

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017
6:30 P.M.**

APPROVED

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Ballantine, Brown, Howell, Kavanagh

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Chief Clarke, Deputy Chief LeBlanc, Carolyn Carey, Sheila House, Heinz Proft, Eric Beebe, Brendan O'Reilly, John Mahan, Amanda Cousart, Peg Rose, Brooke Canada, David Spitz, Tina Games, Wayne Stone, Carol Kucha-Stone, and others.

Vice-Chairman Kavanagh opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

WEEKLY BRIEFING

Ms. Carey discussed upcoming activities at the Community Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Accept the proceeds from the Irish Pub Road Race for the Harwich Fire Department

Deputy Chief LeBlanc accepted a donation in the amount of \$500 for the Harwich Ambulance Fund from Brendan O'Reilly of the Irish Pub. Deputy Chief LeBlanc stated that Mr. O'Reilly is a true partner of the community and they appreciate the support from the road race and what it means to this community. Mr. O'Reilly noted that next year will be the 40 year of the road race and the Board thanked him for his continued support.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes – October 16, 2017 Regular Session
- B. Approve the application for the Irish Pub Road Race for August 4, 2018
- C. Vote to re-sign Ginger Plum Lane Betterment for recording
- D. Approve appointments to:
 - 1. Karen Young - Cemetery Commission (full member) term to expire June 30, 2019
 - 2. Stan Pastuszek - Conservation Commission (full member) term to expire June 30, 2020
 - 3. Walter Diggs – Conservation Commission (associate) term to expire June 30, 2020
 - 4. Noreen Donahue – Wastewater Support Committee – term to expire June 30, 2020
 - 5. Sharon Pflieger - Wastewater Support Committee – term to expire June 30, 2020

Mr. Ballantine moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS *(Not earlier than 6:30 P.M.)*

A. Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance – Support for Midwater Trawl Buffer Zone

Amanda Cousart, Policy Analyst and Community Organizer for the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance discussed the ramifications of the targeting of ocean herring by midwater trawls and asked the Board to send a letter of support to the New England Fishery Management Council for the creation of a buffer zone that would exclude trawlers from the waters around Cape Cod. Heinz Proft, Natural Resources Director, provided historical perspective information on river herring noting that Harwich has been in the forefront of herring migration and maintenance. He stated that the Town has spent a lot of time, manpower and energy to protect these fish but we can't do much once we get miles off of Harwich other than support this letter, which he said can only benefit the river herring. Mr. Ballantine moved we support the proposed buffer and sign the letter and send it. Ms. Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Annual Meetings with the Selectmen:

1. Cultural Council

Ms. Games, Chair, provided the annual report of the Cultural Council and took questions and comments from the Board.

2. Brooks Academy Museum Commission

Mr. Spitz, Chair, provided the annual report of the Brooks Academy Museum Commission and took questions and comments from the Board. Per Mr. Ballantine's request, Mr. Clark said he would look into the transfer of ownership of the Crowell Barn. Ms. Rose spoke of the upcoming Christmas exhibit.

3. Youth Services Committee

Ms. Canada, Co-Chair, provided the annual report of the Youth Services Committee and took questions and comments from the Board. Ms. House, Youth Counselor, took questions from the Board as well.

4. Recreation and Youth Committee

Mr. Mahan, Chair, provided the annual report of the Recreation and Youth Committee and took questions and comments from the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Compact IT Grant – discussion

Vice-Chairman Kavanagh said it looks like there are some great opportunities for grants in the area of IT and noted that the Board had discussed the need for technology improvements. Mr. Clark pointed out that we are already in competition on the Community Compact grant and that we are part of the application which has been submitted for the three towns of Dennis, Harwich and Yarmouth for about \$200,000. Mr. Ballantine suggested exploring hiring a grant writer with the neighboring towns. He also said it would be worthwhile having all Boards have electronic packets. Vice-Chairman Kavanagh said we need to look seriously at these grants as there is a multitude of them. She said we should put this on the agenda for further discussion when the Chair returns.

B. Cape Cod Compact Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

Vice-Chairman Kavanagh noted that the changes to the agreement are slight and this is just to bring it to the attention of the public. Mr. Howell commented that he found it amusing that they deleted the word “municipal” and entered the word “county” and the reality is that we are municipalities that are constituent members. Mr. Ballantine pointed out that it discusses the County’s limited role in the process but toward the end of the document it gives them voting powers so it isn’t consistent in that regard. Mr. Clark stated that the representative can bring the Board’s comments back.

C. Committee Absences – discussion

Vice-Chairman Kavanagh noted that they are all liaisons to committees and know that there have been issues with committee absences. Mr. Howell indicated that they have to apply the rules consistently and cautioned that you can’t pick and choose who you want to see taken off and Mr. Ballantine agreed. Mr. Ballantine said we should ensure that people understand how to use remote participation. Vice-Chairman Kavanagh indicated that the liaisons should monitor for attendance issues and Mr. Howell pointed out that it is easy to look at the minutes to see who is attending.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Trails Committee Membership – recommendation to disband committee and make members Conservation volunteers

Mr. Clark suggested changing the role of the Trails Committee and have them be more formal volunteers as their work is on the ground walking the trails, helping to maintain them, and providing feedback when trails are in need of additional repair. He noted that the Chairman has already spoken to the Conservation Agent and she is agreeable to having them report back to her. He questioned if we need the bureaucratic element of having the meetings and taking minutes. He said transitioning them to volunteers makes more sense. Mr. Howell pointed out that this committee was a construct of the Board of Selectmen and would only require a vote of the Board to disband. Ms. Brown said she attended the last meeting of the Trails Committee which she commented was a “non-meeting” because there was no quorum and it seems like the members are more concerned with the trails themselves than the bureaucratic atmosphere. Mr. Ballantine said he would like to make sure the Trails Committee is in favor of it as well. Mr. Stone, Chair, said this committee has been around for a long time and there were a lot of people before him who put in serious effort. He commented that he doesn’t want to see this committee fall apart because the

Board has a wrong idea of what they do. He noted that they still have other agendas they try to promote besides cleaning up and the Conservation Commission is overburdened. He requested that they be allowed to have their next monthly meeting to see what everyone feels and asked that Ms. Brown attend. Ms. Brown said she felt that at the “non-meeting” the members wanted to simply be volunteers and she made note of other issues including that we don’t know how many members there are supposed to be, they haven’t been able to get a quorum, and one meeting shouldn’t have been held as Mr. Stone wasn’t sworn in. Mr. Ballantine indicated that he would like to hold off and let them have a discussion. Mr. Stone stated that Ms. Brown was supposed to look into changing the number of members. Ms. Brown moved to disband the Trails Committee and allow it to become a group of volunteers working under the direction of Amy Usowski, Conservation Director. Mr. Howell seconded the motion for the purposes of discussion. He pointed out that Ms. Brown does not have authority to change the number of members. He stated that they were originally there to identify trails and somewhere along the line it became more aggressive as to what they were doing with regard to this. He stated that there are a whole bunch of things that need to be fixed including examining the charge to keep it focused on what we want it to be as opposed to what it has become. Ms. Brown read the charge aloud. The motion carried by a 3-1-0 vote with Mr. Ballantine in opposition. Mrs. Stone asked to speak and was denied by Vice-Chairman Kavanagh.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- A. Status report on Cold Brook and survey/design work on Pleasant Bay South watershed collection design

Mr. Clark reported that we are still in discussions with the Harwich Conservation Trust and they have people that work for the state and other consultants that are looking at how to configure this for the environmental considerations and our consultants are looking at it for not only environmental considerations but for how we attain nitrogen attenuation in the system. He said they have been trying to get together to have those discussions and he added that survey work is still underway for Pleasant Bay South after which we will be doing a public meeting for people in the affected area.

- B. Dennis, Harwich, Yarmouth Community Partnership Wastewater Option

Mr. Clark reported that we expect to have legislation that the three towns will be putting together to formalize that they are authorized to form a regional entity to do wastewater and it will be a warrant article. He noted that there is a meeting coming up with the Commissioner to discuss alternatives if they don’t continue to make progress.

- C. Saquatucket Harbor Landside Contract Amendment #1

Mr. Clark reported that there were costs associated with the update in terms of doing the helical coils as opposed the pilings but the 15% overhead charge was waived.

- D. Capital Outlay Plan Summary update

Mr. Clark noted that per the request of the CPC, he will be prioritizing the Town requests by category (Recreation, Housing, Open Space, and Historic). He said he will look at other potential funding sources for projects not approved by CPC including Hinckley's Pond. Mr. Howell commented that they lack any discernable criteria for how they evaluate these things and last year they were referring projects to Town committees for a vote. He suggested that they vote a process which should be posted on the website. He stressed that this is taxpayer money and pointed out that when the Town was asking for money last year they weren't treated particularly well and he couldn't find anything that said what the rules were. Mr. Ballantine stated that he wanted to be careful that the objectives are not too black and white and suggested broadening the concepts. He noted that in the past they were against doing any water structural repair even though you can relate that to recreation and other towns have. He commented that we need broad objectives and the key is transparency and having guidelines. Mr. Howell responded that it's not about black and white but rather the absence of any sort of criteria being articulated.

Mr. Clark reported that we have a very favorable free cash number and he will do an overview as to how he recommends we allocate that.

There was a discussion about the ownership of the ballfields behind the former Middle School and Mr. Clark indicated that drawings would be forthcoming. Ms. Kavanagh urged that there be an existing conditions plan for what has been turned back over to the Town. Mr. Howell stressed that the fields are here to service the Community.

E. Departmental Weekly Reports

No action was taken on this item.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

A. Budget Warrant Timeline updated

Mr. Clark reported that March 3rd is the new date for full day budget reviews.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ballantine moved to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Ms. Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Steidel
Recording Secretary

Related Documents - October 30, 2017 BOS Meeting

- 01 Agenda.pdf
- 02 Minutes - October 16.pdf
- 03 Irish Pub Road Race.pdf
- 04 Ginger Plum Lane Betterment.pdf
- 05 Appointments.pdf
- 06 Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance.pdf
- 07 Annual Mtg - Cultural Council.pdf
- 08 Annual Mtg - Brooks Academy Museum Commission.pdf
- 09 Annual Mtg - Harwich Youth Services Committee.pdf
- 10 Annual Mtg - Recreation and Youth.pdf
- 11 Community Compact IT Grant.pdf
- 12 Cape Light Compact Joint Powers Agreement.pdf
- 13 Status Report from CDM Smith.pdf
- 14 Dennis Harwich Yarmouth Community Partnership Wastewater Option.pdf
- 15 Saquatucket Landside Contract Amendment #1.pdf
- 16 Capital Outlay Summary Update.pdf
- 17 Departmental Weekly Reports.pdf
- 18 Budget Warrant Timeline - updated.pdf