

SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

December 11, 2023

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

Others: C. Bennett, Joe Carroll, Dani Eaton, Mike Tyrrell, Rahul Shah-National Grid, Kristen DeBoer-Kestrel Land Trust, C. Larabee-reporter

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 12/04/2023, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

- NATIONAL GRID ENERGY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PRESENTATION: Mr. Carroll gave overview and presentation of project. E5-F6 line runs through property involved. 29 new structures and wires for high tension power lines, including OPDW Optical Ground wires for lightening strike prevention will be added for Sunderland. 69Kv (voltage) is proposed but will be planning for future for 115Kv with no time line for that service level expected in the near future. Upon completion, the voltage will remain at 69Kv. Project will include management of vegetation within National Grid's right-of-way and easement, and will offer proactive community outreach. Structures will be 5' to 25' taller than existing structures.
- KESTREL LAND TRUST CONSERVATION RESTRICTION: Kristen DeBoer, Executive Director spoke about working to protect land on Mt. Toby. They currently have a donation of back land for conservation restriction. Land owner wishes to keep land in its forest condition forever. The state, land trust, land owner and town would all need to sign Conservation Restriction approval. Lot 28 is under 9 acres of property which is next to a wild-life management area and Robert Frost Trail. Conservation Chair Jennifer Unkles discussed this matter with the Board at their previous meeting. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept conservation restriction land as proposed, approve and sign CR, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0. The Board will sign the documents and have available for Ms. DeBoer tomorrow.
- PICKLEBALL COURT UPDATE: postponed
- 2024 COMMON VICTUALLER with ALCOHOL LICENSES: Mr. Kravitz read list of establishments that hold Common Victualler and §12 On Premise Alcohol Licenses. In addition, Common Victualler License renewal for SUBWAY. Mr. Murphy motion to approve 2024 COMMON VICTUALLER AND ALCOHOL LICENSES as presented, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0.
- FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT: Mr. Murphy agreed to accept appointment representing the town. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to appoint Mr. Murphy to FCSWD, Mr. Waring second, vote 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- 23 PLUMTREE ROAD: Continued discussion regarding the feasibility of purchasing this property. Costs for operation, use of property in addition to South County Senior Center interest, maintenance of facility and grounds, septic upgrades possible, purchase price affordability for town. Also consideration of repurposing current Town Office Building. Space study is recommended for 23 Plumtree Rd. Potential funding sources discussed including grants, etc. Property is listed for more than its assessed value and owner may not have interest in negotiating.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Waring had no reports. Ms. Drake-Tremblay noted final SoCEMS Chief interviews were conducted last week and they are in negotiations with their first-choice candidate. Mr. Murphy attended the SCSC Board of oversight where the discussion included 23 Plumtree Rd.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Bright Lights Over Sunderland will not be held this year due to continued decline in participation since beginning the event during COVID.
- ARPA REQUESTS: 1) \$5,000 to REPLACE AND REPAIR STREET LIGHTS to include moving light at cemetery road closer to the crosswalk. 2) Town applied for RISK MANAGEMENT GRANT from MIIA for CO2v Detector in PSC and a Trench Box for Highway Dept. MIIA awarded \$4,000 for the Trench Box which does not cover the full cost leaving \$4,100 needed. Request ARPA FUNDS approval for \$9,100 for REPAIR AND REPLACE STREET LIGHTS and TRENCH BOX. ARPA balance would be \$154,772. Mr. Murphy motion to approve \$9,100 from ARPA funds for STREET LIGHTS and TRENCH BOX, Ms. Drake-Tremblay second, vote 3-0.
- DEPARTMENT FY25 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS are scheduled through end of February and invitations to the Board to attend Budget hearings for SES March 4th and FRS March 12th. Waiting for confirmation from the Board of Health and Police Chief.

Next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0 at 7:43PM .

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,
Town Administrator