

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

June 5, 2023

Attending: N. Waring, C. Drake-Tremblay, D. Murphy, G. Kravitz

Others: S. Snyder, N. Pick, J. Unkles, J. Corwin, M. MacMunn, C. Bennett

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:31PM

MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 05/22/2023, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION from MARION MACMUNN. Private event will be at the Sunderland Town Park on June 11, 2023 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM. No concerns were expressed by the Board of Health, Building Commissioner, Fire Chief and Police Chief. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to grant One-day Liquor License to Marion MacMunn for June 11, 2023 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.
- COMMUNITY PATHWAYS COMMITTEE update presented by Sara Snyder. Ms. Snyder noted the Committee has reached its goals since beginning 10 years ago. She offered the following: dissolve the committee in its current form and recommendations organization of a Parks and Recreation type group be formed which would provide oversight and coordination of all activities. Recommends the town earmark building maintenance funds for the budget as it is on the town to maintain the park, etc. Volunteers have been doing basic maintenance and the town should coordinate efforts. Committee has had a 10-year partnership with Dave Sagan of USFWS for knotweed management and permits need to be secured for continuation. School Street sidewalks are a high priority to complete because their current state is not handicap accessible. The board noted that funds were given to the Village Center Committee (VCC) for a study to include School Street. Committee recommends a better connection between Mt. Toby and town center. The roads to Mt. Toby are falling apart and need to be maintained for accessibility. Ms. Pick shared new trail maps. Community Pathways Committee is passing the reigns to the Conservation Commission for continuation and oversight of this work. Ms. Snyder also feels a Mt. Toby Commission should be formed and include the riverwalk maintenance and invasives attention. The Board thanked the committee for their final report, service and years of commitment to this project. Mr. Kravitz noted he received compliments on the Riverwalk signage when he was attending an event in Amherst. Ms. Unkles noted that the Mt. Toby's road conditions contribute to flood and increased storm water which may allow us to qualify for MVP grants. Mr. Kravitz reported upon his research, the town was advised to remove the roads and restore the area to natural habitat. Ms. Snyder noted that Carlos did a lot of work on the project, especially the roads, and he would be a good resource to have a further discussion.
- Ms. Snyder also announced that WUNDERLAND at Sunderland Town Park will launch June 17, 2023 with a workshop for families. This will be another destination for folks to participate in and visit.
- Ms. Corwin noted she was supporting the RURAL SCHOOLS initiative that was submitted by REP. NATALIE BLAIS. If the bill passes, Union 38 schools would benefit. Ms. Corwin is asking for support and lobbying from the Board. She requested a letter of support be signed by the Selectboard and asked each member sign onto a larger letter from elected officials across the state. Mr. Waring asked Ms. Corwin to email all the information to Mr. Kravitz for distribution to board members.
- Mr. Kravitz announced that in December, the GOVERNOR SIGNED A SAFE PASSING ACT TO REDUCE FATALITIES REQUIRING MOTOR VEHICLES GIVE 4FT of DISTANCE WHEN PASSING BICYCLES ON ROADWAYS. MassDOT is giving free signs to assist motorists with this new law. Mr. Kravitz spoke with Police Chief and Highway Superintendent and recommend installation of two signs each on North and South of Rt 47, Silver Lane and Falls Road, which is where

most of the bicyclists travel. Recommends a vote from the Board to participate in program. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to participate in the Safe Passing program and signage from the state, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

- Mr. Waring spoke of the wonderful Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony the town had last week. Thank you to Jim for his efforts in coordinating the event.
- Ms. Drake-Tremblay noted the passing of long-time resident Jim Bielunis who was an educator, a long-time member of the Sunderland Fire Department and involved in a lot of town activities over the years. She requested a moment of silence to remember Jim.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Accounting RFP for FY24 is being advertised this week. Proposals are due June 26 at 12:00PM.
- A state employee who lives in town is asking to parking that vehicle at the PSC due to not being allowed to park at private residence. The Board requested the necessity for the request and why parking at residence is not allowed. Mr. Kravitz is working with the Chiefs to develop a policy to address the matter. He will offer the policy to the board for their next meeting.
- The SoCEMS Director resigned Friday. Ms. Drake Tremblay has been appointed as the Selectboard representative and former selectboard member, Tom Fydenkevez was interested in serving as a public member of the SoCEMS Board of Oversight. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to appoint Tom Fydenkevez as the Community Member of the SoCEMS Board of Oversight, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.
- Request from the highway Department to hire, Adam Coffin a seasonal laborer at \$15.25/hours. Mr. Coffin worked in Deerfield highway as a seasonal laborer last year. Mr. Waring motion to appoint Adam Coffin as a seasonal laborer at \$15.25/hour, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.
- Mr. Kravitz noted that an executive session will not be needed, as noted on the agenda.
- Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0 at 7:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator