

Sunderland Selectboard
Monday, March 29, 2021

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, G. Kravitz

Absent: T. Fydenkevez

Others present: L. Smith, W. Houle, P. Gagarin, G. Gottschalk, J. Pelletier, D. Olanyk, A. Hanley, L. Starr, J. Ewen, T. Quinlan, R. Warner, K. Umstot, S. Snyder, I. Lippincott, Fuqua, J. Piasecki, N. Darling, R. Mann, C. Nieto

Meeting via Zoom recorded by FCAT.

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergeron motion to approve Selectboard minutes of March 22, 2021, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

BUSINESS

FILM PERMIT: Mr. Piasecki introduced himself as a location scout who had previously worked in Sunderland for the "Defending Jacob" film. He is now working for a Showtime show with the working title "Marble" and would like to shoot a nighttime driving scene along Route 116. The road would need to be closed from approximately 7pm on Friday, May 7 until 3am on Saturday, May 8. Local traffic would be allowed and a detour would be set up down Old Amherst Road to Hadley Road. Mr. Piasecki has reached out to businesses in the area. There is the possibility that there may be simulated gunshots as part of the filming and Mr. Piasecki will inform Chief Demetropoulos. If they need to delay due to weather, they will notify the town approximately 24 hours before the scheduled road closure. Mr. Bergeron motion to authorize the temporary closing of the road and issue the film permit, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

SEWER CONNECTION: Mr. Olanyk had previously applied and paid for a sewer permit in 1983. The Wastewater Treatment Plant operator and Highway Superintendent approved of Mr. Olanyk's renewed plan to connect 58 Old Amherst Road. Mr. Bergeron motion to grant the sewer connection permit with an adjusted permit fee of \$400, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

EARLY VOTING: Ms. Houle stated that the Selectboard would need to authorize the hours for early voting in the local election. The ballot will be on the website shortly and the application for early voting is available online. She reminded residents that the mail service has been slow, so to plan ahead if voting by mail. Mr. Bergeron motion to authorize early voting on Monday, April 26, 9:00AM-5:00PM; Tuesday, April 27, 9:00AM-4:00PM; Wednesday, April 28, 9:00AM-4:00PM; Thursday, April 29, 9:00AM-12:00PM; and Friday, April 30, 9:00AM-12:00PM at 12 School Street, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

RIVERSIDE PARK UPDATE: The Town Administrator introduced the project and noted that the Town had received a PARC grant to fund the majority of the project, which is being matched by CPA funds. Mr. Nieto reviewed the site plan and status of the horizontal construction, including the design of an irrigation system for the fields and getting estimates from a well company. The walkway down the boat ramp was moved from the north side of the ramp to the south side, in consultation with a representative of the Department of Fish and Game. It will make the grade less steep and likely require a smaller retaining wall than if it were located on the north side of the ramp. Ms. Snyder noted that moving the sidewalk requires a crosswalk across the boat ramp, which could be hazardous and wanted to ensure adequate safety precautions would be available. Ms. Darling and Ms. Mann provided an overview of the three vertical construction elements, including replacing the baseball shed with a structure that includes baseball storage, kayak storage, and covered seating, replacing the recreation shed, and renovating the restrooms. The current plan for the restrooms would be to create four single-toilet rooms that are gender neutral, two of which will also be ADA accessible. Mr. Lippincott stated his preference for air hand dryers and water-conserving measures be included. Details regarding restroom amenities are still being determined, as is the location for the baseball infield fill.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Ms. Smith stated that the COVID numbers continue to look good with likely 10 Sunderland cases in the next state report. All school pool testing has been negative. There is a clinic on Thursday at the Tree House Brewery in Deerfield. Residents can call TRIAD at 665-3017 for help getting an appointment. The Town Administrator noted that the Board of Health has worked with Amherst to participate in the regional homebound vaccination program run out of Amherst.

BUDGET UPDATE: Mr. Bergeron noted that the finance team was meeting on Thursday and hoping to put refine the anticipated revenue figures.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTOR: Mr. Bergeron motion to appoint Mark Wendolowski as alternate plumbing and gas inspector, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Mr. Bergeron stated that the negotiations with the police union have been occurring and that he met with the Town Administrator and Police Chief to discuss the proposals. So far it has mostly been an information exchange, but there will be an update for the Selectboard in executive session soon. He noted that, as always, the tone and tenor of the conversations have been positive. Mr. Pierce noted that the Personnel Committee had met and made recommendations for non-union, non-contracted personnel to receive a wage adjustment and 2% COLA. The Personnel Committee also recommended a multi-year approach to address the Building Commissioner's wages.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Work continues on the North Main Street Reconstruction Project, the Complete Streets sidewalk work on South Silver Lane and South Main Street, as well as site work for the Sanderson Place senior affordable housing development. The town will be submitting an expression of interest to the state's new "One-Stop" grant portal for School Street streetscape improvements, village center visioning, and expanding sewer and pedestrian access on Plumtree Road. A reminder that tax bills are due Thursday, April 1, and the Tax Collector's office is open to receive in-person payments during normal hours. Beginning on April 5, the Town Office Building will be open from 10am-1pm Monday-Wednesday and hopes to reopen fully in the near future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Smith noted that the annual plant sale will occur on Saturday, April 3 in the Corner Store parking lot. Mr. Gottschalk stated that the Baker Administration announced that they would continue funding pooled testing at the schools through the end of the school year. Ms. Houle thanked Mr. Bergeron for his many years of service on the Selectboard, Finance Committee, and as Cemetery Trustee.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bergeron motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM, Mr. Pierce second, vote 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator