

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, September 16, 2020, 5:30 p.m, via Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Conservation Commissioners Steve Fiske and Annie Reed; Visitors Betsy Brigham, Melissa Seifert, Art Gilman

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Village Water, Catering Permits, Recreation Field

**Public Comment:** none

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** The Board approved the minutes of August 18 and September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** Steve Fiske explained that there is a collaboration going on between the Conservation Commission and the Community Garden folks regarding edible plantings at the Old Schoolhouse Common. He has prepared a 5-year planting plan. He explained that they would like to plant chestnuts this year. He would like the Selectboard to ask the road crew to brushhog an area. There would be a planting workshop with Nikko Rubin on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The project is a collaboration between Nikko, the Conservation Commission, and the Library.

Betsy spoke about the community garden. They expanded the size of the garden this year. They grew food for the food shelf. They envision pick-your-own crops and they would like to provide food for the community supper when those start again. They would like to put in perennial vegetables adjacent to the beds that are there. They would like to do a website and link it to the town gardens. The board approves. Steve and Melissa met with plumber Paul Bishop to talk about possibilities for water at the site. The best option would be a pipe under the driveway, attached to the faucet on the side of the building, with a spigot at the garden site. Another option is to put a water tank near the garden and fill it occasionally.

**Emerald Ash Borer:** Annie asked whether the Board wants to go ahead with the grant or just leave things as they are for now. If they want to apply, the Conservation Commission will fill out the grant application but the Selectboard has to make decisions about what they want to do for management. The management decisions have to be made before they can apply. What the grant will pay for depends on what the Selectboard wants to do. The grant applications are due October 30. The Conservation Commission has finished the inventory of roadside ash trees. The grant might pay for some inoculation if there were trees that the town wanted to save, but we don't have any shade trees in the village. Another option is to just let the trees fall. Annie asked the Board to read the application and discuss it, and let the Conservation Commission know their decisions. The Conservation Commission is not going to make a recommendation. Annie stated that we have very little if any Emerald Ash Borer activity at this time. Art Gilman feels that the Board could let it go for a year and reassess, because although there are a lot of ash trees, there are not a lot of large ones and they are not likely to fall all at once. They are more likely to fall a limb at a time.

He indicated that the tree warden has responsibility for roadside trees. The Board noted that we do not have a tree warden at this time. The Board decided not to apply for the grant this year, and see what next year brings.

**Village Water System:** Art came to talk to the Board about a water issue. The Road Crew placed 6 to 8' of fill material at the homeowner's request. He thinks they broke the standpipe that provides water to that house. The Village is now pumping an extra 20,000 gallons of water per day. It is an expense to the village and also dangerous because they need to be able to provide water to houses beyond that house. They need to have the fill removed so that the water line can be fixed. It will require the removal of a great deal of fill so that it does not involve working in a deep ditch. Art explained that the homeowner should have known that the Village has an easement for the water line and they should know place fill in the easement. They are asking the Town to authorize the Road Crew to remove the fill.

Chris stated that he feels that the Road Crew can remove the material down to the level that it was before. He does not want the Road Crew to be responsible for anything that would require a trench box.

The Board recessed until after the Board of Abatement meeting

The Board returned to the Selectboard meeting at 8:00.

**Catering Permits:** The Board approved the catering permit for additional drive-in movies and authorized Bobbi to approve in the future.

**Errors & Omissions:** Rich moved to approve a change to the grand list to remove Comcast, and authorize Bobbi to sign on their behalf. They no longer have equipment in Marshfield. Laurie second – all in favor.

**Social Security:** Employers have the option to reduce the amount of Social Security withheld from employees for the remainder of this year; however, the employees would have to repay it next year. The Board thinks this is a bad idea because they don't know what the actual tax implications will be for the employees next year.

**Recreation Field:** The Board received a request to use the baseball field at the Old Schoolhouse Common. The Board has no objections.

**Grants:** The Town received a Digitization grant in the amount of \$24,737.68. Bobbi has applied for reimbursement of COVID-related expenses. Notification of that grant should be this week. The Town needs to issue an RFP for updating the Town's hazardous mitigation plan. Bobbi hopes to have proposals by the second meeting in October. A grant from the Secretary of State's Office will be used to pay for the new mail slot that has been installed.

**Recycling:** Chris is working with trash haulers to investigate possibilities for having trash pickup

and/or a recycling drop off point in Marshfield. Cabot has asked the Town to pay a portion of the costs of operating the Cabot recycling facility. The Board feels that rather than having all Marshfield residents pay for their facility through their taxes, Cabot should charge individuals who are using the facility, because it is not clear how many Marshfield residents are actually using the facility since so many Marshfield residents have curbside trash pickup.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll and authorized Rich to sign on behalf of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the September 16, 2020 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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