

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:03PM on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at the North Brookfield Police Department. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, and John Tripp present.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Petraitis moved and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the 12/22 and 12/22 executive session minutes. So voted. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the 12/30 minutes. So voted. (Mr. Kiley abstained from voting on the 12/30 minutes).

Approval of Cares Act Funds: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Kiley seconded, a motion to approve a CARES act request for the school. So voted.

### Old Business:

Common Ground, Fees: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to change the fee schedule for alcohol renewals as follows: A new brewery/winery in Town must pay the full cost of all licenses the initial year of application, any renewals after that they will pay the full fee for the Farmer Series Pouring Permit for Malt, Farmer Series Pouring Permit for Wine, but only \$5.00 for the Farmer Series Pouring Permit for Malt and Wine. So voted.

### New Business:

CMRPC Contract amendment: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to extend the contract with CMRPC and Lenard engineering. So voted.

Downtown Development Committee: Sheila Orsi gave an update: Its's 2021, DDC has been around for about 2.5 years, they were formed to work on Complete Streets, which is pretty much done, that will now be in the Board of Selectmen's hands. Jason Benoit met with an engineer, he wants a general/master plan/overview of Summer/School/Main Street area.

The next step is a stakeholder meeting with the BOS, Water, Sewer, Highway, DDC are just advisors. The DDC has blossomed, they have a strategic plan and they will be working through their goals. They have a list of 5 top priorities and are working on identifying who is responsible.

Sheila took a class where new grants were proposed. Some of those grants include help with signage on the rail trail, a youth stewardship, ADA compliance, regional and statewide trail mapping. There are many other grants available as well.

The Technical Assistance Program through Mass Development was applied for. They offered the grant after one of our applications was denied. The is a one-day program to create goals with the Town House and surrounding businesses in mind. The TAP will be held near the beginning of Summer at no cost to the Town.

Mr. Kiley stated that the DDC was originally formed to get Town House refurbished and Complete Streets being completed should open up grants for us to fix it. Sheila said they need mapping; they are working on that for the Master Plan. Marylin Borst applied for a Cultural Grant for Virtual Programming, we should hear about that in February. For Complete Streets we need to submit an application by May.

There is a Microenterprise grant available for small businesses with less than 5 employees. The information is posted on the Town's website.

Marilyn Borst is looking at creating more outdoor/walkable ADA areas in Town. DDC will be meeting with Gemma and Ian from CMRPC to talk about possible grants, including signage and maps for the trails. Mr. Kiley stated he had applied for a Rails to Trails grant but was denied, he will be trying again this year. There was mention of some skepticism when it came to advertising the trails in Town. An App called All Trails had identified Brooks Pond and the area was overwhelmed last Summer. Mr. Kiley stated it should be marked as private property.

Sheila is trying to get a North Brookfield Business Committee together; she's been advertising local businesses on Fridays on Facebook with her "Business Bites." Mr. Kiley asked Sheila to give us something in writing, a general view of the committee. Mr. Kiley said the goal for the DDC is to get the Town House reopened, and it sounds like they're on track. Sheila mentioned that there were state funds earmarked for the TH, Mr. Kiley said no, the TH has historically been commercial, we'd have to restore it to commercial use. We had thought to use it as a school for music and other arts. Mr. Kiley said we could restore the top floor and have events up there, possibly some catering on the first floor. The first thing we needed to do was get a view of the Downtown, then we can get a view of the Town House. He also stated that the same person that designed Mechanics Hall in Worcester designed the North Brookfield Town House. They are acoustically identical, when/if fully repaired.

Mr. Tripp told Sheila he's got someone that may be interested in donating a bench for the rail trail, Sheila said the trails grant would also provide benches.

Kathy Crevier said that being a Senior, she likes to walk on Main Street, rather than back or side streets, but our side walks are pathetic. She said at 4:00pm on a Thursday evening she was trying to cross the street to the Library but cars would not stop for her, she was fearful of getting hit. Mr. Petraitis agreed that that area is pretty bad for pedestrians. Mr. Kiley said he'd talk to Chief Smith to see if they can place an orange traffic barrel with a flashing light to warn drivers.

There being no further business, at 6:50 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter into executive session. The Board will exit executive session only to adjourn. Dale Kiley; yes, Jason Petraitis; yes, John Tripp; yes.

At 7:15 PM the Board exited executive session, Dale Kiley; yes, Jason Petraitis; yes, John Tripp; yes. At 7:15 PM Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre