

## **Selectboard Minutes**

### **August 28, 2024**

The meeting was opened at 6:35 PM, at the Senior Center, by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members also present. Sean Curran, Town Administrator and Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant were also in attendance.

Multiple Town residents were also present: Robert Miller, Cheryl Harper-Miller, Beoleong Lim, Adair Laurel-Cafarella, Kenneth Murray, Maureen Longobardi, Alfonso Longobardi, Daniel Bergeron, Sharon Daldoss-Bergeron, Susan Schneller, Doreen Black, Donald Trask, Karri Trask, Skip Savery, and Suzanne Lemieux.

The warrants were signed, the minutes of the August 14, 2024 minutes were signed off on, and no mail was necessary to review.

Tamarin reported that:

1. Questions get asked, but not many answers received. She reported this was largely concerning the Accountant and Town Administrator.
2. The Department of Revenue (DOR) states the Town has a deficit in Chapter 90 money, and that the deficit has been on the books for 2 years.

Ann Marie reported that:

1. The two offices have been painted in the Town Hall, and that matching paint has been obtained to freshen up the library.
2. The report from Bill Girard concerning violations in town has been received. Those violators will be sent a letter to explain the next steps to be taken.
3. John Les was able to get the accountants old computer running so previous software is able to be accessed.

Curt reported that:

1. That a lawsuit has been brought against Gordon Miller by James Burns in regards to water damage from run off on Cone Road. It was stated that Gordon Miller has been deceased a number of years, and his son, Robert Miller is the representative of the estate. The court date is scheduled for October 2, 2024 and is requesting \$7000.00 in damages for the driveway and building. Those attending the hearing will be the Highway Superintendent, Curt Robie from the Selectboard, Sean Curran, Town Administrator, Robert Miller, Cheryl Harper-Miller, and Jeremiah Pollard, Attorney-at-Law. Robert Miller is to be supplied a copy of the engineering study that James Burn had done and gave to the Town.

Following this announcement, a discussion took place with the Bergeron's from Johnny Cake Hill saying that they have the same problem, and the Longobardi's from East River Road are reporting that the drainage from Cone Road is negatively affecting their well. Both couples felt the Town has a responsibility to fix those issues.

Sean reported that:

1. The State is reporting that Cone Road will be used as a test for Culvert Replacement.
2. Senator Ed Markey has reported that the earmark in the amount of \$832000.00 is still on the desk of the federal legislature, and hopefully will move on to the next step of an approval signature. This money is for the Senior Center.
3. Representative Richard Neal has submitted for \$1.5 million, through the federal house of representative, and if awarded, will be used for roofs on the Highway Garage, and the Fire Station, along with additional repairs to the Senior Center.
4. He met with the new representative from MIIA and reported that the fire and police policy cost \$12000.00, and is awaiting a report from MIIA with details. Sean also had the proposal from VFIS, and that policy is \$10000.00
5. The Town Hall Project is moving along and that the classrooms have been painted, thanks to Ann Marie Visconti and Curt and Patti Robie. The abatement of the halls, kitchen, 2 closets and police department are being done this week, the air quality test is scheduled for Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, and if it meets state mandates, the flooring contractor will be in on September 3 to begin that portion. Questions were raised about the air quality acceptable levels, and reported that the level is dictated by the state.

Following the reports, another discussion was held concerning the proposed playground. The discussion began with Ann Marie Visconti resigning from the Committee as it was a conflict of interest. The discussion continued on after that, with multiple opinions, and levels of intensity, expressed. Issues brought up were:

1. The need to set up a Gift Account with the Town for playground repairs at the Senior Center.
2. Can the Committee continue to raise funds for the playground?
3. Should the playground committee be a non-town sponsored committee, ie "Friends of the Playground"?
4. How many children are actually in town (27), but was stated grand kids, and extended family are also using the current playground.
5. Can grants be written by anybody?
6. It was stated that an Interim Park Commission was established, however, questions were raised on who is on the Commission, and what is the Mission Statement
7. Does the Town need a Park Commission since the Town has a Park and Recreation Committee, which was pointed out that the Park and Recreation Committee is not on the website.

The result of all this discussion was that a gift account for a playground can be established, the Park Committee will be a non-town sponsored committee, most likely referred to as "Friends of the Playground". Grants written requesting funds at the State/Federal level need to be written by the Town, however, private committees can write grants for funds to non-State/Federal agencies ie: Walmart and other private organizations. It was also stated that any work on a Town Playground needs to be approved by the Selectboard in advance due to state regulations stating safety requirements that need to be followed. Also, any money raised can be placed in a private account, as long as they are a non-Town Committee that is not representing the Town. If and when money is gifted to the Town, it must be voted by the Selectboard to accept/decline the gift, and placed in an official Town Account.

Due to the Floor Remediation Project at the Town Hall, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to move the site of the State Primary, on September 3, 2024, from the Town Hall to the Senior Center.

The Town Administrator thanked the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for all they did to make a successful early voting happen at the Town Hall.

The Assistant Town Clerk recommended that various individuals go through the old records of their departments to see what needs to be kept. He reported that a copy of the State Retention of Records manual is available. The Assistant Town Clerk is also in touch with the Secretary of State's Office for clarification, and what procedure needs to be followed to destroy records. Doreen Black reported that Howard Knickerbocker is requesting access to records for Historical importance. The Selectboard reported that he can come to the Town Hall during the hours when the Administrative Assistant is available, to go through records. It was stated that no records that are deemed historical are to leave the premises.

The next Selectboard meeting is to be held at the Senior Center on September 11, 2024.

No further business to come before the Selectboard, the meeting was closed at 8:00 PM>

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane,  
Administrative Assistant

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Ann Marie Visconti, Chair

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Curt Robie, Member

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Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member