

Town of Brimfield
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2020
21 Main Street Road and Virtual

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The chair of the Board or Committee should state at the beginning of the meeting that the meeting will be available online; what follows is a standard to be stated at the opening of the meeting.
Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Brimfield [Board of Selectmen] is being conducted via remote participation. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to participate in this meeting while in progress may do so by following the link on the website or calling the phone number:

Members Present: Chair; Mike Doyle, Vice Chair; Paul McCarthy, Member; Carolyn Haley, Member; Suzanne Collins, Member; Ryan Olszta, Recording; Admin; Carol Camerota
Others: Police Chief Kuss, Public Access; B. Datz, A. Ozolins, Joe Faucher, Scott Chase, Nic Adamomopoulos,

Call to order: by (Doyle) at 6:33 p.m.

Payroll and Warrants:

Signed by the Board

Minutes:

Review & approve minutes of October 26, 2020.

Motion: by (Olszta) move to approve minutes of October 26, 2020, seconded by (Collins), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

Reminder of Roberts Rules and keeping conversation to 3 minutes.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees:

Anna Ozolins-Lake Sherman sign:

Handouts were given to the Board. Request for sign funding came to BOS in 2018 and was referred to Fin Com who didn't believe the town should be funding. Board questioned it being a neighborhood sign and if funding was given to one, then other lake neighborhoods would want the same. Could the neighborhood either fund raise or put forth a Warrant Article. The Thames River Grants funds should be used for waterways and the Norcross Grant funds are for town use. (Collins) felt the Thames funds could be used at the Selectmen's discretion. And thought that the Tax Collector's locked box was purchased by Thames.

Ms. Ozolins got approval from the Building Commissioner, Treasurer-Collector and Assessors. Scott Chase, owner of property at 74 Cubles Rd. and sign designer, Joe Faucher

were also present. Highway Surveyor said he would install the sign. Quotes for approximately \$1,500 to \$1,800 have been received. Ms. Ozolins has dedicated her last 5 years to Sherman Lake and keeping it nice and available to residents. She finds ways to improve the community for everyone. This sign would make the lake recognizable by 250 residents. Association fees only pay for beach rights for these residents. The town owns Lake Sherman. (Doyle) replied that the town also owns Mill Pond and Little Alum. (Olszta) added there is no sign even at the town hall.

(Haley) reminded her that the town participates in weed control for Lake Sherman every year, so the town does participate and suggested she approach the Historical Commission. (Collins) remarked that Lake Sherman has had a lot of improvements and it would be nice to start with this lake for residents and travelers to see.

Motion: by (Collins) move to release funds from Thames River account for the Lake Sherman sign, second, none. No action.

(Olszta) agreed that a sign would be nice, but it is on private property. Would like to see a fund raiser.

Ms. Ozolins asked if the board could match funds she raises and also waive the set back from 15' to 10' so the sign would be on town property. Discussion of a town sign on private property and the legalities.

Ms. Ozolins reiterated the projects she has campaigned for such as cleaning Lake Sherman, boat ramp, broken bridge and windmill. She is willing to fundraise and put a Warrant Article at the next ATM.

Motion: by (Collins) to partially fund the Lake Sherman sign, second, none. No action.

6:45 p.m.

National Grid Pole Hearing - Prospect Hill Road:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: **Prospect Hill Road: #30125463**

Reason: Prospect Hill Rd. – National Grid to install (1) SO Pole #15-1 on Prospect Hill Rd. beginning at a point approximately 1775 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Palmer State Rd.

Current property has no driveway. Pole is being installed to private property for a remodel.

Motion: by (Haley) move to approve pole installation #30125463 on Prospect Hill Road, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

7:00 p.m. Public Access

None

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees: (cont.)

Adult use grow facility-Holland Road:

Atty. Nic Adamomopoulos was present on behalf of Trifecta Farms seeking approval for a 10,000 sq ft marijuana cultivation facility on New Holland Road. This new business will present tax benefits as well as employment opportunities. A 3% of gross sales will go to the town. M. Poirier and C. Langlitz have a wide range of experience and ties to the town. An outreach meeting for residents is the next step and approval of the board. Property location a lot on New Holland Road. Cultivation is an agricultural business and will have no pesticides. Trifecta Farms will be leasing the property but will run the business. The

facility will be outdoor grow containing a perimeter building with growing on the interior for safety purposes.

A community outreach will be planned for possibly the beginning of December. Current allowed number of people indoors is 25 and will also being virtual. Facility will have mitigation for snow by an HVAC system and charcoal filters for smell. Will be in touch with Selectmen's office. R. Costa asked about security. Trifecta Farms will hire security and have Police Chief approve. Brimfield residents will get hiring priority.

Gazebo update (Administrative only, no public discussion):

(Doyle) reported that one local vendor he spoke with does not do concrete walkways. He will continue looking.

Tree on common:

(Olszta) Only received one quote from Robinson Tree Removal. For removal and stump grinding the total was \$1,000. This large evergreen at the east end of the common was supposed to come down when the new one was planted. (Collins) asked why the tree was coming down. The tree is still healthy but will encroach on the new trees space while the root system is growing into the culvert and road. Several votes have been taken by the board and were unanimous.

Motion: by (Haley) move to use Robinson Tree to remove evergreen on common, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

Amended: Funds will come from Norcross account with a reserve fund transfer. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

National Grid-Storm event communication emails:

Emails that come through for notice of the community room being activated before storms from National Grid should only be used by Fire and Police. This number is not for anyone to call.

Reports of Special Committees:

Special Orders:

Mask policies:

Complaints at the Annex and inspectors not wearing masks. (Haley) thought a reminder email to employees should be enough. Governor's orders say people can be fined. Written notices could serve as in any violation in the personnel policy. Board agreed to send out Governor's email again from the Board of Health and reiterate mask policy. D. Costa reminded that masks should be worn in a public space even if 6' apart and they will notify everyone.

Town Gardener request for \$400:

Some board members asked if a list of what has been purchased is being kept. When funds get low then the request is made and it is used for flowers and mulch on the common and around town buildings. Table till spring.

Sign contract agreement between Town and Clark & Green Architects-Sr. Center Study:

(Haley) made comment on how many studies have already been done on the town hall. Should begin the conversation of what should be done with the town hall building.

This study will tell if the property on Holland Road is a viable place for the new Sr. Center. Money has already been voted. Town Counsel has reviewed and it's been accepted by Clark and Green.

Motion: by (Olszta) move to approve contract agreement between the Town and Clark & Green Architects for the Sr. Center study, seconded by (Haley), all in favor. Roll call as follows: (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)- abstained (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

Public Access update:

(Collins) reviewed the needs of Public Access with upgrades for new high def cameras, just for the town hall and studio. \$16,000 high def cameras, 3 cameras in town hall and 2 in the studio. (Olszta) asked why there was no sound for the first half of meeting. Datz responded that is was due to a no show from a videographer.

McCarthy is hearing complaints that are more about audio than video.

Datz explained that there are sound issues and encourages residents to email him with issues they are experiencing. Datz will come back with updated quote from a State Vendor.

Phone system update:

(Doyle) Things are moving forward and we are close to on site installation

Parking contract for School Dept at Highway update:

(McCarthy) is working on a meeting with Deb Boyd and Highway Surveyor. (Doyle) offered to attend.

Boston Post Cane correction:

Discussion of cane given to oldest person and how to proceed. Eva thought (Haley) and another member would go to persons' house. (Doyle) looked at cane and found it not to be the original Boston Post Cane. None the less a very nice cane. All agreed it should just be used for ceremonial but not given out. Table

Town Clerk – update on additional election pay:

(Collins) Spoke with the Division of Local Services for local mandates regarding extra hours worked by the Town Clerk. The State has to check to see if it is reimbursable since it is a salaried position. (Doyle) will contact town counsel after Bob Sullivan emails him.

Tax Classification hearing will be at the next meeting.

Grants:

McCarthy met with Fire Chief Contois and Accountant Marie Arsenault and will get me the paperwork for the CAREs Act.

New Business:

(Doyle) this Wednesday is Veteran's Day and the bell will be rung at 11:11 a.m.

Shed:

Highway Surveyor and (Doyle) discussed a shed behind the Annex to hold trash barrels, salt, rakes and shovels. The new building maintenance person can build it for \$1,500.

Motion: by (Haley) move to approve \$1,500 being used from the Building Maintenance account for supplies to build a shed behind the Annex, seconded by (Olszta) Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

Small Community Grant due in December. (Doyle) will reach out to S. Overby to work on this for the Library

Office Matters & Mail:

Adjourn:

Motion: by (Olszta) move to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by (Haley), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

Upcoming Meetings: November 23, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Camerota

Transcribed by: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: 

DATE: 11/23/2020

Documents Utilized for this meeting

MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE

1. Meeting minutes of October 26, 2020
2. Request for garden funds
3. Marijuana cultivation proposal
4. Clark & Green agreement
5. Lake Sherman sign