

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00PM on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 in the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Mr. Petraitis read a letter from the ARPA Committee stating that they voted to approve \$15,000 to reimburse the Arnold's at 94 Summer Street for work done to repair flooding issues on their property, based on conversations had a Town Meeting and assumption the issue is caused by disruption in town-owned storm water culverts. Highway Superintendent, Jason Benoit, is concerned it is not a storm water issue, but an issue caused by an old well on the property. Jason stated he was at the property when construction was being done and believes the well, and possibly a neighbor well, was tied to the culvert as an overflow. He stated he could clearly see water coming out of the well and the path of the stone culvert looks to go uphill directly to neighboring well. Shiela LeBlanc noted that she never heard about it possibly being an issue with a well.

Mr. Petraitis said he wanted Bruce Arnold to remove the language "failed town infrastructure" from his ARPA request. He also noted that since the work has been done he has witnessed water pouring out of the pipe even on dry days. Mr. Petraitis also visited the area when it was downpouring and did not witness any water going over the berm on Maple Street into the Arnold's property. He said the Board would vote on whether or not to pay this at the next Selectmen meeting. There are still a lot of questions as to whether its Town property or a well, and isn't sure this project would qualify for ARPA funds.

Jason Benoit said that you can see the well from Prospect Street. Mr. Tripp asked if other houses have wells up stream from the Arnolds. Jason said all wells in that area have overflows but not necessarily tied to a catch basin, the pipe that was installed at the Arnold's goes up to a small catch basin for stormwater.

Mr. Tripp asked if the well on the Arnold's property is above the basement level, causing the basement to flood. Jason said when Bruce did work it broke something in the network and everything got backed up. Mr. Tripp asked if it was underground water coming up, Jason said he originally did think it was a town-owned broken culvert but he did more digging around, including a dye test, but the findings did not indicate the stormwater was flooding the Arnold's property. Mr. Petraitis and Mr. Tripp told Jason if he is doing tests and research he needs to write everything down and take pictures.

Jason Benoit said there is a huge drainage problem at 10 Spring Street, John Couture said its caused by a pipe that goes under a foundation. He's not sure of it's exact location but would love to dig it up. Jason said he used a camera and the pipe goes right through the center of the foundation and asked if it was a town problem. John said the pipe was there and asked Jason is the pipe was in failure. Jason said he couldn't see because of the flooding. Jason asked if the pipe ties in to Spring Street, John asked if there was a manhole there, Jason said no, just a stone culvert. Jason also said the direction of the pipe suggests it goes between the garage and there's more than on pipe in and out, some are totally clogged. John Couture said whoever built the foundation didn't break the pipe. John Couture said it's a town-owned pipe but no one was aware of it. Jason Benoit said he didn't know how the stone culvert could possibly hold that much water. He said he found a buried manhole cover behind the laundromat; he lowered the elevation in that area and fixed the problem of the laundromat flooding.

Mr. Petraitis asked if the catch basin the Arnold's pipe goes into is on Spring Street, Jason said no, it's on Union Street. Bill King asked if there were plans or easements, John Couture said no. Jason Benoit said nothing suggests that any town-owned drain ties into the Arnold's property. Mr. Tripp said chances are it's ground water, not storm water. Jason noted that the well above the Arnold's property looks to be dry, someone had it filled in.

Mr. Petraitis asked Jason to run some tests if it's raining, Jason said if he can put dye in the Arnold's well it could prove its well water. Mr. Petraitis said the burden of proof is on the Arnold's. John asked if you can retroactively pay for something out of ARPA, Mr. Tripp said that would open the flood gates. Shiela said the ARPA Committee should set budget limits for each category.

John Couture said if you can drop a dye tab in the well it will show results pretty quickly. He said the old wells weren't used for drinking water, more for flushing toilets, laundry, ect. If the water is coming from a private source like a perimeter drain that will be different.

Mr. Petraitis said we need to get some answers and we'll talk about it again next Tuesday. Mr. Petraitis asked Ashley to contact Town Counsel and ask about reimbursing for work already done.

Trees on Rail Trail-National Grid requested to do some tree work on the Rail Trail, Mr. Tripp said that's fine as long as it's not on anyone's private property.

Signature Authorization for COA-Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign an authorization form for the Council on Aging. So voted.

Juneteenth-Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adopt Juneteenth as a paid Federal Holiday for Town Employees. So voted.

Senior Center shut down-Mr. Petraitis said the Board of Selectmen is responsible for Town property, we need to get the name of the contractor in charge of improvements at the Senior Center and ask for their construction plans and schedule. Ashley will reach out to CMRPC.

Mr. Petraitis said there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, Noon to 9PM on the Common, a band is scheduled to perform from 6-8:30pm. Mr. Tripp will get in touch with Hannaford to ask for donations, Alex from Main Street Liquors gave soda and ice before, he will check with him again. He will also see if Dollar General can supply chips and paper goods as they've done in years past. Mr. Petraitis said he would get in contact with Joe Jablonski and Holly Kularski to talk about the parade.

There being no further business, at 6:57PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre