

SelectBoard Minutes December 23rd 2021 8AM

Attendance: John Ogden, Andrea Ogden, Chrystal Cleary, Steve Hall, Michael Jeffery

Call to order 8:09am

- Last meetings minutes were approved!
- Sandbox update: Jason the Engineer is bogged down in other projects and bad weather, but has spoken to Zapata (wetlands person at the State), who said the Town needs to make clear specific reasons for infringing on the wetland or buffer if she is to change her mind.

Steve also met with a stream engineer (Josh Gabal) about Luerich Field and the Utley Brook. He recommended the Town not mow so close to the brook, and give it a 50' buffer, stocked with native plants. It's worth exploring stream bank restoration support from folks like Trout Unlimited. Maybe check with John Gans?

- New road access permit is still in progress.
- A/V technology for Town Hall meetings: a large proposal has been received from Logitech, but John is going to go through line by line and remove excessive items for a more right-sized package.
- Land Records were returned to the vault last week, much to the relief of the Clerk. Chrystal has trained with Penny on the new NEMRC Land Records module and is impressed and excited about the removal of redundancies in the recording process, in addition to the improved access and preservation of records. RecordsForce has been instructed to index the land records from most recent to older, with the goal to populate the portal with the more recent records asap and then add the others after. Chrystal will spend extra days this coming week to catch up on the backlog of recordings.
- Treasurer Andrea delivered a Preliminary Budget Peek. There are surpluses in the Roads Budget due to receiving in 2021 FEMA grant money from work done back in 2019 and 2020. Michael advocates for a cash flow forecast presentation, although grants are hard for us to forecast. The Jan 13th SB meeting will be dedicated to drilling down into the budget details.
- Michael asks about outstanding Roads projects- purchase of a speed sign, creating a 4 way stop at Old County W/Landgrove Rd/Hapgood Pond Rd intersection. Some discussion of the 4 way stop was had, but no clear resolution was reached.
- In 2023, Roadwork efforts will feature the south face of Ridge Road where the spring seems to erupt in the road.
- The Board briefly discussed the cap guidelines for Unallocated Reserve Fund, and some research will be done on what was decided that cap amount should be before the Jan 13th meeting.
- Town Meeting (February 29th) is likely to take the same format as last year: an online Information Session followed by an Australian ballot vote the next day (when the Town will be having an election anyway for the school district). The legislature is expected to vote to restore this possibility to Towns again this year as the pandemic and Omicron makes gathering a lot of people close together in doors for a floor vote Town Meeting inadvisable and greatest participation must be preserved. The Clerk reported that our usual Town Meeting draws 40-45 voters participating. Last years Info.Aus ballot drew about 12 voters to the online discussion, but voters casting a ballot increased to 70+

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35AM