

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: January 23, 2024  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Select Board Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Green Committee Chair Emily Eyre, Board of Health Chairman Chuck Ogden, Board of Health Director Juliette Haas.  
Present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Doug Mishkin, Marj Wexler, Peg McDonough, Peter Horsfall, James Garzon, and for part of the meeting David Seligman.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meetings of January 9 and January 17 were accepted with minor edits.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Chuck Ogden has asked for a future agenda item to discuss recognition of those who have volunteered more than 10 years with the town.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the use of the new Zoom accessory Zoom AI (Artificial Intelligence). Web Administrator Mary McGurn and Office Administrator Mary Brazie turned on the function which prepares a typed summary of meetings and a recording transcript. Currently this summary and transcript are only being shared with the Chair of each board/committee and are not posted on the Town's web page, though they are saved in the town's zoom account which can be accessed by town officials that are hosting and the functionality can be deleted at the Chairpersons discretion.. Co-Chair of the Housing Committee expressed his concern over the summary which he felt was not an accurate representation of a meeting. The summary is not meant to be used as such unless edited.

The board voted unanimously to approve the request of the Friends of Prospect Lake (FoPL) to use the Town Hall parking lot on August 24 and 25 for its annual tag sale, as well as approved the use of the French Park pavilion for FoPL's annual meeting on July 13.

The Board voted unanimously, as allowed by the Open Meeting Law, to declare the town's web page as the main posting place for town meetings. The law allows the town to declare such an alternative posting method to physical posting as long as the meeting notice is also filed with the Town Clerk's office and a notice is posted about how to view postings on the web page. Meeting notices will also be posted physically outside and inside Town Hall and at both Post Offices.

Co-chair of the Housing Committee, Doug Mishkin, answered questions about the proposed Short-term rental bylaw. The proposal was drafted by co-chairs Doug Mishkin and Judith Goodman and did not get a consensus approval at the Housing Committee meeting. It was clarified that such regulation will need to be adopted by Town Meeting as a general bylaw. Enforcement will be key to any bylaw. The Board endorsed the idea of a bylaw and asked that the Housing Committee continue to work on consensus of the elements of the proposal.

The Board voted unanimously to send a letter in support of house and senate bills relating to Paint Production Stewardship. The Green Committee has unanimously endorsed the bills as well. The program establishes a \$1 consumer fee and requires paints to be returned to retailers for pick up by a company called PaintCare who then reblends them and then passes them onto Habitat for Humanity and other organizations.

#### GRANTS:

Conservation Commission Chair David Seligman has reported in an email to the Board that he was unable to get other town's on board for a shared Conservation Agent so the Efficiency and Regionalization grant does not need to go forward. The Egremont Conservation Commission will likely increase the hours of its Clerk who is qualified to serve as Agent.

Juliette Haas announced that the Town has been awarded a \$199,917 Green Communities grant to upgrade the heating system at Town Hall. A \$38,000 match from National Grid is 99.9% assured so there will be no cost to the Town.

#### SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

The board's next budget meeting will be January 30 at 10:00am and its next regular meeting will be February 6 at 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.24/jan23

*The recording of the minutes is posted on the Town's web page at [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov) for 90 days. Any attachments noted are on file at Town Hall.*