

Approved Minutes
Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:30 PM
(videoconference)

Present

Selectboard:

David Jones (Chair)
Gwen Tanza
Shelby Brimmer
Joseph Dutton
Bruce Mello

Town Officers:

Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, videographer)
Mark Bills (Road Supervisor)

Members of the Public:

David Parker
Peter Barus (Recorder)
FACTV (Videoconference recording)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

Review changes to agenda if any

Scheduled members of the public

David Parker

Unscheduled members of the public

Approve Minutes

Minutes from February 3, 2021 regular meeting

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes for February 3, 2021, as amended. Second by Mr. Dutton. **Passed** with one abstaining.

Old Business

Informational Hearing Prep

Mr. Jones explained the agenda and rules of procedure for the conduct of the hearing, to be conducted by videoconference. Mr. Parker was introduced and will serve as Moderator for the Informational Hearing. There was discussion of various questions that could arise, and the separation of floor discussion from Town Meeting, when voting will be done without discussion under Australian balloting. Mr. Jones polled the meeting for comments and questions.

Mr. Jones discussed how the Articles will be presented and invited further comment.

Town Meeting Election Prep

Mr. Tanza discussed the preparations, volunteers for managing the election and counting ballots. Members volunteered to assist.

Roadside Tree Removal

Mr. Bills reported that the contractor arrived promptly at the green iron bridge with full crew, safety equipment including helmet walkie-talkies, and they worked Hill Road (removed dead elms, locust brush, low-hanging limbs, etc., and cleared sight lines); that Mr. Carr had gone above and beyond expectations to remove hazardous limbs; some cutting also done on Harris Hill, a leaning dead tree removed despite snow conditions; and discussed working around GMP crews in the same area; noted pruning along power lines by GMP contractors, new poles installed; that he was satisfied with the work now at about the halfway point; that Hill Road was nearly half done at the close of the second day; and suggested discussion with the treasurer and Mr. Clark about hiring Mr. Carr for one or two more days to remove a few additional hazardous trees, and about further tree projects for the fiscal year (to July 1).

Mr. Bills will consult with Mr. Clark and the treasurer and report to the selectboard.

Mr. Jones polled the meeting for comments and questions. Ms. Tanza mentioned some overweight permits to be signed. Mr. Bills took note and discussed repairs to the water pump on the grader, expected to be completed by Friday (February 19).

Building Update

Mr. Mello discussed the Round Schoolhouse grant. Mr. Tanza explained a call, referred to Ms. Nau, about the \$5,000 grant on the books. Mr. Mello reported that the SLP ultraviolet water purification system had a sediment problem, and had consulted the contractor who replaced the pump in 2014; that Gary Lynde had noticed the pressure tank was waterlogged due to a burst bladder, and there was excessive iron (hard water); that Nancy Burke was consulted and the filter changed, then a larger tank installed; that the system must be reset following the latest work; that the filter had been replaced, and if these remedies were not successful a water softener would have to be installed; that Mr. Bovat had agreed to teach Mr. Mello and Mr. Bills the maintenance routine once the system is running correctly. There was discussion; the iron buildup was the main issue.

New Business

Organizational Meeting Prep

Mr. Jones explained that the March 3 selectboard meeting would be the organizational meeting following Town Meeting; that policies will have to be readopted, positions reappointed, and appointees consulted as to whether they would be continuing to serve, including the Assistant Town Clerk, Assistant Treasurer, Road Commissioner, Road Supervisor, and others; that Mr. Bills expressed willingness to continue, as will some others; and noted a small number of positions that will lapse.

Ms. Tanza will consult with Ms. Maggio about continuing as dog officer. Mr. Dutton will continue to serve with the Historical Society, and will consult other members and report. Mr. Mello will consult with Mike Fontaine about serving as Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Jones will consult with Jorda Daigneault regarding Rescue, Inc. Mr. Mello will consult with the BMH Committee as to their respective positions. Mr. Bills will continue to serve with the BMH Committee. Mr. Jones will create the agenda. The town Zoom account will be used to conduct the meetings.

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Summary / Update / Reports

Guy Tanza – Town Clerk Report

Mr. Tanza reported on title searches and attorneys, absentee ballots, dog licenses, and Tax Day, all running smoothly.

Highways & Roads

Mark Bills – Road Supervisor

Mr. Bills, in addition to the tree removal project, had been working with Mr. Clark to maintain the salt and sand supply, and reported prompt service by the salt vendor; and noted that in a week or two the recent snowstorms will require pushing snowbanks back over the ditches so the ice will melt away from the road.

Communications

Email

- Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation re: grants for management of household hazardous waste, food scraps, mandatory recyclables.
- Attorney Fisher re: salt & sand shed plans and paperwork reviewed, finding no right-of-way concerns; drafted a letter to the state; the PM for WRC was informed, no response to date; the legal review was complete.
- Windham Hill Pinnacle Assoc. re: new acquisition, seeking support, offering discussion at March 17 meeting.
- Agency of Transportation re: highway grants.

Regular Mail

- Letter addressed to Ms. Maggio (Mr. Jones will deliver or forward).
- Letter from Town of Putney re: annual road maintenance agreement for Holland Hill and Bennet Road (Chair signature).
- Census Bureau re: boundary/annexation survey (no changes, no action necessary).
- Census Bureau re: acknowledgement of the Town of Brookline for participation in the Census.
- Contact info for Mutual Aid (for action after the elections).

Pay Orders

Payroll

Mr. Jones invited questions on the Payroll Warrant. None heard.

Mr. Jones moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2021-07, dated 2/17/21, in the amount of \$1,548.36. Second by Mr Mello. **All in Favor.**

Accounts Payable

Mr. Jones invited questions on the Accounts Payable Warrant. None heard.

Mr. Jones moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2021-08, dated 2/17/21, in the amount of \$10,492.23. Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in favor.**

Set agenda for the next meeting

Informational meeting February 24, 6:30PM

Wednesday March 3, 2021

- Reorganizational meeting
- Appointees
- Policies
- Updates
- Pay Orders

Adjournment

Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Dutton for his service on behalf of the selectboard. It was noted that Mr. Dutton will continue with the town board of authority.

Mr. Jones moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Tanza. All in favor.

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, February 21, 2021