

*Minutes*  
SELECT BOARD  
Monday, August 19, 2019 6:00 p.m.  
Town Office, 32 Main Street

*Select Board present:* John O'Rourke; Phil Kantor; Bob Armstrong

*Others present* Dan Fentin-Thomas, FCAT; Janet Chayes, Open Space Committee; Michelle Turre, Open Space Committee; Sue Bridge, Friends of Conway; Lee Whitcomb, Friends of Conway; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator

*Minutes*

August 5, 2019

- **On a motion from Armstrong to approve the minutes of August 5, 2019, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Warrants*

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the vendor warrant of \$206,508.81; the payroll warrant of \$96,018.08; and the payroll deduction warrant of \$24,494.18, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Select Board Members*

Armstrong had a ConCom meeting related to the Parks, Rec and Trails shed at the ballfield.

O'Rourke had a Mass. Municipal Association Personnel Policy meeting and Franklin County Selectmen's Board meeting.

*Public Comments*

*None.*

*Old Business*

*None.*

*New Business*

*Open Space Committee: South River Meadow; Records; Committee Membership*

Janet Chayes said that starting in March the Open Space Committee (OSC) began working to get the current use of the meadow. There were two RDAs, one was a plan for mowing and relocating where snow is dumped; the other was a South River Meadow maintenance plan submitted by the Town. She pointed out that the Town is required to make sure that conditions are adhered to and submitted to the ConCom. The ConCom keeps records and is responsible for enforcement. Chayes is afraid in future years people won't know what's at the South River Meadow. The OSC got approval to put in benches, signage, and plantings. She'd like there to be a celebration of the installation of the first of the benches which was donated by Hatch family. She would like help getting a sign put up and noted that the OSC doesn't have time or money to deal with signage. Ron Sweet has moved his equipment and sand and gravel pile.

The area with the sand and gravel needs to be seeded this fall. O'Rourke said they could make that happen. Hutcheson said we need a general policy for work that the Highway Department is requested to do that's not a highway project.

On Sunday, Sept. 8 at 4 p.m. there's a nature walk with Laurie Sanders and her husband Fred.

The OSC has been working with the Connecticut River Conservancy who is giving the OSC shrubs and dogwoods for stabilizing riverbanks and in riparian areas. The planting is scheduled for Saturday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. Update on stiltgrass: it's still there but it's being controlled. Michelle Turre talked about the necessity of the Highway Department's cooperation because when grass is mowed too close to the soil, it spreads the stiltgrass.

Chayes expressed a desire for someone to develop a plan for archiving the records and having better access on the website.

Chayes is also concerned about the Community Preservation Committee not having enough members. Chayes asked the Select Board to "revitalize" the committee. She recalled that the CPC used to have ad hoc members representing the required groups and that worked well.

Chayes also wants the Housing Committee to be revitalized, along with leadership and recruitment by the Select Board. O'Rourke noted that many committees were operating at less than full capacity.

*Friends of Conway: update on activities*

Bridge reported that they have three projects, all in their initial stages. The general approach of the Friends of Conway is for individuals to find/suggest a project, find funding for the project, and find a team captain, always keeping in touch with the Town. Currently the three ongoing projects are: 1) working with the Audubon Society and Tom Sullivan to help with pollinator issues; they've been given an estimate of approximately \$9,000 to develop a half-acre as a pollinator meadow; 2) a project with the Council on Aging, initiated by Chief Ouimette, to develop communications networks in neighborhoods around town, so elders and others with special needs would have someone in their neighborhood to contact in the event of an emergency; and 3) making sure old logging roads, whenever possible, are passable for, e.g., emergency vehicles; this project was spearheaded by Jimmy Recore. Their standard operating procedure is developing into finding a project, finding funding, finding a team captain, and keeping in touch with the Town.

*Letter regarding low-income solar programs to Gov. Baker and Legislature*

Hutcheson recommended using the online web form, which makes more sense than sending one letter to varying audiences.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve Hutcheson filling out the web form; seconded by Kantor, vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Franklin County Regional Kennel – sign annual agreement*

Kantor wondered whether this was needed. Hutcheson said that the cost of maintaining our own kennel was prohibitive, and that the current Animal Control Officer had no interest in doing so.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to sign annual agreement with Franklin County Regional Kennel, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Items not anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting*

*None.*

*Town Administrator update*

**Committees**

Dave Barten has resigned his position as Associate Member of the Planning Board, to which he was appointed by the Select Board when the Planning Board did not have a full complement of members. As they now have full membership, Dave is bowing out.

Andrea Beaudoin has officially resigned from the Finance Committee. If anyone believes they are a good fit for that committee, I urge them to contact Moderator Nick Filler, who appoints the Finance Committee.

*Select Board Comments*

*None.*

*Mail*

Jason Silverman sent his resignation letter. The Agricultural Commission is now without a chair. In the absence of a functioning, required (by Town by-law) committee, the Select Board assumes the responsibility for any required action; in this case, it needs to hold a hearing on a complaint that the Agricultural Commission has received from a resident.

*Announcements*

*None.*

*Next Meeting*

**Wednesday, September 4th, 2019 at the Town Office, 32 Main Street, at 5:00 p.m.**