

Select Board Sidelines

January 27, 2021

Submitted by Bill Lombardi

The Select Board would like to extend a warm welcome to our two newest members to Town Committees! Erik Durbas has volunteered to be part of Aging in Place and Rachel Burns to be part of the Broadband Committee. Thank you both for your willingness to be of service. We look forward to your contributions.

At the last Select Board meeting it was agreed that we would establish a committee to address the “Future of the Thompson Community Center”. The initial objective of this committee will be to open a communication path between the Town and the Director and Board of the TCC. Although these are Town owned buildings, the lease gives certain rights and obligations to an independent Board that runs the TCC. It is important that the Town and the TCC Board have clear communication.

Some excellent work was done at the large group meeting at the TCC where many ideas were put forth as to the utilization of this very important Town asset. A further goal of the “future” committee would be to create and implement a fuller utilization of the TCC for the benefit of the people of Union.

The committee will consist of seven participants. The plan is to decide on committee members at the next Select Board meeting on February 2. If you are interested in becoming a member, a “Statement of Interest” form needs to be submitted to the Town Manager. This form can be found on the Town website, click on the Government tab, scroll to “Boards & Committees” and then to the bottom where you will find the “Statement of Interest Form” or ask at the Town Office.

We hope to generate expanded possibilities for the Thompson Community Center by working together.

For those that participated in the last Board meeting, you heard a discussion on the proposed substantial increase in Ambulance billing rates. This proposal was tabled with the request for additional information. Subsequently, we learned that a new law, LD2105, will cap rates by October of this year. This issue will be reviewed before/if any rate increase takes place.

Some may have noticed that we call this email the “Select Board” Sidelines rather than the “Board of Selectmen” Sidelines. Officially, and in all town documents we are the “Board of Selectmen”. We would like to use the more inclusive term, “Select Board”. It would be an expense and time consuming to change all Town documents to make this change. Other towns have addressed this issue by passing a statement that reads something to the effect that when we call ourselves the “Select Board” we also mean the “Board of Selectmen”. I don’t have the precise legal language on this and will rely on our Town Manager to utilize what other towns have done to make this change. A vote on this is expected at the next “Select Board” meeting.