

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Monday, November 4, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Town Office 32 Main Street

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

Others present: Kimberly MacPhee (FRCOG); Janet Chayes and Michele Turre (Open Space Committee); Jack Lochhead, (Friends of the South River)

Minutes *Tabled*

Public Comments *None*

Old Business

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant

MacPhee apologized for not being able to be in attendance for last week's discussion; she was working in Erving. She offered a clarification of the process: Deerfield called a meeting regarding the MVP program, which she attended. They wanted to do stormwater management projects with Frontier, including installing permeable pavement and rain gardens. MacPhee suggested they contact Conway for those items, as Conway was part of Frontier. About the same time, Chayes called her regarding Open Space Committee ideas, which MacPhee thought would be good for an MVP grant. At the FRCOG, Planning Director Peggy Sloan had been talking with the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership and the Franklin Land Trust about a regional MVP application, which MacPhee said would fit well with some Town projects, including Conway's, and Sloan agreed they could plug Conway in. MacPhee also spoke with Ron Coler of the Ashfield Select Board regarding their dam and some culverts. As above, she could not make the Conway MVP meeting, but discovered that Deerfield's proposed scope of work with Conway had expanded, though it did not cover some of the main items Conway wanted.

MacPhee noted that Conway can be part of multiple grants, including regional grants.

She is prepared to work with Conway on bid-ready documents and landowner agreements in preparation for a number of MVP "action" projects along the South River, and to work with both the Ashfield and Conway Planning Boards on river corridor zoning. The new major regional project is with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, FRCOG, and the Franklin Land Trust, along with Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership towns, and will specifically include Conway and Ashfield. There will be some region-wide projects, and some town-specific projects.

Kantor asked whether Ashfield's dam project was a major part of the proposal. MacPhee said no, just something over \$30,000 for updating the dam safety review.

O'Rourke clarified: the prospects of our getting our Open Space Committee's priorities worked on is better with the FRCOG than with Deerfield, and towns can apply for multiple grants, so Conway can have its Open Space Committee priorities and work with Deerfield on Frontier projects.

Kantor said that the Frontier School Committee seemed to be not in favor of covering pavement projects through their capital plan.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to rescind the vote on the MVP program from October 28, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- **On a motion from O'Rourke to join the Deerfield application strictly for work to be done at Frontier, specifically the pavement and rain gardens, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- **On a motion from O'Rourke to send a letter of support for the FRCOG regarding its MVP application, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Kantor spoke on his understanding of a prohibition of state funds being used to pay for state-mandated work, and whether including that might jeopardize Conway's MVP application. MacPhee said that she understands his point about funding, though if the state found anything illegal or inappropriate in the application, that part could be cut out; the application as a whole would remain viable. She also noted that the state had asked that Ashfield include more recent water predictions based on climate change. Kantor said that Ashfield was not independently funding dam work; their only solution seems to be seeking grant funds. MacPhee noted that Ashfield updated their inundation mapping as part of their emergency response plan.

Armstrong asked about the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership part in the proposal. MacPhee said it is focusing on carbon trading and outreach to landowners regarding forest management in the time of climate change, including payments for practices. Jack Lochhead noted that the Franklin Land Trust was working on flood control through river corridor easements, specifically purchasing development rights; the first step is to prepare bid-ready proposals.

New Business

Open warrant for Special Town Meeting

Hutcheson said he saw no reason not to open the warrant a week early. He has sent an e-mail out to departments and committees asking for items. He distributed copies of the draft warrant as it stands.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to open the warrant, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting *None*

Town Administrator update *None*

Concerns of the Selectmen *None*

Mail *None*

Announcements *None*

Next Meeting: Scheduled for **Tuesday, November 12, 2019** at the Town Office, 32 Main Street, **5:00 p.m.**

- **At 6:47 p.m., on a motion from O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**