

Approved Minutes
Town Of Brookline Selectoard Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Present

Board:

Dorothy Maggio (Chair)
Bruce Mello
Stan Noga

Town Officers:

Melissa Brown (Treasurer)

Public:

Bob Harnish
Al Wakefield
Josh (FACTV)
Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Review changes to agenda if any

Members of the Public

Scheduled

Unscheduled

Vermont Declaration of Inclusion - Read/Discuss/Sign

Bob Harnish was recognized, and explained that, having arrived in 1964, was retired, and worked with Al Wakefield to discuss an initiative to encourage cities and towns to be more welcoming to diverse people, creating a welcoming and unbiased place; that 72 cities and towns had adopted the “Declaration of Inclusion”, 51% of the state’s population.

Ms. Maggio noted the agenda item to sign and approve, brought by Chris Webb.

Mr. Harnish invited questions.

Q. (Mr. Noga): Thanked Mr. Harnish and asked about after approval, an administering agency? Only in Vermont, or nationwide? A: Local to Vermont; moral but also economic; the population stagnant and aging, bad for economic vitality; not just words on paper, but seeking implementation; posting at town office and website; ultimate goal to show as the will of the leadership, to make the town more inclusive, make people feel like they belong; a guide to implementation at vtdeclarationofinclusion.org; VLCT toolkit for towns to help with implementation; costs might include bias training, hiring consultants, etc.; Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) had \$200,000, willing to give towns (can apply for up to \$10,000); there need not be any expense; suggestions on the website include: look into town ordinances, hiring practices, protocols, for bias, and get the word out to the general population that this is the direction you want the town to go; supports economic viability.

Ms. Maggio suggested discussion. There was consensus.

Ms. Maggio moved that the town of Brookline sign the Declaration of Inclusion, to wit:

“The Town of Brookline condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community. As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment. The Town of Brookline has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions. By the Brookline Selectboard on November 2, 2022.”

Second by Mr. Mello. All in favor.

Dated September 22, 2022. All members signed the document.

Mr. Harnish asked for a signed copy; Ms. Maggio will send.

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Pay Orders

Accounts Payable

Ms. Maggio Moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant# 2318, dated November 22, 2022, in the amount of \$8,014.39. Second by Mr. Noga. All in favor.

Payroll Warrant

Ms. Maggio Moved to approve Payroll Warrant #23-18A, in the amount of \$60.00. Second by Mr. Mello. All in favor.

Ms. Maggio Moved to approve Payroll Warrant #23-17, Dated October 26, 2022, in the amount of \$1,836.38. Second by Mr. Noga. All in favor.

New Business

Culvert Policy - Tabled last meeting - Review & Update

Ms. Maggio discussed the policy.

Mr. Noga noted that the original policy had cited statute, portions of which applied to Brookline; and noted that, while previous forms had allowed the applicant or property owner to file necessary documents, that this could also occur without property owner's knowledge; and suggested changing the policy to require only the owner to file and process, and to add the permit number and approval status.

Mr. Noga asked that the selectboard as well as the road commissioner and road foreman review the policy; that each document received by the town receive a response within 30 days; and that first culvert installation be the responsibility of the homeowner, subsequent work the responsibility of the town.

Tabled, for **next agenda**.

Windham Regional Contracts

Mr. Noga discussed the previous vote to terminate the salt-shed grant, noting that it may be the time to sign letters (copies provided) to the Secretary of Transportation regarding possible assessed costs, and to Chris Campy (Dir. WRC), Christopher Hunt, and Margo Ghia, explaining the withdrawal and discussing remaining costs to the town (estimated \$15,230.00); noted that the statute was not clear; and will scan and email signed documents to those persons, target termination date: November 21, 2022.

Mr. Noga discussed response interval, suggesting 15 or 30 days, noting that the engineer had not replied during the entire term of the project to date. There was discussion.

Sign contract GIA # 00274 (Grants in Aid)

Mr. Noga noted that this had been addressed, signed by all participants, and sent to the Treasurer.

Ms. Maggio discussed the 2023 grants-in-aid process. Mr. Noga noted some processing yet to be done on #00274; there was discussion.

Tabled for **next meeting**.

BRIC 2020 Grant - As suggested by WRC I requested a template for the RFP to update the Local Hazard Mitigation -awaiting response.

Ms. Maggio explained that a response, with a template, had been received; and arranged for a member to participate in an online survey required as part of the process.

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Budget Meeting #1

General Budget line items reviewed

Ms. Maggio discussed provided documents. Mr. Noga suggested some planning and guidance, and discussed previous town reports. Ms. Maggio suggested the selectboard invite Ms. Brown to the next meeting.

The selectboard reviewed and discussed the general budget line by line.

Article warning to Appoint vs. Elect a Town Treasurer

Help from treasury office with budget

Requests for budget information

Ms. Brown joined the meeting.

Ms. Brown was invited to the next meeting. Mr. Noga will forward further information to Ms. Brown.

Reports and Updates

Road Supervisor Report - E. Mark Bills

Harris Hill / Howe Rd Ditching

Gravel (¾ inch) 4 loads @ \$19.50 yd ~ 60 yards delivered

Salt order - Rail Road Delivery Complications possible this winter

Mr. Bills had provided his report. Ms. Maggio discussed the salt order, Windham Solid Waste called Thursday (8:03 a.m.) and arrived Monday; the leaf blower working well on Putney Mountain; generator substantially ready; downed tree removed; sign repair; wallpaper at SLP; road grading; four loads of stone (\$200/load from A. S. Clark & Sons); salt order delivery question.

It was noted that salt and sand had been delivered (\$27/yd); there was discussion of RFP, plowing, road sand from A. S. Clark & Sons.

Highways Grants & Report - Stan Noga

Mr. Noga suggested substituting the agenda item with the topic of reappraisal; that this could not be determined. Ms. Maggio noted that Helen Holt had reported that the numbers would trigger a reappraisal, likely by 2025. There was discussion; that there was no necessity for a reappraisal at this time. Ms. Maggio will ask Ms. Holt to share the information with the board. Mr. Noga discussed the history of town reappraisals.

Salt / Sand Shed Grant discussion

Bond Bank Discussion - Annual payment + Interest. How can money be used?

There was discussion; potential weather emergencies; a \$90,000 fund; continuing to collect \$10,000 annually; the amount of principal held; funds used had been paid back to the fund, now \$80,000.

There was discussion of borrowing from the bond fund in anticipation of the outstanding FEMA funds; prioritizing options; communications with the BMH committee;

Building Commissioner Report - Bruce Mello

Day Care Building

Other Buildings

Mr. Mello discussed the wallpaper at SLP, must be done by November 7; finishing tiles and gravel work; sending email reminder of the deadline; possible extension; inspections.

Town Clerk Report - Guy Tanza

(None)

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Selectboard Chair Report - Dot Maggio

FEMA - RFP for Putney Mtn. Paving / All State Construction bill

Ms. Maggio discussed review with the FEMA representative (no response, personnel changes), concerns for the All State bill; incomplete RFP and work not done. Mr. Noga suggested that the work should have had oversight by the town, to be done right; and calls to All State about compliance with the RFP. Ms. Maggio noted that there were still outstanding FEMA repairs.

There was discussion of the Putney Mountain repairs, cost estimates, omissions from the RFP. Mr. Noga noted that the vendors had received the specifications in writing; and questioned whether FEMA would cover completion by other vendor(s); and suggested calling All State and comparing the work with the RFP specification. There was consensus in favor.

Any other reports or discussion from the Selectboard

Reappraisal in 2025 possible - Stan Noga

(Addressed above)

Time clock - Stan Noga

There was discussion; a time clock would be required for all employees, or none.

Old Business

ARPA - Priority list discussion

Tabled.

Communications

Email

Concern about mischief night egging of homes.

Inner Fire - Act 250 extension - no action needed

Auditors Workshop-invite sent

Regular Mail

- Local Solutions Housing Needs workshop December 1, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.;
- Appropriations requests, SeVCA, Moore Free Library, Youth Services;
- Thank-you notes from appropriation recipients

Review / Approve minutes from

October 19, 2022 Regular Meeting

Ms. Maggio moved to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2022 Regular Meeting. Second by Mr. Mello. All in favor.

Set Agenda for November 16, 2022

- Culverts
- Grants-in-Aid
- Budget

Adjourn the meeting

Ms. Maggio moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Noga. All in favor.

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, recording secretary, October 30, 2022