

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: April 12, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard members Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Also present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Alice Boyd, Chuck Ogden, Juliette Haas, Peg McDonough, Doug Mishkin, Fred Gordon, Judi Goodman, Rolfe Tessem, Jared Kelly.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 29 and March 30 meeting minutes were accepted with minor edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to award the contract for the FY 21 Community Development Block Grant Housing Development grant administration to the sole proposer Bailey Boyd Associates. Baily Boyd is administering the FY 20 program for the Town.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Robin Goldberg to the Council on Aging.

The Board recognized David Seligman for successfully completing the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions fundamentals training program and receiving a Certificate of Achievement.

Selectboard member Brazie detailed the differing roles of the French Park Committee and the Friends of French Park Committee. The first being an advisory committee to the Selectboard as Trustees of the Park, the second being board members of the private not-for-profit French Park Fund established to raise funds to make improvements to the park. Chairman McGurn noted that the town committee needed to reorganize each spring following re-appointment. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen volunteered to lend a hand with the committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Council on Aging is still working on criteria for the recognition plaque. A new supply of "Be Seen Be Safe" vests have arrived. The kiosks are under construction.

The French Park Dog Park Committee has installed a secure lock box on site for donations and has taken over the donation account from the prior coordinator. They are still working on appropriate and clear signage.

GRANTS:

Municipal Vulnerabilty Program (MVP):

Juliette Haas presented a proposed grant application for the MVP, the deadline for which is May 5. The Town is now eligible for action grants. Juliette proposed a grant application for a new culvert on Shun Toll Road which requires a 10% match, and she felt did not meet the criteria of the grant program. She is also concerned over the capacity to complete the hefty application and to oversee the project.

Vice-Chairman Vermeulen, who has attended all but one of the MVP Planning Committee meetings is surprised as there were never any discussions about this culvert at the meetings and in the listening session the Shun Toll Road project received a very low score. She also felt that Weston & Sampson rushed the listening sessions, and that planning committee meetings are often the same with no answers being provided to questions asked. Once the Town is designated as an MVP community grants will be available each year to the Town. The Board voted unanimously to not move forward with this grant application because the town does not have the required grant match and Juliette's concern that the project did not meet the criteria of the program.

One Stop For Growth:

Peg McDonough reported that 4 of the 5 expressions of interest for the One Stop program received positive feedback. She feels that 3 of the expressions can be combined into one application through the Rural and Small Town Development Fund Grant Program: Planning Board outside help with zoning revisions, underutilized properties, and downtown revitalization. It was clarified that the timing of the completion of the Master Plan update will work with the deadline that the grant funds need to be expended by. The other expression was for engineering and permitting costs for the 6.2 acre parcel designated for affordable housing. This application would be through MassWorks in the amount of \$400,000. Discussion ensued about whether the Town was doing the project or a developer and if the Town should be applying to for funds for a development that would not be town built or operated, especially in light of a former town meeting vote not to fund an affordable housing project. Also of concerns is the fact that the Highway Department may be planning to apply for a MassWorks grant. There is also concern that this application might jeopardize the zoning help application which will have zoning components for affordable housing as one of many areas of concern. The request for proposals for the Affordable Housing Project is 97% complete and should be issued in the next week. There is currently no vision for the site nor appropriate zoning. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen motion to proceed with the grant application for the zoning issues and to discuss the housing application again at the next meeting was voted unanimously by the Board.

There is no update on the Community Health Inclusion grant.

There is no update on the American Rescue Planning Act expenses.

The application for the Municipal Fiber Grant will be filed by April 15. The application is for filling the gaps in the town's broadband network by adding functionality to the town's web page, digitizing town records for the web page, adding security at the Water Plant, supply the Water Plant with internet and installing wi-fi hotspots on key town properties throughout the villages where people gather improving connectivity and allowing for wi-fi cell phone service.

There is no update on the Forest Stewardship Grant for French Park. This is a rolling grant so no deadline to apply.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The next meeting of the Board will be April 26 at 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/apr12

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.