Ms. Carol White has also given the group permission to gather in her field.

Chairman Maher stated that Police Chief Don White would have to sign off on the event and asked if this would be held on July 4th.

Mr. Springer responded that it is planned for July 4th at approximately 11am.

Selectman Stewart suggested including the veterans in the parade or trolley or one of the cars.

It was agreed that no bikes would be included in the parade.

Chairman Maher re-visited the earlier agenda item of Yoga in the Common.

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to approve LizFit utilizing the Common for its fitness classes once the fee for usage has been researched and approved. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

j. Adjourn

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to adjourn at 7:53. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Smith
Recording Secretary