

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: May 16, 2023  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Grant Administrator Peg McDonough, Town Clerk/Board of Health Director Juliette Haas.

Present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Doug Mishkin, Chuck Ogden.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 28 and April 24 meetings were accepted as edited. The minutes of the May 2 meeting were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board reorganized and voted unanimously as follows:

- Chairman: George McGurn
- Vice-Chair: Lucinda Vermeulen
- Recording Secretary: Mary Brazie

NEW BUSINESS:

Accolades were given to all, with an emphasis on Mary Brazie, for a job well done in obtaining majority approval on the formation of a Housing Trust. The budget was passed unanimously and only one special article was voted down. The Board agreed that this showed that Egremont's voters trust their elected officials. The meeting was civil and a great example of democracy in action. There is some concern over the location and the Board may consider polling residents prior to any future Town Meetings. This is the first year of the 3-year term for the Moderator.

The Memorial Day Parade this year is going to be challenging due to the road construction and the aging veteran membership. Veteran's who are unable to march the short distance will wait at the Village Green. A horse drawn wagon was proposed to transport Veteran's.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to lift the COVID state of emergency declared on March 18, 2020.

Juliette Haas presented the Board with plans to install a kiosk at the Transfer Station to collect books for recycling. There is no cost to the Town. The Board voted unanimously to supported the program and directed staff to conduct an in-house traffic flow analysis.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the following interdepartmental transfers:

|                                   |                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Broadband Backup 015122.713       | Web Page Administrator 015122.125 | \$1,150.00 |
| Police Wages-Secretary 015210.114 | Police Vehicle Exp 015210.701     | \$1,500.00 |

|                                    |                                  |            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Police Wages-Secretary 015210.114  | Police Cruiser 015210.704        | \$2,097.50 |
| Schools Operating Costs 015300.002 | School Bond 015300.005           | \$9,141.00 |
| School Operating Costs 015300.002  | Schools-Capital Costs 015300.001 | \$9,107.00 |
| Broadband Backup 015122.713        | Telephone 015192.405             | \$775.00   |

The Board reviewed the draft Transportation Improvement plan and will send written comments to the Metropolitan Planning Organization thanking the members for the consideration given to the Egremont's Mount Washington Road Phase 1 project, while reminding the members the project is nearing shovel ready with 75% design status in place and 100% design very near completion, as well as the critical need for shoring up the unstable areas of the road. There will soon be a vacancy on the MPO which an Egremont person should step up to fill.

The Board will making reappointments to the Finance Committee and Council on Aging at its next meeting. Shortly thereafter reappointments and appointments will be made to all town boards/committees. There is currently a year-long vacancy on the Finance Committee and the possibility of a second. The Housing Trust Board requires a Selectboard member. Lucinda and Mary both expressed interest, though Mary noted that Lucinda has much more free time to take this on. Thought will be put into defining membership for this very important Board. Mary McGurn said that because of the importance of some town boards/committees, such as the Finance Committee, the Board should identify qualifications needed.

The Board made the first appointments to the position of Town Clerk and Tree Warden. Juliette Haas was unanimously appointed to a three-year term as Town Clerk. Jim Olmsted was unanimously appointed to a three-year term as Tree Warden.

The Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Ned Baldwin as the Inspector of Buildings.

The Board voted unanimously to inform MassDOT that the Town wants the hydrants along Main Street in South Egremont moved to behind the sidewalk so as not to interfere with snow removal on the sidewalks. There are 10 hydrants, 7 of which the Town is paying for. The additional cost is about \$10,000 and is within budget.

The Board voted unanimously to choose the lighter of two colors presented for the sidewalks along Main Street in South Egremont. It's a non-glossy charcoal grey.

It was noted that the students at the South Egremont School House have been temporarily moved to Sheffield while work in front of the school takes place. The work involved drilling through ledge and is very dirty, noisy and generally disruptive.

#### GRANTS:

The Board voted unanimously to file an application under the One Stop For Growth Program, Rural & Small Town Development Fund, to construct the Buildings & Grounds/Transportation building. The grant application will be for at least \$325,000 as the Town has already voted a match of \$275,000. The application is due June 2, 2023.

The Board approved using ARPA funds to pay for well drilling and WQ testing because the MVP grant application required a lower match than was anticipated, freeing up ARPA funds to be

reallocated.

FOLLOW UPS:

Chairman McGurn will speak with the Mount Washington Selectboard about the overdue balance for Fire Services.

The next meeting of the Board will be May 30 at 10:00am.

Vice-Chair Vermuelen suggested the Town look at Teach Reach app for reservations at the Tennis Court, Pickleball Court, etc at French Park.

The Board will set up a meeting in the near future to speak with the Emergency Management Team.

The equipment for the Adult Playground has arrived.

There were some peculiar attendees at the recent Zoning Board of Appeals meeting that were put back in the waiting room when they did not respond to requests to identify themselves.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.23/may16

*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.*