

# Select Board Sept 23rd 2021

call to order 8:05 AM

Attendees: Steven Hall, Michael Jeffery, John Ogden (by conf call), Chrystal Cleary, Will Goodwin, Andrea Ogden. Public: Nancy Bennett of 35 Breeds Hill Drive

Mrs Bennett asks for approval of the Request to cater for the event she has scheduled for Oct 2. She has filed for a permit to conduct business activities (a wedding venue) at the property, but the Planning Commission has not yet rendered their decision. The caterer for the event needs to hire staff and procure liquor if they are to cater the wedding, and the Planning Commission may not decide in time. The Board will debate approval of the RTC in executive session and give Mrs Bennett an answer this morning so she can plan.

Discussion: The Select Board is being very careful to proceed properly so that precedent is not created that returns to bite the Town, when the previous RTC was approved, the SB included a letter to make clear that they did so under the conditions that the event was a Non-commercial one, for family/friends well known to the property owners. Mrs Bennett states that "the State says we can have as many parties as we want" (meaning the wastewater capacity) and that a couple of the events are for friends and family. Mrs Bennett said that in lieu of cash payment for the venue, some clients fund new plantings or gardens, and that if she has to do that for this next client, she will.

Last meetings minutes were approved

Pay orders were approved.

Sandbox Project: Steve sent a survey of the parcel to Will for a subdivision application, which has been warned for the next Planning Commission meeting. Will will help get the forms to the property owner and SB to sign. Michael will check with attorney Lexi Young on the progress of the contract to purchase.

Grants - John is finishing grants applications for hopeful funding toward the Sandbox.

Harry Lux, Planning Commission Chair reminds the Select Board that a year or so ago in the height of COVID lockdowns, the SB was interested in purchasing a more professional conference call system, but has not. He states that having remote access to SB meetings, while not required any longer, would be appropriate and of useful value to the taxpayers who want to hear the meeting. The Board asks Chrystal if the Town still has a professional Zoom account, and she confirmed that it does. The Planning Commission regularly uses the account to stream its meetings for Committee members, but it's a clunky process in which someone has to move a laptop around to face the various speakers. The Select Board questions if the use of such a system is worth the cost of good equipment and someone to run it, if people don't dial in to meetings. The Select Board directs the Clerk to include instructions on the Town Website that should anyone want to participate in the meeting remotely to email the Clerk who will activate a zoom session for any meetings where remote attendance is requested.

Delinquent Tax Collector- The VLCT has examined the legality of what happens when an elected town officer sells their home and moves out of town, can they continue to serve? The answer is that when residence ceases, the eligibility to be a voter in the Town ceases and with it the eligibility to serve. The VLCT advises that the best protocol is for the relocated officer to tender resignation, sparing everyone the conflict of not-doing so. Michael volunteers to write a courteous email to Lori Langevin thanking her for her service and requesting resignation letter.

Listers - the Listers have interviewed a Lister Administrator and have reached a verbal agreement on a contract. The actual contract was approved and signed by the Select Board and will be sent to the Lister Admin candidate for signing.

Land Records modernization/preservation/scanning project - Chrystal spoke with Jake at RecordsForce and contracted with that company to scan and index all 36 books of Town Land records. This will cost less than \$2000 more than the Most-of-Them option and will preserve these records from damage going forward. RecordsForce will come for the books in late October and have them out for two weeks for scanning. During this time, the land records will be accessible only for critical uses by remote request. Going forward, new records will be scanned and uploaded to the platform as the Clerk records them.

Copier- This brings us to the topic of the copier, which has undergone repairs in recent weeks. The technician servicing the copier says that the machine is nearing the end of its service life and parts may be hard to find if it continues to need care. Treasurer Andrea recommends budgeting next year for a new copier. The current copier has served well for 15 years.

Electricians from Sam's Electric returned to repair the fan and light in the Town Hall bathroom! Hooray!

Winter Sand purchasing- Town purchasing policies dictate bidding for winter sand, Steve had examined RFQs from various Towns but finds they are not standardized at all and can be very vague to ridiculously specific in terms and descriptions of sand attributes required. Steve will contact a few sand companies to compare spec and cost delivered and the ability to purchase more sand in mid winter. Hunter has put in already and Merrills have been asked to provide a quote as well.

At 9:14 Executive Session was entered  
Coming out of executive session at 9:45am

The Board has voted 2-1 to approve the next Request to Cater for the Bennetts' wedding venue, to include a letter to Mrs Bennett stating that the approval is contingent on the event being non-commercial, as commercial and business activity has not been approved for this residential location by the Planning Commission at this time. The Clerk is directed to complete the approval form for Oct 2 only and to send by certified mail the letter to Mrs Bennett.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:53am

Respectfully submitted,  
Chrystal Cleary, Town Clerk