

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: October 4, 2022
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present in-person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, member Mary Brazie, and Constable/Tree Warden James Olmsted.
Others participating via zoom: Bob Noonan, Joyce Frater, Mary McGurn, Juliette Haas, Eileen Vining, Iolando Spinosa(WalkBoston) Peg McDonough, Chuck Ogden, Marj Wexler, Wendy Landman(WalkBoston), Bruce Bernstein, Marc Bernstein.

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

MINUTES:

Minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting were accepted with minor edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wendy Landman, WalkBoston, reported on their tour of the Prospect Lake Road area surrounding the gap access to the Lake. WalkBoston advocates for pedestrian safety. WalkBoston recommends the following low cost additions to the area: painting a center line on the roadway to slow down traffic, painting a crosswalk on the roadway, stenciling markings on the road at the gap and approaching the area, trimming back vegetation to make line of site clearer, putting up different signage that may actually get noticed, putting out flashing speed signs. None of this helps with access to the lake but may help with traffic calming and pedestrian issues. (The report is on file at Town Hall). WalkBoston has placed a phone call to the Department of Conservation & Recreation and will follow up with the Town when they have a response. Tree Warden Jim Olmsted said he would approach the property owners about trimming vegetation. Road Superintendent Jim Noe, who was not present, will be asked to follow up on the other suggestions.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Diane Tatro as an election poll worker.

The Selectboard voted unanimously, after discussion with Town Clerk Juliette Haas and Constable James Olmsted, to appoint Kevin Wheeler as a part-time, alternate Constable for working elections only.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Carm Guarda to the vacant position as a Highway Truck Driver and Laborer.

The Board discussed with Juliette Haas the predicted drastic increase in energy costs for the coming year. Egremont's aggregation for electric supply is locked in at \$.109 per kwh through December of 2024 while National Grids supply rate is going up to \$.33 per kwh. As National Grid is the only distribution available residents will still see an increase in their total electric bills. The Green Committee will be asked to get public service information out to residents regarding how to conserve and reduce energy costs.

Bob Noonan reported that the Water Study Group is about two weeks from making its final

report and recommendation to the Board. The study group has met with the prospective buyer, has looked at the engineers report and calculated the costs of required capital expenses. Over the next five years capital repairs needed total over \$5mil with almost \$3mil of that being for the dam which is immediate need of repair and which the prospective buyer is saying the town will need to do. The study group recommends the Town move forward with funding the dam repairs and apply for any grants that may be available to do that. The engineering for the dam repair is estimated to be in excess of \$200,000. There have been no discussions with neighboring town water departments. Mr. Noonan was asked to supply data on the supply available vs demand and whether this has been consistent. An article may be required at the November 14 Special Town Meeting. The study group will make a more detailed report at the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

There is still no contract from Tough Stuff Recycling for the mattress recycling program. It is hoped that this will be finalized at the next meeting. Juliette Haas reported that the Department of Environmental Protection was understanding of the delay and would not be penalizing town's for being late.

Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Fire Chief Joe Schneider and Fire Department member Jim Golden will serve as the first members of the Fire Department Recruitment Work Group. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

GRANTS:

The Forest Stewardship grant has been submitted. Awards should be made this fall or early winter.

An energy audit, scheduled for later this month, is needed before a plan can be put together to upgrade the Town Hall heating system.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

Fire Chief Joe Schneider is meeting with Mount Washington Town Officials on October 17 to discuss fire services.

The Main Street reconstruction project has begun with work starting near the intersection of Route 41 on Monday, October 3. If weekly reports aren't received, Office Administrator Brazie will nudge MassDOT.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The next meeting of the Board will be October 18, 2022 at 10:00am.

The Town's website notify me function is working so well that the Board no longer needs Office Administrator Brazie to forward Selectboard members meeting notices.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.23/oct4

The recording of the minutes is on the Town's web page for 90 days. Any attachments noted are on file at

Town Hall.