

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: June 27, 2023
Time: 9:30 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, Finance Committee Chairman Laura Allen, Road Superintendent Jim Noe, and for parts of the meeting Fire Department members Joe Schneider, Dave Katzenstein, Mark Harowitz, Jim Olsted, Tom Sierau, Jim Golden, John Wells, Veteran’s Agents Laurie Hils and Tom Beasley, Emergency Management Director Ed McCormick and Deputy Director Will Brinker, John Soman, Terry Cooper, Kate Sontaug, Tom Berkel.

Present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Marj Wexler, Peg McDonough, Dan Blitzter, Chuck Ogden and, for part of the meeting, MRI representatives Brian Duggan and David Houghton.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 13 were accepted with minor edits.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board discussed with Brian Duggan and David Houghton of Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) the scope of work for a Fire Department strategic plan. The plan will look at the department as it is currently and will make recommendations as to how best to continue as a volunteer department, the possibility of paid fire personnel, and considerations of regionalizing. MRI will engage current department members as well as Selectboard members. MRI said the report would be a tool for the Board to use as a guide for future actions. The Board asked for two weeks to consider the scope of services.

The Board held a discussion with members of the Emergency Management team expressing concern over the team’s lack of response during the March 2023 snow storm during which some residents experienced long term power outages. It was noted that Will Brinker, who has served as the Town’s Assistant Emergency Management Director for several years, has asked to not be reappointed. During the meeting Ed McCormack announced he was looking to step down. The Board asked that a team meeting be called as soon as possible. Some members felt that the Blackboard Connect phone alert system was not reaching all. It was explained that Verizon upload’s landline numbers. Any other numbers would need to be provided by the resident and the board expressed the need for updating the system.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board interviewed Terry Cooper and unanimously appointed her as a Substitute Librarian.

The Board interviewed John Sloman and Kate Sontaug and unanimously appointed them both to the French Park Dog Park Committee.

The Board made annual re-appointments and appointments as follows:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION:

Peter Maggio

<u>ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:</u>	
Max Kolb	2024
DEPUTIES: James Olmsted	
<u>APPEALS, BOARD OF:</u>	
Mark Holmes	2024
Alternates: Greg Schneider	2024
Charles Ogden	
<u>BERKSHIRE COUNTY REG'L PLANNING COMMISSION:</u>	
Mary McGurn, Representative	2024
Stephen Lyle, Alternate	
<u>BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY:</u>	
Melanie Vicneire	2024
Michael Harrigan	
<u>BURIAL AGENT:</u>	
Juiette Haas	2024
<u>BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE</u>	2024
Mary McGurn	
Eileen Vining	
Richard Allen	
Stephen Goodman	
Robert Sandor	
<u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION:</u>	
David Seligman	2024
<u>E-911 COORDINATORS:</u>	
Mary Brazie	2024
Fire Chief Joe Schneider	
<u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:</u>	
Jason LaFores	2024
Mary McGurn: Deputy/Clerk	
Lucinda Vermeulen: Public Information Officer	
<u>FENCE VIEWERS:</u>	
Kevin Wheeler	2024
<u>FIELD DRIVER:</u>	
David Sheldon	2024
<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT:</u>	
Joseph Schneider, Chief	2024
Jim Olmsted, Assistant Chief	
James Golden, Captain	
Dave Guidi, Captain	
VACANT , Lieutenant	
VACANT, Lieutenant	
Dave Katzenstein, EMS/Tech Rescue Captain	
<u>FRENCH PARK DOG PARK COMMITTEE:</u>	2024
Ronnie Sacco	
Caleb Chao	
Kate Sontag	
Kyle Smith	
John Sloman	
<u>FOREST WARDEN:</u>	
Joseph Schneider	2024

<u>GAS INSPECTOR:</u>	2024
Robert Gennari	
Robert Kruspki, alternate	
<u>GREEN COMMITTEE:</u>	2024
Juliette Haas	
Robin Goldberg	
Marj Wexler	
Richard Allen	
Pat Konecky	
Emily Eyre	
Sharon Waskow	
Bonnie Greenwood	
<u>HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR:</u>	
Jason LaForest	2024
<u>HEALTH, BOARD OF:</u>	
Ellen Maggio	2024
Alternate & Director: Juliette Haas	
<u>HISTORICAL COMMISSION:</u>	
Beth Wood	2026
Barbara Kalish	2026
<u>250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE</u>	2024
Rebecca Turner	
Lucinda Vermeulen	
James Warwick	
Pamela Knowles	
Rose Levine	
Mary McGurn	
Dougals Mishkin	
MJ Marx	
Alyson Slutzky	
Neil Fox	
<u>HOUSING COMMITTEE:</u>	2024
Richard Allen	
Mark Holmes	
Elizabeth Keen	
Judith Goodman	
Bruce Kafenbaum	
Douglas Mishkin	
Bob Noonan	
<u>LIBRARY SUBSTITUTES:</u>	
Katherine Steiger	
Marie Erwin	
Abigail McKee-Rogers	
Terry Cooper	
<u>MUNICIPAL COORDINATORS:</u>	
Jason LaForest	2024
<u>MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PLANNING COMMITTEE:</u>	2024
Will Conklin	
Lucinda Vermeulen	

Juliette Haas: Manager and Municipal Contact
Jason LaForest
Jim Noe
Dave Rejeski
Mary McGurn
Emily Eyre

PLUMBING INSPECTOR:

Robert Krupski 2024

Alternate: Bob Gennari

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Full-time Patrol Officer: Hans Carlson

Maximilian Kolb

Joseph Kozlowski

Part-time Patrol Officers: Lauren Neilson

Police Details Only: Brian Shaw

Police Administrative Assistant: Helen Kuziemko

POLL WORKERS:

Juliette Haas, Town Clerk 2024

Marlene Soudant, Warden

James Olmsted, Constable

Marj Wexler, Gerard Lanoue, Peg Muskrat, Monica Lanoue, Diane Tatro

Part-time, alternate Constable Kevin Wheeler

REGISTRARS, BOARD OF:

Juliette Haas, Chair 2024

Anne-Elizabeth Barnes

Carissa Race

Marcia Arland

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

George McGurn

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER:

Peter Barrett 2024

TOWN COUNSEL:

Firm of Hannon, Lerner, Cowhig, Scully & Bell 2024

Lead Attorney: Jeremia Pollard

TOWN HISTORIAN:

Beth Wood 2024

VETERANS' AGENT:

Thomas Beasley 2024

VETERAN'S SERVICES:

Charles Flynn 2024

VISION 2035 ADVISORY COMMITTEES:

Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee

David Seligman, Conservation Commission representative

Matthew Bersani, Planning Board representative

Barbara Kalish

Ben Barrett

Ron Banks

Charles Miller

Bill Tynan

Elia Delmolino

Ethel Patterson
Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee
Jared Kelly, Planning Board representative
Stephen Lyle, Planning Board representative
Jeff Lazarus
Bill Tynan, Conservation Commission liason
Jon Caplan
Peg McDonough
Rich Montone
Julia Rasch
James Warwick
Rox Liston
Eileen Vining
John Cheek

WIRE INSPECTOR:

Ted Piontek

2024

Alternate: Robert Clausen

The Board agreed to issue a letter of support to 1Berkshires for its grant application for EDA Build to Scale Venture Challenge which will support a joint effort of 1Berkshire and the Berkshire Innovation Center and other collaborators to focus on growing an inclusive and equitable tech and tech-enabled industry sector in the Berkshires.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board approved interdepartmental transfers in the amount of \$10,000 each from Unemployment and Health Insurance to Police Collective Bargaining.

The Town of Mount Washington has made its full payment for fire services for Fiscal Year 2023. An amendment to the agreement for future assessments and an assessment for FY 2024 must be established. Tom Berkel explained that the recommendation made by himself, Laura Allen and two Mount Washington Finance Committee members steered away from any ownership of equity by Mount Washington, but that the assessment must include some form of depreciation on the equipment. Laura Allen, Tom Berkel and Joe Schneider will meet to come up with an equitable amendment and assessment process.

Egremont Fire Chief Joe Schneider resigned as Mount Washington's Fire Chief. Chairman McGurn said that Egremont's Fire Chief was required to conduct necessary inspections for Mount Washington. This will be confirmed as not all agreed with this. Fire Chief Schneider has agreed to conduct the inspection at Camp Hi-Rock.

GRANTS:

There were no updates.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on Tuesday, July 11 at 10:00am.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen asked about the status of the painting of lines, crosswalk and speed limit on Prospect Lake Road by the gap. The road is too narrow for lines and the area is not safe for a crosswalk. The Road Superintendent will be asked to paint the speed limit in the roadway as he has

done in the past.

Meeting adjourned 11:37am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.23/jun27

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