



**Chesterfield Select Board Minutes
Monday, March 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Town Office Building - 422 Main Road**

Mr. Fuller called the Select Board meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Select Board Members Present: Roger Fuller, Trish Colson-Montgomery, and Don Willard III

Public Officials Present: John Follet, Conservation and Open Space and Recreation Plan Cmte. (OSRP); Denise Cormier, Westfield River Wild and Scenic, Leslie Kellogg, Fourth of July Committee

General Public Present: Michael Alterman

Recorder of Minutes: Brenda Lessard

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this further extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

This meeting was conducted with ZOOM access for the public.

Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to sign the warrant for the Special Town Meeting for March 26, 2024. It was noted there was no recommendation from the Planning Board.

Warrants:

Mr. Fuller, Mr. Willard and Ms Colson-Montgomery reviewed and signed the warrants W24-19, WP24-19, WPD24-19 and WBB24-19.

Minutes:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard, and unanimously voted to accept the special meeting minutes of 02/26/2024 as amended.

Appointments:

Council on Aging:

Mr. Willard made a motion, seconded by Ms Colson-Montgomery and unanimously voted to appoint Beverly Pomeroy to the Council on Aging Committee until 6/30/2027.

Westfield River Wild & Scenic:

Mr. Willard made a motion, seconded by Ms Colson-Montgomery and unanimously voted to appoint Laura Dimmler as an Alternate for the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee until 6/30/2024.

3:30 P.M. John Follet re: Conservation Comm. Appointment & OSRP:

Sherill Redmond Resignation from Conservation Commission:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard, and unanimously voted to accept Ms Redmond's resignation from the Conservation Commission with regrets and appreciation for her ten years of service on the Conservation Commission.

Appointment to Conservation Commission:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to appoint Laura Dimmler to fill the seat on the Conservation Commission vacated by the resignation of Sherill Redmond.

Associate Members for Conservation Commission:

Mr. Follet would like the Conservation Commission have up to three associate members. They would be non-voting members but would be able to participate in discussions and public hearings. The Select Board opined that the Bylaws would need to be amended to include non-voting associate members and to define the period of appointment. Mr. Follet will work on drafting something for the Select Board to review to include on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP):

Mr. Follet brought in copies of the OSRP for the Select Board to review. Ms Colson-Montgomery had already read the plan, which is posted on the Town website. She had a page of comments and corrections to give to Mr. Follet. Mr. Follet appreciated the input. Mr. Follet pointed out the Town needs to address some ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) issues and have an action plan to address the issues. The hope is to have a plan and to designate which Boards and Committees would address certain items in the plan and give them assignments to work toward achieving the goals of the plan. Russell Park was given as an example of needing some ADA fixes to make the park more ADA compliant. There was also a discussion of some grants that may help the Town achieve their goals, which may include a walking trail on the 6 North Road property.

Denise Cormier, Westfield River Wild and Scenic:

Ms Cormier was happy to hear the Select Board had done the appointment for the alternate on the Wild and Scenic. She attended to give invitations to the Select Board to attend a special event of the Westfield River Wild and Scenic on April 16. She also wanted to make the Select Board aware of Road Crossing Grants that are available to the member towns of Wild and Scenic. The funds are available to assist financially with culvert work and she has spoken with Matt Smith, Highway Superintendent about a culvert on Ireland Street that needs work.

Addition to Agenda:

FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Request:

A FOIA request was received to request emails from Ms Colson-Montgomery that address the HRHS (Hampshire Regional School Committee) negotiations and any emails from her to other members of the school committee or any emails to any state officials. Ms Colson-Montgomery will provide those to Ms Lessard who will forward them on.

ADA Compliance:

Ms Colson-Montgomery wanted to address her concern regarding an ADA bathroom at the Library. Since Ms Squier will be returning to work, this discussion should move forward with the Library Trustees. Ms Lessard will invite the Trustees to attend the next meeting. Mr. Fuller noted that an architect would need to be hired to design a layout for an ADA compliant bathroom and there are limitations on the lot. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Willard both opined that it would have to be an interior based design as putting an addition would not be an option. There may be grants to assist with funding this type of project.

Fourth of July:

Ms Kellogg attended to direct the Select Board to come up with some names for the Volunteer of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award and the Grand Marshall of the Parade.

Reports:

Dunham Building:

Nothing to report.

Road & Highway Updates:

Mr. Fuller reported that there would be a North Road and Damon Pond Road project meeting on Wednesday, March 13 with MassDOT.

He also reported that he has had no information on a price yet for doing the Right of Way plans for a portion of Mount Road.

Highland Ambulance Budget:

Mr. Fuller reported that he and Ms Lessard had a ZOOM meeting with Mike Rock and Cassie Morrey to discuss the increase in the budget for HAEMS. The budget has been sent to Mr. Fuller and he shared the information with Ms Colson-Montgomery and Mr. Willard. They were happy to see the breakdown of the budget.

Center Cemetery Access Road Agreement:

Ms Lessard reported that Ms Wyman had called and is having someone look at the amended agreement before she will sign it. Mr. Fuller stated that if the Town does not hear from her by Friday, March 15, she should be called to see what is holding up her signing the agreement.

MVP Updates and Appointment of Select Board Liaison:

The Select Board received an email update from the MVP Executive Committee. There was not much to report. Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller to appoint Mr. Willard as the Select Board liaison to the MVP Executive Committee.

Recreation Committee Updates:

Mr. Willard reported that the Recreation Committee had an Easter egg hunt at the New Hingham School on Saturday, March 10. There were approximately 125 participants. They hid 1024 eggs that were all found. He noted they had amazing volunteers that helped with the event.

School Updates:

There is still no complete budget. Ms Colson-Montgomery reported that the HRHS School Committee did not post the February school budget hearing properly and the budget meeting will be re-held. A budget hearing must be posted at least seven days prior and the budget was not available 48 hours in advance of the meeting. The 48-hour requirement was not met. Ms Colson-Montgomery reported that she has been appointed to the Finance Budget Sub-committee for the HRHS district.

Town Administrator Report:**Police Department Room:**

The wall is up and has sheet rock. The preliminary electrical work is done. Mr. Fuller asked Ms Lessard to give the Police Department a two-week window to vacate the meeting room.

Library Updates:

Ms Squier is home and plans to start back to work on March 13.

Annual Town Report:

Ms Lessard is working with Jen Peotter to get all the items submitted so Ms Peotter can get the report to the printer.

Painting the Library:

Ms Lessard has reached out to Gentlemen's Painting to get a quote to paint the Library. Mr. Fuller would like at least two more quotes.

Lawn Mowing RFQ:

The RFQ has been sent to four companies. Mr. Fuller would like it to be sent to a couple more. Ms Lessard has heard from one company who will not be putting in a price due to his inability to secure reliable help. One other company has responded that he will give a price.

Finance Committee Emails:

The Finance Committee has reported that they have been having issues accessing the email and the google docs associated with that email. Ms Lessard has been working with the Finance Committee Co-chairs and Entre to see if the problem can be resolved. It appears that Google has been seeing the increase in activity trying to access the same email from several different IP addresses and has put extra security on the email that we cannot change. Mr. Manchester will see if he can give permission to the members to access the google drive that houses the documents they are trying to access. Ms Lessard will work on getting the Finance Committee emails forwarded to all members' personal emails.

Fire Chief's Truck:

The truck is in the transportation stage and should be delivered within the next two weeks.

Two items will be addressed at the next Select Board meeting. The directive from Ms Kellogg to come up with names for the Fourth of July awards and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission grant amendment.

Adjourn:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.