

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: August 28, 2017
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Bruce Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Bruce Bernstein, Lita Moses, Susan Bachelder, Lucinda Vermeulen, Beth Regulbuta, Genis Melendez-Delaney, Corey Wiley(Berkshire Record), Chuck Ketchen and Tim Drumm (Town of Alford), Juliette Haas, Marcella Bush, Mary McGurn, Peg Muskrat, Will Wood, Mr. Killea.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

New School Superintendent Beth Regulbuta attended to meet board members and answer any questions the Board may have. The board talked with her about the status of the South School House, vocational education, the recent announcement about school consolidation, and the actions of the school committee last year that caused a rift between the town and the school for the first time.

Tim Drumm and Chuck Ketchen, Alford Selectmen, attended to talk about Alford's request that Egremont allow Alford residents to use the Egremont Transfer Station. The Board will consider allowing for the drop off of bulky items and some recyclables, and will get back to the Alford Board.

The Board asked the Alford Selectmen about broadband service on roads, like Whites Hill, that are in both towns or accessed through the other town. Mary will contact the Alford MLP to begin discussions about this.

The Board interviewed Margaret Muskrat for the position of part-time Council on Aging administrative assistant. The Council recommended Margaret out of 7 applicants because of her vast knowledge of the town and the people in town as she was Egremont's Town Clerk for over 30 years. The Board voted unanimously to appoint her to the position.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Susan Bachelder complained about the step-in lawn signs that are popping up all over town without any permits. They are in violation of the Town's sign bylaw. She also said that the Egremont Village Inn has 4 signs in violation of the bylaw and their special permit. She asked for enforcement and suggested that the sign bylaw be looked at.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Vice-Chairman McGurn asked that the Board revisit the subject of access to the Prospect Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sustainability Coordinator Juliette Haas presented the Board with information about a solar net metering company that she feels fits Egremont's needs and asked the Board to consider signing a 20 year power purchase agreement with them for a 15% discount on the town's energy costs. The Board would like to conduct face to face negotiations with the company so asked Juliette to schedule a meeting in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lucinda Vermeulen asked the Board to amend its approval to allow a community garden at French Park to allow for 8 raised bed gardens. The Board approved this and approved the location in the field along Baldwin Hill Road. Many Egremont businesses have donated to the cost of the construction of the beds and the seedlings. The Greenagers will construct them, plant the seedlings, and they and other volunteers will take care of the gardens. The produce will be given to Town residents. The Board felt that a water pipe could easily be run to that area if the water is drained in the winter.

FOLLOW UPS:

The Town's birthday celebration was a success. Next years event will focus more on children.

The Town has not received the cable tv application from Charter Communications yet. Charter is in town doing its pole survey.

The Grant of Location permit for FiberConnect has been signed by all parties. FiberConnect's make ready work is continuing with Verizon now doing its work. No pole licenses have been issued yet. At the end of the meeting Mr. Killea, 13 Hickory Hill Road, informed the Board that FiberConnect has said they will not be running fiber up Hickory Hill as they cannot afford to do the line underground. Mr. Killea is having FiberConnect install a fiber line from the conduit to his home and is hoping that he can connect the Charter network. He asked about the time line for Charter.

There has been no response to the application to Mass Historic Commission for emergency funds for the school house repairs. The ADA check list has been completed for the school house. Mary reported that the engineer/architect that the town has worked with throughout this project is leaving the firm she worked for and starting her own. She will be submitting a proposal to continue to work with the town.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

The Board will meet on Tuesday, September 12 and Monday, September 25.

The Board voted unanimously to renew its contract with Hampshire Power for 36 months with a brown electric option at 9.84 cents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.