

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Agenda Minutes
Via Zoom
December 15, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
James Ricker Host
Topic: Selectboard meeting

Present: J. Ricker, K. Rush, B. Clarke, G. Demos, D. Berry
Lake Monitoring/Draw Down Committee: Maxine Pare, Adam Vashon, Brian Wilson, Scott Emery

1. Call to Order

- a. Pledge of allegiance, waived due to meeting format

2. Public Access

Maxine Pare voiced concerns on needing trash receptacles at Grove St playground and along Riverwalk. K. Rush stated they would regroup offline to discuss to which J. Ricker agreed.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 12-01-2021

Motion to approve to approve minutes from 12/1/2021 by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, unanimous.

- b. Communications

1. Christmas Celebration

Everyone agreed that it was a great success this year and will become an annual event.

2. Shoreline violations

Mr. Ricker sent everyone photos and information on violations committed by individuals who dug trenches and installed pylons to a wharf on Seabasticook Lake. He has spoken with Jonathan Cullen at the DEP who said these violations are some of the most serious violations he's ever seen, and fines can be more than \$100,000 to each individual. Mr. Ricker asked that if any fines recovered could be used toward the watershed grant in which Mr. Cullen said yes. Actions to correct the actual damage will need to take place at the next drawdown. Mr. Ricker asked that the board support him drafting a letter to the DEP regarding these serious violations and taking actions toward these individuals. All board members were in agreement.

3. Upcoming election

Election to be held on Jan 11 at Public Safety Building 10am-8pm. One person has taken nominations so far.

4. Ambulance update

New ambulance will be arriving Thursday, 12/16 at 11am.

4. Old Business None

5. New Business

1. Public Hearing Junkyard License renewal c/o Jason Erb dba Newport Metals

Owner was late in completing and paying for permit so advertisement will run Dec 27 and hearing will be Jan 5 which will make their permit expire 12/31. Mr. Ricker will have our CEO advise the owner that they need to cease operations until a new permit is issued..

2. Interview w/ Jennifer Jesperson of Ecological Instincts (2nd Consultant for non-point Source Pollution Control Projects Watershed-Based Plan)

Jennifer presented an in depth and informative slide show which included specific data pertaining to Sebasticook Lake including a projected schedule for the grant and fund processing and completion of the project. Mr. Ricker has a copy of this presentation along a company resume showing their background and numerous previous projects. The floor was opened for questions.

- K. Rush asked how many applications she was working on now. Jennifer replied she is working on (2) 319 grants that are not in direct competition with our project.
- D. Berry asked what her success rate is with local landowners and farmers. Jennifer replied that local landowners are more receptive to share responsibility but their success with farmers usually hinges on a mediator. They discuss all the agricultural and forestry survey data and determine changes necessary. The mediators are more accustomed to dealing with farmers and what their needs are.
- G. Demos asked if we could find out how much phosphorus has been deposited in the bottom of the lake. Jennifer said they could collect samples every 2 weeks from the top and bottom every other meter. Also testing the makeup of the phosphorus will yield a lot of beneficial data.
- S. Emery asked since she had 4 plans in the works would there be any issue adding ours. Jennifer replied these other plans will be wrapping up by March so there will be no conflicts.

Selectboard agreed to make a decision at the in person meeting on January 5.

3. Motion on floor to appoint Kellie Harris as Registrar for 2 years. B. Clarke moved, D. Berry seconded, all in favor, motion carries.

4. 7 Adams St: This week it was discovered that squatters were living on this town acquired property. They were also illegally storing 750 gallons of gasoline which was acquired from a local automobile recycler. The fire dept along with a hazmat cleaning company is cleaning out the house and Mr. Ricker is in the process of evicting the squatters.

Motion to put 7 Adams St property (formerly owned by Carl & Opal Gray, Sharon Rogers) out to bid. G. Demos first, Seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, unanimous, motion carries.

6. Warrant

Motion by B. Clarke to approve warrant, G. Demos seconded, all in favor, unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Next meeting will be January 5 at Public Safety Building in person. Motion to adjourn by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kellie Harris
Town Clerk