

Sunderland Selectboard Minutes  
Monday, June 29, 2020

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez, G. Kravitz  
Others present: J. Pelletier, L. Smith  
Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.  
Meeting called to order at 6:38PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to approve minutes of June 22, 2020, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

BUSINESS

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY: Ms. Smith stated that she set up a meeting in July with Allen Phillips, the new MEMA representative and that otherwise things have remained quiet.

NORTH MAIN STREET: Mr. Kravitz spoke with MassDOT who stated that removal of the tree in front of 134 North Main Street would require environmental and likely landscaping reviews, which would delay the project and could result in the loss of federal funding, so the tree will remain and the project will not be amended.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES APPOINTMENT: Mr. Fydenkevez motion to appoint Gale Mason to the Council on Aging, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

RIVERSIDE PARK CONSERVATION RESTRICTION: Mr. Bergeron motion to agree in principle to the conservation restriction for Riverside Park, pending review of the final document by Town Counsel, Mr. Fydenkevez second, vote 3-0.

MOWING CONTRACT: Mr. Kravitz recommended that the Selectboard extend the mowing contract for one year per the contract's terms. Mr. Fydenkevez motion to extend for one year, Mr. Bergeron second for discussion. Noted that members of the public have complained about the current mowing vendor. Discussion of the need to amend the contract and rebid in September. Aspects to be clarified include the areas to be mowed, the addition of maps of the areas and whether the contract can be amended to cover an entire mowing season, which spans fiscal years. It was also suggested that the Highway Superintendent be responsible for managing the mowing contract.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron stated that the second police contract negotiation meeting occurred on June 25. He noted that the tone and tenor of the conversations have been good, that the union brought forward reasonable proposals regarding education incentives, personal protective equipment, and private duty. There is no need to enter executive session at this point in the negotiations.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Kravitz stated that there is an online information session on the Community Choice Energy Aggregation program on Tuesday, June 30 at 7pm to go over the program and answer residents' questions. He also noted that the Fire Department provided mutual aid for the Leverett brush fire.

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to recess until the Sunderland Riverside Park Public Meeting at 7:30PM, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0. (See attached minutes)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fydenkevez motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM, Mr. Bergeron second, vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator

# TOWN OF SUNDERLAND

---



**Office of the Selectboard**  
**12 School Street, Sunderland, MA 01375**  
**PHONE: (413) 665-1441 Ext. 1**  
**FAX: (413) 665-1466**

## **Minutes from the Sunderland Riverside Park Public Meeting**

Location: Remote Participation (Zoom)  
Time: 7:30PM – 8:36PM

Selectboard Members Present: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez  
Others Present: G. Kravitz, S. Snyder, K. Hand, N. Pick, J. Unkles, L. Starr, R. Warner, H. Graves, Laura & Dan, Susan, Kim

The Town Administrator gave a brief overview of the reason for the public meeting, which was to determine the public's priorities for the next phase of development of Riverside Park. He reviewed the previous application, that Town Meeting had already authorized the application through approval of the related warrant article, and the CPA investments that were approved for the park. Mr. Kravitz also noted that the application is due July 15, and discussed the tentative timeline if Sunderland receives an award.

Ms. Snyder, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, stated that CPA funds for design of the next phase have been approved, as have the CPA funds to replace the existing baseball and recreation equipment sheds with a kayak kiosk. Ms. Hand, the Director of the Sunderland Public Library, discussed the library's desire to offer a kayak lending program and the need for kayak storage space, and the work with UMass students and faculty to design a facility that would incorporate kayak storage, shaded seating, and incorporate storage for baseball equipment. There will also be a replacement for the existing recreation shed that will match the aesthetic of the kayak kiosk.

The Town Administrator then reviewed the some of the ideas that were previously suggested and fit well with the PARC program goals, including creating an ADA-compliant sidewalk to connect to the river walk from School Street, modifying the restrooms for ADA compliance, and developing a well irrigation system for the soccer field.

The meeting was then opened for discussion, which included:

- The requirement that the land be permanently conserved.
- Whether features from the previous design, such as additional trees, benches, and playground equipment which had to be eliminated, would be included in this round. It was noted that previously an archaeological survey would have been required to include these elements and that the CPC provided funds should an archaeological survey be required this time. A play structure would be a significant investment due to pending rules about safe ground surfaces and the inability to relocate old equipment from the elementary school.
- The inclusion of additional trees and plantings was raised by several people. The plan will include more trees and there was discussion of the likelihood that trees could be donated.
- The question was raised about upgrades to the adjacent Veterans' Memorial, including irrigation and refreshed plantings, however the site of the memorial was outside the conserved park and therefore not eligible.
- The availability of water at the kayak kiosk came up. Ms. Hand noted that the plans included a connection to water in order to wash down the kayaks after use.
- With regard to the ADA-compliant sidewalk, it was noted that there was a significant grade change in the area, however, with a retaining wall it will be possible to adhere to ADA requirements regarding the grade. It was also noted that the boat ramp is very narrow and has some current plantings. No plantings would be

removed according to the plan and although the boat ramp is narrow, having a sidewalk would help slow down vehicles and provide safer access for pedestrians.

- The issue of maintenance was raised and it was explained that a maintenance plan is required as part of the PARC application.
- In response to a question about playing music at the kayak kiosk, Ms. Hand noted that musicians could perform there.
- It was noted that Sunderland is an Environmental Justice community and that would be part of the application.
- With regard to the restrooms, the question was raised whether, given the pandemic and cleaning disinfecting requirements, whether restrooms are a good investment, though it does allow increased access for those who need close proximity to restrooms.

The next steps included incorporating the public feedback into the plan and applying for the grant.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Kravitz', written over a horizontal line.

Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator