

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 8/19/2020

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: George F. Miller, Chairman Dean R. Larabee, Clerk Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:02pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room	
Minutes	Minutes July 22, 2020 - Regular Session Minutes August 6, 2020 – Regular Session Minutes August 10, 2020 – Regular Session Minutes August 12, 2020 – Regular Session	Cochrane motioned Larabee 2nd voted Cochrane tabled
New Business	Taken out of order, the Resignation of Planning Board member, Christopher Hicks, was read by Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller stated that he appreciated the fact that he served the town and the planning board despite his hard feelings mentioned in his resignation.	Cochrane motioned to accept resignation Larabee 2 nd voted
Appointment	Appointment with Planning Board for open Planning Board seat. Stephen Castellina, Chairman of the Planning Board, mentioned that he thought things were being done very quickly. Mr. Miller asked if anyone from that board has put any feelers out for anyone that is interested in the seat. Mr. Castellina no. Donna Leary, member of the planning board, noted that the special permit requires 4 members to vote. Ms. Leary has received interest from a few other people but did not hear from anyone due to an email problem. A zoom meeting will be held via Zoom on August, 27th. Mr. Miller read the letter of Marc Olivera, who is interested in being appointed to the Planning Board, and asked why he wanted to serve. Mr. Olivera plans to run for the seat in May. Mr. Miller asked about any formalized training and or work experience he could offer to the Planning Board. Mr. Olivera stated that he did not have any engineering background. Ms. Cochrane mentioned again that he had pulled papers before Mr. Castellina. She also stated that she thinks he would be a great person for the seat with his experience with working on the highway department, volunteering, and living in Berkley his whole life. Discussion continued. Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board unanimously voted in favor. Appointment for Reserve Officer to Police Department	Cochrane motioned to appoint Marc Olivera to serve as member of the Planning Board, Larabee 2nd voted. Cochrane motioned to table, Larabee 2nd voted
Soil Board	Update regarding 4 Freeman St. Steven Holt, resident of 4 Freeman was present during meeting and brought in pictures. Mr. Miller asked Robert Rose if he was able to look at it, Mr. Rose has not. Mr. Miller asked for Mr. Rose to keep an eye on it and to report back to the Town Administrator.	Informational no action needed
Old Business	Taken out of order, Mr. Miller stated that his position hasn't changed since the last meeting regarding the possible sale of 34 Green Street. Ms. Cochrane also mentioned that she is not interested in selling the property either. Ms. Cochrane believes that is a good asset to the town. Discussion continued. Mr. Larabee read into record a letter written by Joe Callahan, regarding the selling of 34 Green St. His letter stated his thoughts and urges on not selling the land on Green St. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller noted that both parties agreed to not sell, but for different reasons.	Informational no action needed

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Meeting Mail	Conversation about the letter from the Fire Chief was discussed regarding Pierces Point. It is assumed that the Home Owners Association is offering \$30,000 worth of fire equipment, which would consist of hoses, tanks, portable draft units and access to the water and a permanent boat slip for the rescue boat instead of them putting in a cistern tank. Ms. Cochrane does not think it is a great idea, but Mr. Miller believes it might better for the community as a whole and the residents in Assonet Neck. The selectmen agreed to have the Fire Chief and members from the planning board to come in next meeting for better conversation. Mr. Castellina, from the planning board, discussed other issues with this. Paul, a member of the planning board, mentions his conversation with the Fire Chief. Mr. Miller wants to make sure that we have the authority to make any changes and to act on it. Ms. Cochrane notes that the Police Chief should also be involved as he is the Harbor Master. A letter from the County Commissions of Bristol County was reviewed regarding who will sit on The Bristol County Advisory Board. Ms. Cochrane motioned for Mr. Larabee to serve as a member of The Bristol County Advisory Board. Ms. Martin-Sterling explained how she used to be a member of the board and only went over the Bristol County budget.	Cochrane motioned to table until a future meeting, Larabee 2nd voted Cochrane motioned for Miller 2nd voted
Old Business	Update on the reopening of the Council on Aging. Ms. Martin-Sterling noted that a joint meeting with the Board of Health may be necessary and the state has not given any further guidance on what COA is or is not allowed to do. Nancy Thompson, was present as a private citizen and not as a member of the council. She discussed that the council has started to do some activities at the common, like aerobics and yoga. Ms. Thompson also mentioned that they would like to use the basketball courts until they start construction on them. Ms. Thompson thanked Priscilla Martin for organizing other groups not sponsored by the COA. She also discussed with Ms. Cochrane about quilting. Ms. Cochrane spoke with the Board of Health and there was a concern regarding the materials. Ms. Thompson hopes for more activities outdoors. Mr. Miller mentions that the basketball courts are still being worked out and advised her to use them until construction begins. He also encouraged them to take caution and to use their own discretion.	Informational no action needed
New Business	Taken out of order, Friends of Berkley Council on Aging will be hosting a Summer Bar-b-que on September 7th 2020 on the Common. Ms. Martin-Sterling had discussed the event and the proposal regarding the restrooms with the chairman of the Board of Health. It was proposed that someone would be there to washing down the restrooms between each use. The Board of Health chairman also wanted to ensure that door handles were being wiped down when coming in and out. A Common use form will need to be approved and a serve safe certificate has been provided to serve food. The maximum amount of people allowed by the state is 50 people. Cochrane motioned to allow the use of the Common for Friends of Council on Aging on September 7, 2020 from the hours of 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM providing that it is okay with the police and fire chief. Discussion continued.	Cochrane motioned to allow the use of the Common on September 7, 2020 Larabee 2nd voted
Old Business	Request from Highway Department on Chapter 90 requests for Bryant St. Request from Highway Department on Chapter 90 requests for Swing Dr. Request from Highway Department on Chapter 90 requests for Wood Chipper Update on Basketball Courts Projects. Paul Megna, member of the Planning Board, stated that he spoke to the Board of Ethics, who told him to step aside and give the lead to Kim Roubideaux so he can vote as a member of the Planning Board. Discussion continued about the courts, fences, and plan. The design of the courts was made by Amy King Designs, detailing the court set up, fences, lights, benches, entrances, and design plan. Mr. Miller noted that there were members from the Historical	Cochrane motioned to accept, Larabee 2nd voted Larabee motioned accept, Cochrane 2nd voted Larabee motioned accept, Cochrane 2nd voted Informational, no action needed

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	Society and Planning Board present at the meeting to ensure that each concerned board or committee had a say. Discussion about the pavement continued. Mr. Miller mentioned a special permit the town is planning to file through the Planning Board for the project. The chairman of the Planning Board, Mr. Castellina, briefly explained the process of getting the permit. Concerns about the drainage on the common arose regarding the swell. Mr. Megna discussed that they would like to the swell a little deeper on the sides. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Roubideaux for everything she has done and the support from everyone. Ms. Cochrane told Ms. Roubideaux that this is a wonderful project and to not get discouraged. Discussion continued.	
New Business	Resignation letter of Loretta Marshall, member of the Council on Aging, was read by Mr. Miller. The resignation was to be effective immediately. Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Marshall for her efforts and her time on the board. Ms. Cochrane mentioned that she will be sorely missed and was a big asset to the council. Potential sale of 35R Algerine St. Resident who requested information resides at 83 Locust St, Freetown, MA; the land is right on the corner of her property. Ms. Martin-Sterling gave description of the town owned land. The board has no intention to sell. Mr. Miller stated that the town should not be selling land unless it is an absolute emergency. Review of License renewal for Old Town Hall. Mr. Miller explained that the license expired on July 31, 2020. He stated that this the start of the conversation as to the use of that building. Mr. Miller stated that the Historical Society is only open 1 day a week and by appointment and wonders if there could be a hybrid use of the building. He noted that there is a storage problem with the new town hall. Mr. Miller stated he thinks that there should be a part time position/ director for the youth of the town in terms of organizations, activities, and events at the Common. Mr. Miller, however, did mention that the BAA does great things for the community and the children of the town. Discussion continued. Ms. Cochrane stated that she had no intention to not renew the license, but stresses the fact that new town hall has no storage. Marge Ghilarducci recalled her time as a member of the Historical Society. Ms. Ghilarducci mentioned that \$60,000 worth of private grants were given for the interior and exterior of the building to be restored. 100k endowment grant was obtained that allowed them to use \$5,000 a year. Ms. Ghilarducci also mentioned that if the building is not under the Historical Society, the \$100,000 endowment would have to be sent back and the town would have to cover its costs. She believes it is in the town's best interest. She noted that it is a very historical, educational, and important piece of Berkley. Mr. Miller asked if the schools had ever had field trips there. Eden Jones, another member of the Historical Society, stated that they have not yet but it has been in talks with Mrs. Francisco. Mr. Miller stated that he did not plan to get rid of any historical artifacts when Ms. Ghilarducci asked where he planned to put all of the artifacts. Elwell Perry, the President of the Historical Society, said that they do not think the Board of Selectmen was trying to take away the building and that they do understand that it is a town building. Mr. Miller mentioned that he was not looking to turn the Common into a big sports center. A former librarian, with a background in museums, mentioned that the Historical Society's collection continues to grow and will eventually need storage of its own. He also mentioned that there is no fire suppression systems in the old town hall. Mr. Perry claims it only costs about \$5,000-\$6,000 a year to run the building with a short term goal to raise that endowment money each year. The current endowment is \$106,000 and held in Amerifunds. Ruby Linn gave them \$5,000 for 20 years. Mr. Miller mentioned to extend the lease until the next meeting. Ms. Ghilarducci asked the Board of Selectmen to consider extending the lease for 21 years and Mr. Miller told her that he would not limit other boards and give the option for future generations to make their own decisions and to not rely on his. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller asked if there was a display case to keep in town hall with artifacts. Ms. Martin Sterling informed him that there was one, just not out on display yet since the floors had been worked on.	Cochrane motioned to accept the resignation. Larab 2nd voted. Informational, no action needed Larabee motioned extend license for 1 Historical Society until October 14, 2020, Cochrane 2nd voted
Town Administrators Report	Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she would need at least 4-5 weeks to turn around a special town meeting. Discussion and conversation continued.	Informational, no action needed

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Public Input

Joe Freitas agreed with Mr. Miller about not tying the arms of future boards regarding the Historical Society. Mr. Freitas mentioned to Ms. Jones that the schools should have display cases as well that features Berkley artifacts.

Informational, no action needed

Personnel Board

Continued discussion on Assistant Town Clerk. Ms. Martin- Sterling proposed two ideas: create a position or create a stipend for the existing position. Mr. Miller had stated that he was not fond of the creating a new position. Ms. Cochrane and Mr. Larabee agreed with Mr. Miller. The Town Clerk Clerk would only be acting as Town Clerk when the Town Clerk is not available or is unable to do so. It would be between the Union and the Board of Selectmen to decide on the stipend.

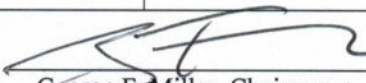
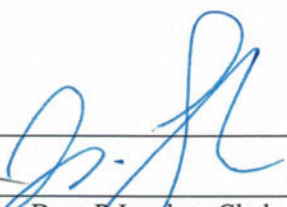
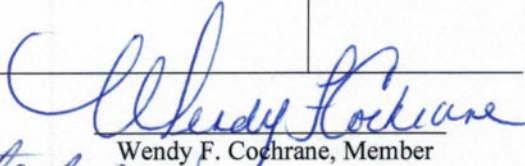
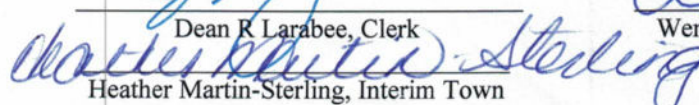
Informational, no action needed

Approve and sign MOA and contract for Fire/EMS

Larabee motion to approve and sign, Cochrane 2nd voted

Adjournment

Mr. Larabee motioned to adjourn the meeting and announce the next scheduled meeting to September 2, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Cochrane 2nd voted.


George F. Miller, Chairman
Dean R. Larabee, Clerk
Wendy F. Cochrane, Member
Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator