



# Office of Board of Selectmen

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## Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Tioga Meeting Room, Belmont Mill

Chairman Ronald Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Also present were Mark Ekberg, Assistant TA Alicia Jipson, Albert Akerstrom, Mark Roberts, Tina Fleming, Sel. Rep. Ruth Mooney, Finance Director Katherine Davis, Librarian Eileen Gilbert, Library Trustee Mary Charnley, Tracey LeClair and Roland Coffin. Justin Borden was absent.

Present via the Zoom link dedicated to tonight's meeting were members Norma Patten, Vicki Donovan, Gary Grant, Sharon Ciampi, Ken Ellis and Heritage Commission Chair Vicki Donovan. Also present via Zoom link was Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin. Those members not present in person at the meeting had previously confirmed that they had a viable reason for not being able to attend in person. Chairman Mitchell noted that all votes would be by roll call.

### Minutes

Albert Akerstrom moved the minutes of the meeting held on November 30, 2021 as written; seconded by Mark Roberts. Chairman Mitchell called for a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### Library

Library Director Eileen Gilbert and Trustee Mary Charnley provided an overview of the activity at the library, noting that this past summer had been almost normal following a full year with Covid protocols in place. Eileen noted there had been changes in personnel, and most recently the vacancy had been filled and the position reclassified to a Youth Services Librarian. Circulation is doing well and there has been an increase in the use of digital media. 228 new patrons have joined the library this year for a total of about 2,000. Chairman Mitchell inquired about the library's hours and Eileen noted they are open from 10-5 M and F, 10-6 T, W, and Th., and Saturday from 9-1. Norma Patten inquired if the staff all works the same hours; Mary pointed out that there are always 2 staff members working to ensure safety. Discussion followed about the collaborative efforts of the library and the school district. Eileen reviewed the library's grant activity during 2021, noting they had received \$2,000 from ARPA; there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of grants for which they will be applying. Both Eileen and Mary commented on the popularity of the Take and Make Craft kits.

Norma Patten moved line items 4550-101 through 4550-999 for discussion; seconded by Mark Ekberg. A review of the wage lines followed with Eileen and Mary commenting on the part time rate needing to be similar to what is paid in the big box stores in order to attract interest. Tina Fleming commented on how much she likes the story walks behind the Mill. Chairman Mitchell noted there were

no further questions and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Patriotic Purposes and Other Culture**

Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson reviewed the proposed budget noting that there were changes to any of the items proposed. She noted that at this time we do not have an OHD coordinator however Tina Fleming is looking into how we can recruit for this and other recreation programs.

Ruth Mooney moved line items 4583-101 through 4584-999 for discussion; Tracey LeClair seconded the motion. Mark Ekberg commented on the excellent fireworks this past summer, and there was unanimous agreement from the committee. Discussion followed regarding clean up at Bryant Field following the display; Chairman Mitchell noted the school used to assist with this however they did not this past year. TA Beaudin noted that Craig Clairmont had generously donated his time and personal equipment to clean up the field. Chairman Mitchell noted there were no further questions and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Other Culture**

Heritage Commission Chair Vicki Donovan was present on Zoom and outlined the Other Culture requests which she pointed out had remained the same. She noted that a list of accomplishments and plans for this coming year had been distributed. Vicki thanked the great group of commission members she works with including the student representatives from Belmont High School.

Ruth Mooney moved line items 4589-457 and 458 for discussion; Albert Akerstrom seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding Mohawk Point and the potential for a historical marker, Vicki noted more information is needed and the Commission will invite Chairman Mitchell to an upcoming meeting to further discuss. The importance of historical markers was discussed, Chairman Mitchell noted that some of Belmont's roads were constructed in the 1700's. Chairman Mitchell noted there were no further questions and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

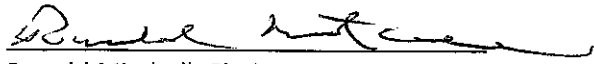
### **Cemetery**

Cemetery Trustees Sharon Ciampi provided an overview of the Trustees budget request explaining that initially they had planned to bid the spring/summer maintenance later in the year however the Selectmen had encouraged them to bid sooner. The bid is currently being advertised in the newspaper, the Town's website and on the NHMA site. Discussion followed regarding perpetual care funds and the work the Trustees are undertaking working with Trustee of Trust Funds David Caron to access some of the funds for care and maintenance of the cemeteries. Sharon outlined one of the interesting details they had uncovered regarding funds allocated to Silas Leavitt, learning that he was actually buried in Union Cemetery in Laconia. Discussion followed regarding the upcoming Wreaths across America program; Sharon has been working with members of the American Legion on the distribution. She noted Father Mark had graciously allowed St. Joseph's parking lot to be used when the wreaths are delivered.

Tina Fleming moved line item 4195-999 for discussion; seconded by Tracey LeClair. Chairman Mitchell noted there were no further questions and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The committee's next meeting is Tuesday, December 14, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tracey LeClair moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Ruth Mooney and roll call was taken and there were no objections.



Ronald Mitchell, Chairman



Tracey LeClair, Vice Chairman



Albert Akerstrom



Ken Ellis



Roland Coffin



Norma Patten



Tina Fleming



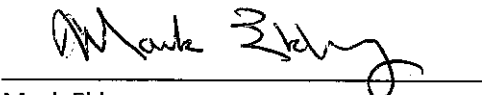
Sharon Ciampi



Justin David Borden



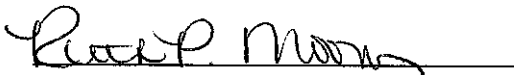
Mark Roberts



Mark Ekberg



Gary Grant



Ruth Mooney, Sel. Representative