

MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:30 p.m.**

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

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Kathleen Thornton, Clairlynn Rountree, Heather Jackson, Greg Grotton, Josh White, Annette Nagel, John Gibbons, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, January 17, 2023:**

Motion by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

- 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, February 7, 2023:**

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

- 6. Presentation from the Green Space Committee:**

Chair Kathleen Thornton delivered an update on what they've been working on re: the Coggins Hill property using a projector. Background included it contains the highest elevation in Union, is about 23 acres, 2/3 roughly in blueberries and 1/3 forest. The committee's mission: research ways to protect the property from development, allow informal public access, and maintain the blueberry production.

Re: methodology, she said they searched documents, met with land trust representatives, surveyed individuals and municipalities who have worked with land trusts, contacted state and federal agencies, sent out a survey on easements with local land trusts, and spoke with attorneys. She thanked helpful individuals. All info is available via google drive link on the town website's Green Space Committee page.

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She explained deed restrictions and third-party easements. Many things need to be done prior to either: verify boundaries and access from Coggins Hill Road (done, Landmark survey); determine restrictions (the minimum has been recommended. Language is important (consider blueberry fields, possible easement exemption(s)). Other issues include: if lease, what do we do with money from the lease, and a possible management plan (trail, leash dogs or not, wooded portion, etc.) which would be a separate document. In answer to Adam, she said the management plan would be a town document that we could update every five years.

The committee would like more community input and have been discussing how to get it without spending money.

She clarified the differences between a deed restriction and a third-party easement and took questions. She discussed changes, levels of protection, and what rights if any the town would give up. The committee, a group, and individuals are willing to raise funds; this needs to be further discussed. She went over next steps with both options (deed restrictions, third-party easements). ROWs were discussed.

Adam suggested the next step is public input. He praised the committee and their work. Cost-effective options for getting public input were discussed: town website, nonprofit who has Survey Monkey or similar, and Josh White suggested local email chains. Wayne said as a business owner he will help any way he can, and thanked Kathleen. Martha raised the issue of residents who are not online. Jay will attend a Green Space Committee meeting. More suggestions for getting public input included: printed survey at the town office publicized in newspapers and on WRFR; local email chains; Jay will check Survey Monkey cost; school newsletter.

The committee will keep researching both options. Martha added her thanks for the committee's work and for Kathleen's clear presentation.

7. Discussion and vote to continue planning the EV station:

Jay said if successful on the Efficiency Maine grant, the cost for a double charger would be just a little over \$2000. Location would be on the Common. In answer to Adam, he said it would be a level two charger. In answer to Martha, he said he believes you can't put them in a private business; they have to be in a public space. In answer to Adam, Jay said we don't have to take the grant. Discussion ensued.

Wayne was going to make a motion. Adam let discussion continue.

Jim wanted to move the question. Wayne seconded. Bill said there should be motion on moving the question. Bill said what was the question. Jim said yes or no, whether we want it. Bill said discussion is supposed to be on moving the question if it was seconded as a point of order. Martha wanted clarification, move the question with no motion.

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Adam said we don't have a motion on the floor.

Motion to vote yes or no whether we want it by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

In answer to Martha, Jim said his motion was to move the question to vote yes or no whether we want it or not.

In answer to Adam, no one on the board was against Jay continuing to look into this. He added we don't need a motion, Jay is just looking for direction. He confirmed this consensus was what Jay needed.

8. Statement of Interest Forms, for various committees:

Jay said two for Sestercentennial and one for TCC working group with MCOG were in their packets. As he said in notes, he does not recommend another working group member as that first phase is pretty much done.

Motion to not accept anyone on MCOG by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

4-0-1 abstention (Johnston-Nash)

Motion to accept Sestercentennial applications for John Loker and Ruth Ann Wiemer

by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

9. Discussion and vote to begin fundraising for new park benches:

Jay recapped and showed illustrations with his recommendation. In answer to Wayne, Jay confirmed these can be purchased for memorials. In answer to Adam, Jay said Public Works will set them.

Motion to move forward with Jay's selection of those two by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bill suggested we refer to the historical society as to how many benches.

Number TBD following research.

Amended motion to move forward with having Jay price out the benches shown and to look at how to sell plaques to fundraise, with the total number of benches to be discussed considering historical precedent by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

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10. Discussion and vote to apply for Pullen funding for Tennis/Basketball court reconstruction:

Jay recapped. Companies are out straight. In his experience with the Pullen Fund, they probably will not approve the total amount. Bill favored holding off and suggested in spring highway taking out the culvert between the basketball court and the tennis court. Discussion followed.

Motion to apply for the William Pullen Fund to rebuild the tennis and the basketball courts for reconstruction by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

5-0

11. Town Manager's Report:

Jay reminded next Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. will be an executive session with MCOG. At 6:30 p.m. will be a workshop with Exiro Minerals.

He's included MMA legislative bulletins in emails, urged the board not to wait with opinions/ideas, and brought up the enormous number of bills with hearings every Friday.

12. Other Business:

Martha asked about the apparent TCC break-in. Jay said it's in the hands of the police and, in answer to Bill, the building is secure.

13. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said the initial review of applications has been completed inside MCA. Announcement date for awards is February 27.

b. Aging in Place in Union – None.

c. Green Space – Above.

d. Sestercentennial

Martha said they meet next week and look forward to new members. They are planning events. Argy is pushing to do a longer work session to look more in depth at activities and working toward town budget.

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e. Ambulance Advisory

Heather Jackson said the met at the end of January. Kevin McGinnis gave them a good presentation. They decided to vote on an option: budget for a full-time person (paramedic) to add some stability. They meet next Wednesday night with Washington select board and their budget committee. Jay said it's how committees should work: everyone said their piece and came to a consensus; they are all going back to promote it in their communities.

14. Select Board Reports:

Bill said next door is closed up but not really abandoned. He thinks Abe could be the contact person.

Wayne brought up the tarmac getting really bad outside the fire station, where the two drains are. He also mentioned the lock on the door at the fire station as well as the lights, which Jay addressed in an email.

Adam will not be at the next meeting, which Jim will run.

15. Future Agenda Requests:

Jim would like to have a lighted sign outside, with discussion of a new sign on the agenda.

Adam brought up the structural review update from the engineering study on the walls for the brick building if anybody wants to see it.

16. Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary