

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at the North Brookfield Police Department. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Minutes: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve minutes for 7/5, 7/12, 7/12 exec session, and 4/19. So voted.

Warrants: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve FY 22 general # 1069 for \$164,480.99, Payroll # 28 (2) for \$145,044.19, FY 23 General # 1001 for \$124,782.50, General # 1002 for \$200.00 and Payroll # 2 for \$142,787.53. So voted.

Financial: Transfer request. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve a transfer of \$47.05 from Police Training to Police Overtime. So voted.

Letter to First Congregational Church: Mr. Tripp read a letter to the First Congregational Church regarding a possible donation of land. Mr. Tripp said that we're trying to make the downtown area more user friendly by widening Main Street. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign and mail the letter. So voted.

Sign Police Union Contract: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the Police Union Contract which will be in effect from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. So voted.

Town Park Grant: Fire Chief Joe Holway explained that he was approached by the Lyons Club regarding handicap access at the Town Forest Park. Jim Buzzell and Jack Peacock told Joe they have access to grants for this. Jim said the idea is essentially to grade the parking lot and path, add crushed blue stone, and build a platform at the pond with picnic tables. Jack said this would be done in phases due to funding and that once they get the greenlight from the Board of Selectmen they can gather information and answer questions. Joe said he wants to get permission from Conservation to dredge and clean the pond. Jack said they would make sure the plans comply with ADA guidelines. They've done this at the Dennis Rail Trail Loop, the blue stone packs down well and is permeable. They want to keep the area as natural as possible. Joe said this is a great opportunity to improve the area with no money from the Town. Jack went into more detail about the Dennis Rail Trail loop; they planted sensory plants, signage with braille, QR Code to scan for more info, and self-watering planters. He also explained the Lyon's club process for grant funding, stating two clubs need to support it, once they have that they can get their numbers together. Joe asked Lt. Daley if there was ever trouble at the Town Forest Park, Lt. Daley said no. Mr. Tripp mentioned the ADA tables at the little park, Jack said they have a connection with Trex and can get plastic water bottles turned into a bench. Joe said as we develop our trails and parks we need to think about long-term management, he also mentioned the amazing view from the Water Department. Joe said there are programs we can look into that will help pay for maintenance and crew members, but they are difficult to get. Brooke Canada mentioned the East Quabbin Land Trust, they participate in adopt a trail. Joe said he sees a bigger picture with electric bike rentals and trails and parks all over town. Mr. Petraitis asked what they needed from the Board, Joe said just a their blessing. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the Lyon's Club plan to seek funding for this project. So voted.

Appointments: Mr. Petraitis said there are a couple more appointments for FY23, he read the list for Local Cultural Council and NHHelps. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to appoint the listed people. So voted.

Still Hart's One Day Liquor License-Mr. Petraitis explained this will be to serve alcohol outside, no alcohol off the property, this will be to celebrate Still Hart's 35th Anniversary and will benefit the Playground. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to approve the one-day liquor license. So voted.

Public Comment:

Brandon Avery said the Historical Museum is open generally on Saturday mornings and by appointment. You can check his Facebook page for hours.

Brooke Canada said that National Night Out will be held on August 2 from 5pm to 8pm and she hopes the Board will setup a table. Ashley mentioned they have a meeting that night but they would try to make it.

Mr. Tripp read a thank you note from the Senior Center for the donated goods leftover from the 4th of July Celebration.

Announcements:

Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the Friends of the Town House.

Mr. Petraitis reminded appointees and elected officials that there is required ethics training, it is due no later than August 13th.

Mr. Petraitis announced that the Board of Selectmen's Office would be closed from July 25 through August 5. The Board will still meet, but there will be no office hours.

Mr. Tripp read a letter from the Town Clerk regarding Dog Licenses and Election information.

There being no further business, at 6:33PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre