



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 10:00 am Belmont Mill, Tioga Meeting Room

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude "Sonny" Patten, Jr., Selectman Travis O'Hara, Selectman Sharon Ciampi, TA Alicia Jipson, Executive Assistant Colleen Akerman, Town Planner Karen Santoro, Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Caron, Police Chief Mark Lewandoski, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden, Parks & Rec Director Danielle St. Onge, Budget Committee Chair Ron Mitchell, Library Director Eileen Gilbert, and Planning Board Member Kevin Sturgeon. Also present was Woody Fogg from the American Legion.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review & Approve Minutes – Public & Non-Public Meetings 04/03/2024:

Selectman Sonny Patten moved the minutes of the public meeting held on April 3, 2024 as written; seconded by Selectman Sharon Ciampi. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Selectman Jon Pike moved the minutes of the non-public meeting held on April 3, 2024 as written; seconded by Selectman Travis O'Hara. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

New Business:

NHDOT Intersection of Route 140 and Main Street Update:

TA Jipson provided information to the Board in their packets. There is a new project manager at the State and construction on the intersection is proposed for 2025. DOT is running about a year behind due to COVID, as well as staffing and resource shortages. This project was given \$500,000 in the 10-year plan but it won't go very far. Construction costs are high and more money may be necessary. This is a community project that will require public hearings for input from the community, as well as the Board of Selectmen and Department Heads. There are a couple of options that were reviewed that may require taking some property near the intersection and/or the sidewalks. There are issues with every proposal including the crosswalk. In the past a roundabout was discussed but it would have a significant impact at \$5-6 million and would require acquiring three to four properties as well as reworking the bridge. There are some plans on the table and the next step is for DOT to meet with the Board and Department Heads. TA Jipson will work on scheduling something soon.

Appoint Assistant Fire Chief Donald Pickowicz as Deputy EMD:

Selectman Pike moved to appoint Assistant Fire Chief Donald Pickowicz as Deputy Emergency Management Director; seconded by Selectman O’Hara. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Appoint Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Caron as Assistant Health Officer:

Selectman O’Hara moved to appoint Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Caron as Assistant Health Officer; seconded by Selectman Ciampi. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Conservation Commission Member Appointment – Deborah Woodcock:

Selectman Patten moved to approve the appointment of Deborah Woodcock as a full member of the Conservation Commission with a term expiring March 2025; seconded by Selectman Pike. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Other New Business:

Memorial Day Parade – American Legion:

Mr. Ron Mitchell and Mr. Woody Fogg from the American Legion were present to ask about plans for the parade this year. They understand there was a budget reduction this year, so the Legion could cover the \$1,000 donation the Town normally provides for this event, because they still want to have the parade. There is also the cost of the Color Guard, the 21 Gun Salute and the escort that the Legion could cover if necessary. Chief Lewandoski indicated there may be some staffing issues to support this event but he will work on it and report back to TA Jipson with the cost breakdown. There was discussion on how to budget the costs to be covered by the Legion.

Old Home Day:

Mr. Fogg asked if there is any possibility Old Home Day might still happen with volunteers. Parks & Rec Director Danielle St. Onge said fewer than 10 people showed up for their last meeting but they are having another meeting tomorrow. Everyone is supposed to come with their ideas but it is getting harder to find volunteers and vendors are already booking out.

Career Fair at Belmont High School 04/17/2024 from 12-2pm:

The Town is participating again this year with representatives from the Fire Department and DPW as well as Parks & Rec to publicize job opportunities.

Old Business:

Other Old Business:

Belmont Beautification:

This weekend is Belmont’s collection for roadside trash on 04/20 and 04/21. There is a group from the high school participating Friday and some neighborhoods have already started. We are hoping for a great turnout. DPW will pick up all of the blue bags of trash on Monday 04/22.

GA Director Donna Cilley asked if people want to do cleanup at other times, where can they bring the blue bags? DPW Director Craig Clairmont said DPW will pickup bags if someone calls to let them know, or they can bring them to the Highway Garage. They appreciate any help that they can get. Director Clairmont commented that the roadside trash issue has diminished with the new solid waste cart program.

Town Community Service:

The American Legion reported they have 22 students from the Holderness School coming to volunteer at the trail to clear brush around the two bridges. It has grown up fast.

Belmont Center Open House:

Belmont Parks & Rec will host an open house on May 1st from 12-2pm to celebrate the opening of our new community space, The Belmont Center. TA Jipson asked the Board for donations and volunteerism. She is looking for baked goods, snacks and beverages for this event.

SB 553 affecting NHPDIP:

The Board received an email about the hearing today that will affect the NHPDIP program the Town uses to save funds and earn interest. TA Jipson will attend in person today to be an advocate for the Town. There is a great deal for us to lose.

Next Regular Meeting Date: May 1, 2024

Public Comment:

Storm Update:

DPW Director Clairmont said there are 130 roads in Town and all were affected by the storm. The department is in triage mode and they are asking for patience. There is a lot to do and the storm has pushed things back 3-4 weeks. Gravel road maintenance is a priority this time of year. They are doing their best.

Non-Public:

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II a at 10:35 am; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Roll Call 1: J. Pike – aye, S. Patten – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Those present and voting were Chairman Ruth Mooney and Selectmen Jon Pike, Claude Patten, Jr., Travis O'Hara, and Sharon Ciampi. Also present were TA Alicia Jipson, Executive Assistant Colleen Akerman and Parks & Rec Director Danielle St. Onge.

There was discussion about the new Belmont Center and program offerings for the community, as well as the full-time status of the Parks & Rec Director. There was also discussion about some of the controversy and misinformation on social media regarding Belmont Parks & Rec. The Board stated they stand behind the Parks & Rec Director and the new programs to help bring our community members together.

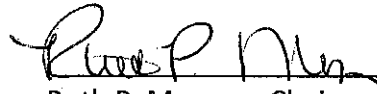
TA Jipson reported on two pending Workmen's Comp claims and noted our insurance company would be giving a presentation to Department Heads and Admins tomorrow.

The Board made no decisions.

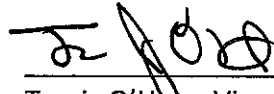
Selectman O'Hara moved to exit non-public session at 11:03 am; seconded by Selectman Pike. Roll Call 2: S. Ciampi – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, S. Patten – aye, J. Pike – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

Adjournment:

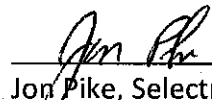
Selectman Pike moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 am; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Roll Call 3: S. Patten – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, J. Pike – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).



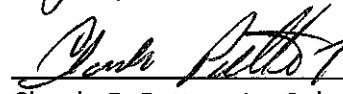
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



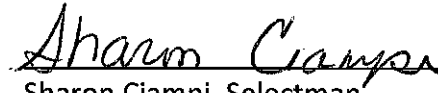
Travis O'Hara, Vice Chairman



Jon Pike, Selectman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman



Sharon Ciampi, Selectman