Selectmen's Discussions and Decisions
May 1, 2014

Selectmen present: Tom Hohn, John Norton, and Marie Harmon

1. Selectmen authorized the warrant for Town Meeting.

2. Discussed the spring roadwork.

   In a meeting with representatives from Seabreeze Property Services, Inc., the road maintenance contractor explained their process for maintaining the dirt and gravel roads:

   > The method that Seabreeze employs involves adding less new gravel to the road during shimming and grading operations then compacting road with a seven-ton vibrating roller, which is a new step for our roads. This process uses less new gravel and produces a much firmer road surface that should resist water damage and pothole formation longer throughout the year.

   The Board of Selectmen have also arranged, with assistance from Municipal Resources, Inc., to have the former New Hampshire DOT commissioner and engineer come and inspect the roads to help plan future road maintenance and CIPs.

3. Met with Brenda Singo to discuss the Town Clerk and Tax Collector job descriptions.

4. Met with Ralph Sweet to discuss long-term cemetery planning

   Ralph has been looking at areas on the island that would be suitable for a new cemetery.

   There are two possible locations that Ralph identified:

   > The first is part of the 4-acre parcel of land owned by the Town on Island Ave. This site would need some site work before it can be used as a cemetery.
   >
   > Another choice would be a parcel of land within the Conservation Area south of 4-acre Town parcel. This land could be used without significant site work and has excellent access. Ralph is in conversations with LICLOC and LICA about the possibility of using this land for funerary purposes.

5. Met with the Town Treasurer concerning a post-issuance bond policy.

The Town is required to adopt a post-issuance bond policy after being awarded a municipal bond. This will require the Town Treasurer to be the Compliance Officer for the Bond.

6. Discussed spending with the Town Treasurer.

   In the spring, Town budgets traditionally become tight – particularly this year, when the Town has experienced a very harsh winter with higher than forecast plowing and ice control events, resulting in higher costs in addition to the unexpected legal fees expended to retrieve Town records. Total Town spending for FY14 is forecasted to be within budget and combined public works spending should be within budget. Contingency funds are sufficient to cover legal fees that exceed budgeted levels.

7. Selectmen discussed the election process at Town Meeting

   Residents have expressed interest in Selectboard candidates declaring candidacy prior to Town Meeting. This could potentially require changing the process by which municipal officials are elected at Town Meeting from a written ballot to a secret ballot process.

      A secret or "candidate" ballot process would be similar to a referendum vote. This would increase the structure of the election process, controls and costs, and decrease flexibility. A secret ballot process would also involve the issuance of absentee ballots at least 45 days prior to the election. This process would limit the opportunity to run for many residents.

8. Selectman Harmon met with the Parking Lot Attendant to discuss increased monitoring of the municipal parking lot for violations

   There will be more vigilant enforcement of parking regulations year-round of the parking lot starting May 2, 2014.

9. Discussed the status of the Order of Protection issued for the hard drive and documents concerning the Road Commissioner and Solid Waste Director records.

   As of March 20, 2014, the hard drive and other materials had not been returned to Town Counsel as requested in the Order of Protection, but an extension had been granted by the Board of Selectmen, so that Mr. Clarke could return the requested documents without being held in contempt of court.

   The extension has given Mr. Clarke until Monday, May 5, 2014 to return the hard drive, documents, and indicate to whom he had given the original hard drive immediately prior to its disappearance, or else he may be held in contempt of court.

10. Selectman Norton made a motion to accept the minutes from 4/27/14

    Motion 2nd by Selectman Harmon
    3-0 motion passed

11. Selectman Norton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

    Motion 2nd by Selectman Harmon
    3-0 motion passed

Erin Crowley – Deputy Minute Recorder