

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the Town Offices. John Tripp and Brooke Canada present.

Tara Hayes proposed eliminating the Playground Committee and Town Beach Committee and creating a Parks and Recreation Committee. Mrs. Canada said she heard the Playground had \$10,000 to re-do the basketball courts. Tara said the money is still there she gave recommendations to the committee of companies in Massachusetts that can do it.

There was a brief discussion about past meetings with the East Brookfield Beach Committee and East Brookfield Board of Selectmen.

Tara would like to see a Parks and Recreation Committee with established goals. Tara is willing to help with grants, and we need to decide if the committee will be appointed or elected. Mrs. Canada agreed the Parks and Rec Committee is a good idea, but felt at least one position would need to be paid. Ethan Melad said there are PARC grants for up to \$400,000 and you could pay someone with the grant.

Tara said she's got names of people who are interested in volunteering, Mr. Tripp said it's hard to get volunteers. Tara is going to look at what area towns do for this type of committee. Mr. Tripp brought up Brookfield and said they don't maintain their baseball fields.

Tara is going to do some research and we will meet again after the 1st of the year.

Tara said that Brandon Avery and her are working on a grant to get historical records digitized, they can possibly get up to \$10,000.00. We will concentrate on the maps and Brandon Avery has volunteered to go through them.

Ethan Melad wanted to discuss an email about the bathrooms at the recycling center. He said as far as the BOH knows, the facilities are working, not great, but are functional. The sink faucet needs work but it is still acceptable. He talked to Lisa Morgan at the center and there have been no complaints. Ethan asked if Mr. Tripp could talk to Tina Floria and say it's unhelpful to post that on social media. Mr. Tripp said he had to use the facilities at the center but was told they weren't working and he's heard they employees go without drinking water. Ethan said that's not true, he pays for toilet paper and water.

Mr. Tripp said the sink needs to be fixed, Ethan said that Mr. Tripp can call him if there's issues, but that no one had complained to him. Mr. Tripp said he would check it out Saturday, Ethan said it's not a public bathroom and said we need to be able to talk to each other without arguing. Danielle Graham said she's received some calls this evening about the facilities not working and she let everyone know that they are functioning.

Mr. Tripp said Algoo let him know NB Farms would be having their grand opening and notified the Quaboag Current and New Leader.

Mrs. Canada brought up Bill Paille, Ashley had not heard from him. Mrs. Canada said she wants to appoint Brandon Avery to the DDC, Mr. Tripp said he doesn't and wants to disband the committee. Mrs. Canada said she doesn't want to disband the committee.

Mrs. Canada said we need to look into hourly wage, the state mandated minimum wage will increase as of January 1, 2023. Ashley will look into it.

There being no further business, at 7:08PM Mrs. Canada moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre