

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

May 15, 2023

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

Others Present: J. Martin-Eversource, Library Director, K. Umstot, Mr. Zak

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM

### MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 05/08/2023, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

- 6:30PM - POLE HEARING: NSTAR/EVERSOURCE Re-Petition of hearing held a couple of months ago for additional poles on Rt. 47 and manhole on Ferry Rd. Surveying revealed property lines had not been properly identified. EVERSOURCE has returned with an updated plan. Highway Superintendent had no concerns regarding additional location and reported the utility has been forthcoming with onsite work notifications. Mr. Zak appeared with questions regarding proposed work noting he had not been aware of request previously. The new circuit will be under the road and not on anyone's property. Mr. Waring entertained a motion to accept revised plan from Eversource, Mr. Murphy so moved, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0. Pole Hearing closed at 6:35PM.
- KAYAK LENDING PROGRAM UPDATE: Ms. Umstot appeared to give update on the program that has been in process for over 5 years but will be in action very soon. Ms. Umstot thanked partners, Adventure East for donating kayaks, paddles, equipment and guidance to ensure safe implementation for library patrons. Three kayaks will be available; two singles and one tandem – all are sit-on style kayaks. A dry bag will be provided to renters with key for kiosk and equipment locker for their rental assignment. Adventure East also created a safety guide regarding weather and conditions. A map was developed with designated areas for different skill levels. Ms. Umstot recognized owner Brian Pearson at Adventure East and employees Brad Walker and Ami Jean-Aubin. Ms. Umstot recognized Mr. Kravitz assistance with construction of the kiosk, matters with town counsel and town insurance. Library Trustees have been supportive of this project as well as current and past selectboard members. Also, advisory members John Sackey, David Pierce and Gary Briere for their program vision. The Community Preservation Committee also supported funding to construct the kayak kiosk, Ray Mann and Naomi Darling and students at the UMASS School of Architecture that worked to design the kiosk. This has been a group effort and appreciate everyone's hard work on this project. We also worked with the Connecticut River Conservancy and Adventure East on an initial launch with a kayak safety class. In addition, three free training classes for patrons will be offered which will require registration for participation. We are finalizing the initial launch date with a reception at Adventure East to celebrate the kick-off. Patron renters must have a library card which includes identification information, and another form of ID with address will be required, which will be maintained for two weeks after the borrow period. Patron renters will also be required to complete two documents; 1) kayak loan policy and 2) sign-off form prepared and required by Town Counsel's Release of Liability of the Town of Sunderland and Library. Waterproof Rental bags will be returned via the drop box at the library. Library Patrons may borrow, free of charge, for three days which allows flexibility usage and not dependent on library hours for access during the rental period. Possession for the kayak is limited to the kiosk and Connecticut River. Carts are available for portability of kayaks to the river front. The kiosk can hold three kayaks and that would be the availability of rentals allowed. Mr. Kravitz thanked Ms. Umstot for her vision and securing funding. The town's contribution of the park grant, allowed sidewalks, etc. Riverside Park Grant allowed for the improvements to be implemented. This is not a risk-free activity and rental patrons need to be responsible for their actions and equipment. Staff will have the ability not to rent if weather or river conditions are not, etc. Currently they are not renting because of river conditions being too fast for beginners.

- JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY – The town-approved holiday schedule was amended to include Juneteenth last year, however the Police contract had not amended and the Selectboard opted to award the holiday to the Police contracted employees. FY24 is the final year of the Police contract ends June 30, 2024 and this matter can be addressed. Mr. Waring entertained a motion to give Police Contract employees Juneteenth off in addition to their current contracted holidays. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to allow the contracted Police employees to get Juneteenth holiday this year, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- SELECTBOARD and COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – at the last meeting Ms. Drake-Tremblay was appointed to the South County EMS Board of Oversight through June 30, 2023. Mr. Waring would like to have Ms. Drake-Tremblay appointed to SCoEMS Board of Oversight until June 30, 2023, Mr. Murphy second, vote 2-0. Remainder of appointments can be revisited when full compliment of reappointments are addressed for July 1, 2023.
- Mr. Waring thanked the Fire Department for their 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration which was enjoyed by many.
- South County Senior Center – Ms. Drake-Tremblay attended with Mr. Kravitz and nothing more was discussed. Letter of support for SCSC services was signed by the Selectboard. Mr. Murphy has nothing to report.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Met with Recreation Coordinator and recommend he attend the Selectboard meeting in the near future to discuss future programs at Riverside Park. Also discussed MEMORIAL DAY PARADE on May 26<sup>th</sup>. parade steps-off the Town Office Building at 6:00PM and proceeds to the Cemetery via S. Main St. and back. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place at the Elementary School.
- This Friday, at 2PM is the RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AT SANDERSON PLACE.
- Saturday is the LIBRARY BOOK AND PLANT SALE at the Library behind the Town Office Building.
- SELECTBOARD SUMMER SCHEDULE – tentative meeting dates proposed. Remote meetings are an option if anyone is away and schedule can be flexible as needed.

Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Waring second, vote 3-0 at 6:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator