

MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:30 p.m.**

Select Board present: Jim Justice, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Linda Mountainland

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Gibbons, John Mountainland, Greg Grotton, Yvonne Pitzi, Argy Nestor, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, April 2, 2024:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, April 16, 2024:**

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

- 5. Community Stakeholder Survey, first meeting:**

Jay said the Community Stakeholder Survey for Knox County has a mitigation plan. The federal government added more rules to update the plan. One of the rules is that we go out and involve what they call the underserved or disadvantaged population; we have to engage them. He said we did one (outreach) at fire and ambulance and got some good insights. We have to try to figure out how to do the rest of the town. He mentioned through emails.

He said the mitigation is FEMA-related. Clarry Hill was on the mitigation plan for years, but the rules are cumbersome and archaic to get federal money for that. You basically have to – the previous thing is 10 years – show you spent as much money or more than would cost to do a repair and upgrade to it. Long-term maintenance, Adam confirmed. Jay added you have to have it completely engineered. Martha confirmed it pertains to town roads.

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Jay said the only thing we have on our mitigation plan at the moment is Carroll Road. We're better off to just let it wash out completely, then we can get funding for it instead of trying to mitigate it like this program is supposedly for. He said there's tons of money in mitigation; it's just trying to get it approved. This (paperwork) gets sent to MMA to prove we did our outreach. He said there is a sign-up sheet to prove people came here and we brought this up. He asked about any places in town we don't already know about. He also said we are going to add Daniels Road and Payson Road, both those bridges, noting the Mt. Pleasant bridge was in there last year where it washed out this spring.

He said he was just on a video conference with U-Maine students doing their capstone projects. He can send their videos – they redesigned the Mt. Pleasant culvert to a bridge and also designed the Quiggle Road, which they saw when it was completely gone, and how to mitigate that for future 100 year flooding which now happens four times a year. He said those are really nice designs, adding the students met with our engineer. We will work on a plan with Landmark to basically engineer that for the future, replacing the Mt. Pleasant one first. He noted this is a valuable program, and they (U-Maine students) did a lot of legwork.

He asked everyone to fill a paper out and send it in, which will go into a file and prove we've done our outreach. (Board members and attendees had paperwork.) Jay added the papers could be dropped off at the office as well.

6. Sign and Approve the Town Warrant for June Voting:

Board members had copies of the final 2024 Town Warrant in front of them.

Motion to accept and sign the Town Warrant by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Linda Mountainland
5-0

7. Set Public Hearing Dates for Warrants and Ordinances:

Adam confirmed Jay will be doing his youtube video. Re: ordinances, Jay said the planning board will do their public hearing at their next meeting on May 9. He said the select board on May 28 can do warrant articles at the beginning, then a public hearing on the town warrant at the same time. In answer to Adam, Jay said he would not cover ordinances on his youtube video. They could ask a MCOG person to do a video.

Jay said he met with Letitia at Knox County EMA. She will have a presentation up for our budget, which Jay will embed in his video. It will be up hopefully before May 11 when ballots come out. May 28 at 6:00 p.m. was suggested for the public hearing. Jay will confirm that Ronnie will moderate the meeting.

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Linda Mountainland

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Linda confirmed the planning board public hearing will be at 6:30 p.m. (on May 9).
Adam confirmed the select board's public hearing will be May 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Above motion passed,
5-0

8. Other Business:

Jay read off election clerks for the upcoming elections: Sheila Curry, Hannah Faesy, Dianne Groce (fill-in), Debra Hilt, Pamela Jensen, and Nancy Johnson (D); Cynthia Burns, Tera Corson, David Sheehan, and Jeannie Sheehan (R).

Motion to accept the above election clerks by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Jay said he sent the board a late email re: the TCC. The working group will meet, as there are many questions.

9. Town Manager Report:

Jay said most of the road postings are down.

He talked about the Sea Dogs, the U-Maine students with capstone projects mentioned above. He said they are fantastic and cost us nothing.

He said (Public Works Director) Matt will stay an extra week. We are in the process of background check with replacement Tom.

10. Public Comment:

Yvonne Pitzi of Depot Street said they went to the Sestercentennial Committee meeting with concerns about Depot Street road closure for the parade. She said they left feeling fairly confident that they won't be closing the road, but she thinks there will be a lot of signage slowing traffic during the parade and diverting the larger vehicles at Beth's Farm. Their big concern was potentially blocking traffic for their business, because of Sestercentennial weekend and they also have an event. She said the committee was kind enough to hear their concerns, and she feels pretty confident that the road traffic is going to be ok. She said Tom spoke with the state who said they can't actually close the road as it's too far from the end of the parade.

Jay said the plan has not yet been submitted. Pat is still working on it.

Argy Nestor said she spoke with Beth who doesn't see a problem at all. She will put up a sign to let folks know well ahead of time that if they come to the intersection of Western

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Road and 235 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., they can come as far as Ayer Park but no further. They are not actually closing the entire road, just that section where the parade will be on 235.

Adam said his understanding from Pat was that the issue was turning around 18 wheelers, Beth's being the best place to do it.

Yvonne said as long as the signage is clear that it's open for local traffic, no through traffic. She just doesn't want someone approaching her property to miss it.

Greg Grotton mentioned the former spring "free for all" which got a good turnout, when people could come in and question the board. Adam agreed noting we no longer have town meeting.

11. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said things are moving along. Trucks are out putting fiber on poles. Tidewater plans to open a major publicity campaign in the next week or so, aimed at early signups for fiber connections. He said there will be some benefits to those who sign up early due to the way Tidewater is planning to cluster the applications and actually make the connections.

He said the publicity they're putting up including what's on their website is a bit cumbersome if you want a better picture of what's going on: building out the network, overall standards, schedule, what it's going to look like when finished, etc. That brings up a real opportunity for a committee web page on the town's website that has the big picture, including roads and addresses that will be reached by the new connections as well as the small number of roads where we have to look for another solution in a future grant and in the meantime resources which will look like your best option.

He said the webpage is also an opportunity to solicit input from the public – what they're looking for, what their experiences have been, etc. Tidewater is clearly interested in that feedback, and there are limitations on how they can obtain it themselves. The committee is looking for an opportunity to start regular monthly or bimonthly status meetings with Tidewater to talk about an update on where they are and where they expect to be in the near future, and feedback from the committee on help especially with the publicity and making sure that customers who sign up are ready when the installation crews arrive.

In answer to Linda, John said Tidewater has not yet sent out letters but expect to this week. The letter is going to the addresses that qualify for special accommodations under the grant on the rural roads in town that are going to

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receive fiber, about 250 addresses. It will basically point them to the Tidewater website for further information, where will be a one-sentence statement that says, “Sign up here, fill out this application.” He’s quite sure Butler Road is on there.

He added the committee has to consult about the webpage, but the kind of information Adam mentioned such as the where and when of fiber will be on it. In answer to Linda, Adam said a map will be on the webpage eventually. He noted one in six people in town currently have no internet option, and this is a major swing into giving people equal footing.

Jay said there will be info in the Town Report. He will also be doing a signing for publicity which hopefully Christine will cover. Adam reminded this did not come out of taxes. Linda reminded the library has internet access. Adam said the unserved can get connected as part of this grant. John brought up those without high speed internet.

- b. Green Space – None.
- c. Sestercentennial

Argy said the committee is amazing and really kicking in. She said beard contest signs are everywhere thanks to Cindy. Martha has been working hard on t-shirts and hats. They are moving toward signs for the roads as well as signs that will go in all the businesses.

She said hot off the press, thanks to the board Janice (Linscott) was selected parade grand marshal. They went to her house and took pictures. Her face in that one picture is exactly what she looked like, totally shocked. It’s in the Pen Bay Pilot and has been sent to local newspapers. Janice will ride in a convertible. There are four generations in that family now, so they are thinking about do we include everybody. She has Bob’s old tractor that will be in the parade, and another tractor that was Bob’s.

She said Michael started work on the bandstand. The lattice is being replaced first. He took the old lattice off. It was damp under there so he’s letting it dry out before starting to install. He actually made the lattice instead of purchasing it, so hopefully it will hold up longer. He has started to scrape it and found some rotten spots that he’ll replace. One of the benches is borderline, so he’ll replace that as well. They’ve picked out a nice green, a little darker, for the trim. He will work through this week then has another job, so he’ll be back to do the roof later on, but it will be far enough along so Stephanie can start working with the plants. They will meet in the morning and pick a spot for the birdhouse that will go in the flowerbed as well.

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They will try to get the people together who've contributed to the bandstand on Saturday morning and do a photo. Our big contributor is Tidewater, also Hammond Lumber. Jody Wentworth and Lanny will take a close look at the post and ball up top. They think the ball is rotten but the post is in good shape. Adam confirmed this is the spire up on top.

Argy showed the board pictures of the coin on order, arriving in the next week. They will do pop-ups around town to start selling hats, t-shirts, and coins. They have reached out to the Farmers' Market that's hopefully going to happen in the blueberry building.

She said the play happens on the 30th at 1:30 p.m. The contra dance is on May 7 at 6:00 p.m., all invited.

She said they had a long discussion at the historical society and at last night's committee about the map, first installed in '68, redone in '82, and hasn't been touched other than Greg redoing the frame seven years ago. She went there yesterday morning with Frank from the historical society and found the map will lift right off really easily and is only held by two screws at the top. The historical society would like to put the old map in the Old Town House and preserve it.

Argy showed an existing picture of the map and a newer picture of what it can look like. She said the back side will be a combination of an image and historical information about the birdhouse, the Civil War monument, everything on the Common and also the items that were around the Common in earlier days such as the sanitorium where the post office is now, Gordon's market, Goff's store, etc. She said they are working closely with Kurt Snyder who does stone work and will donate the granite and help install it as well. Andy White is a fabricator working closely with the committee on the design, and the artist, and kind of engineering all the parts we need. He will work with Kurt to install it.

She said they are suggesting the map be moved back to a little rise opposite the electrical box, maybe 10 yards from that, and repositioned so it's facing more at an angle to Seven Tree Pond so the sun won't beat down on it.

Adam said he assumed they would come to the board to donate the old map to the historical society, and for permission to replace it with this new unit once it's all designed and laid out. Argy said they are at that place and have to push go or exit. In answer to Adam, Argy said it will cost \$10,000 if they do both sides or \$5,000 if they do one side. They don't have the total funds yet, but with the support of the historical society and last night's committee vote (not unanimous), they want us to move forward. Wayne suggested putting it on the agenda for next meeting.

In answer to Adam's concern about potentially having no map depending on funding, Argy said they would not take the map down until everything is ready to

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put in place. She added they are waiting to hear from Ben Ames Williams' family who has committed to give something. Jay agreed it should be put on the agenda, as did Martha. Martha also wanted to make sure the one-side option was clear.

Discussion included: only budgetary concerns can be discussed at the budget meeting; the property on the Common is the sole responsibility of this board, so any changes need permission from the board; and it should go on the agenda.

Adam said they approved the tree that Vick is buying back in the fall. Argy said they were also looking to plant an elm to represent the original trees on the Common, which has been in their budget, and they have almost all the funding.

Adam got board consensus for putting both the new sign (map) and the new tree on next meeting's agenda (May 7).

Argy said both trees have been ordered and arrive at the end of April. She said all the details of digging the hole, etc. have been underway for awhile. Matt has been part of that conversation, and Farley as that's where they bought the trees from. She apologized for not realizing that needed to be a separate item. She said there haven't been elms on the Common for many years because they all died with the plague. Originally the Common was only elms. Adam confirmed there wasn't a stump or anything being replaced. Argy said in celebration of the Sestercentennial they were honoring that history and planting an elm tree that would represent all those original trees. Jay said he did not realize they were talking about two trees.

Because the elm could die before they get it in the ground, Wayne said he had no issues voting on that tonight in answer to Adam, but agreed with Martha that people should know what's going on rather than see a bunch of trees show up.

Consensus was vote on the tree tonight, and the map on the next agenda.

Argy said the committee recommends the tree be lined up with the last two trees at the farthest end closest to the road. It still leaves that large space open where traditionally the kids on the Common thought of it as their front yard and their back yard. She said it's actually very close to where one was cut down.

Motion to allow them to plant the new elm where the old elm was by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Jim Justice
5-0

In answer to Jay, Argy said Tom was not on the Common when they picked the location. Tomorrow she meets Matt there. Jay wanted to make sure Tom was involved as Matt is leaving. Argy said the agreement was the town would dig the hole, then Tom's crew would come set and plant the tree. She said the town is

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responsible to call Dig Safe. Adam confirmed Matt has talked through the elm and the pine.

Argy asked if they need to vote on the birdhouse to go in the garden around the bandstand, the idea being the post would be set, and the birdhouse would be ceremoniously set during the opening or closing ceremony. Martha confirmed it says “Welcome to Union” on one side and “Come Again” on the other. Adam said they never had a motion for any of the other birdhouses on the streets, but technically those are street signs.

Motion that they throw the birdhouse up by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd by: Linda Mountainland

Adam confirmed the birdhouse would go next to the bandstand, in the garden, part of the refresh, and about welcoming people to our community Argy added.

Above motion passed,
5-0

John Mountainland reminded about Dig Safe.

Adam and Argy further discussed the map plan. It will be very similar to the current/old one, but Argy said it may say, “You are here.” They may take Donna Morine’s name off as she did not do the original. If the artist signs, it will be a small signature. The back side will honor those who did the original map as well as Donna. Argy said they also talked about Common signage down the road, noting if we do the back side of the map it will include all that information so they won’t need to put signs all over the Common which some are concerned about.

Greg confirmed they are working with Stephanie on the bandstand.

Argy said they discussed the Civil War monument with Matt and Tom – it looks sad and needs to be cleaned. Linda got information on a cleaner and will bring it to the next meeting. Argy said they are volunteering. Linda said she didn’t mind doing it.

Argy said they talked with Matt about it as they understood the town crew is not allowed to go higher than 8’. She asked how they get to the top of the monument. Wayne said a manlift. Adam said they don’t have the gear or the lift. Martha said the solution that Tracy found from Brooks Monuments was non-toxic. Argy said they also reached out to the courts re: people doing restitution. Jay thought a class was needed for that. Adam noted community service is a whole different animal than the work farm. Linda said she will talk to Brooks about the solution and ideas about how to get the monument cleaned. Argy said Tracy has the info but is away, and Brooks said no pressure washer.

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- d. Ambulance Advisory – None.
- e. Thompson Working Group

Jay said they will set up a meeting.

12. Select Board Report:

Wayne said as a taxpayer he will donate a manlift for a day. In answer to Adam, John said the monument is probably close to 20' high.

Martha said the Chamber's annual dinner is on April 25 at the Masonic Lodge, \$25 per person. Don Carrigan will speak. There will be the usual awards, etc.

13. Adjourn:

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary