

**Minutes**  
**Selectboard Meeting**  
**Monday, January 10, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Via Zoom**

**Present for the Selectboard:** Phil Kantor, Chair; Bob Armstrong; Erica Goleman

**Others Present:** Jackie Choate, Laurie Lucier, Board of Health; Nelson Shifflett; Josh Rapp, Mass Audubon; Brooke Washington; Colin Mettey; Janet Chayes, Open Space Committee; Deb Donaldson, Marilyn Webster, Priscilla Lynch, Forest & Trails; Donna MacNicol, Attorney; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

**Minutes** **On a motion from Phil to accept the minutes of January 3, 2022, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Warrants** *None*

**Meetings Attended by Select Board Members** Erica attended no meetings. Bob attended a Frontier Capital Meeting via Zoom. Bob had a Conservation Committee meeting regarding the donated building on Route 116. Phil attended meetings with the Frontier Budget, School and Capital committees, and had just met with the teachers and NIAs. The tennis courts and track need to be rebuilt, and hopefully there will be CPA funding available. There are also HVAC issues with the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the school building.

**Public Comments** None

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

***Vote to approve Forest Climate Resilience Program non-binding letter of intent to update the Town's Forest Stewardship Climate Plan***

Josh Rapp said that last year Conway got forest stewardship plans for two properties. The new plan formalizes it for DCR, Through two MVP grants two towns have funded the development of a forest climate resilience program. Right now, it helps towns; later it might be offered to private landowners. The next step is to apply for another MVP grant to implement the work called for in the plans. Once you have the plan it opens the door to further funding, for example, planting climate-appropriate trees. Right now, funding is committed to doing one of the two town forests. Which would the town prefer funding first? He said he assumed the larger one. If we know what we want there is probably about \$3-4,000 for the update. The update would not fund a full inventory but would provide additional information on carbon credits. The way it works is if you're selling carbon credits, for those projects to work there are not many options. Making sure the forest is resilient is not guaranteed. We want to be able to attract enough funding so that it can be offered later to private ownership. At this point, Josh said they don't know if they can fund both forests but can commit to one. If funding allows, perhaps the other could be done too. If specific things are requested for the plan, the questions should go to Mary Wigmore to determine economic feasibility. He also noted that to do the MVP grant they need a town sponsor. **On a motion from Erica to approve signing a non-binding letter of intent to update the Forest Stewardship Climate Program, Bob seconded, all said aye, and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Discuss** *how many rapid in-home covid tests to purchase and vote to expend ARPA funds for that purpose*

Véronique said the number of tests available depends on the manufacturer. Pricing is volatile, but once a decision is made she will act on the Selectboard's vote as soon as possible. We should have received our first 180 tests today, but they did not arrive. Distribution needs to be decided – EMS, Board of Health, etc. should be involved. Distribution should be limited to Conway residents. Nelson had a list he had gotten from people in Charlemont that included people who work for the town; those who are immune-compromised; elderly; Meals on Wheels and fuel-assisted people, etc. The town will work with Community Action to help those people. How should tests be distributed to the general public? Véronique said the ARPA rules have changed and she would have to check. How do we assure that those requesting tests are Conway residents? We should order a minimum of 500 test kits (1,000 tests) which is half the population of Conway. Donna cautioned that if you distribute in a need-based manner, this is confidential information and must be kept confidential. **On a motion from Erica to ask the Town Administrator to order 410 (or a minimum order) of kits and to give the Town Administrator the flexibility to work out a distribution program, Bob seconded all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Vote on hiring Roselli & Clark to provide revenue replacement calculations for ARPA funds**

Subsequent events have rendered this request unnecessary.

**Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting H.3821, An Act creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority hearing and opportunity to testify**

Natalie Blais' Assistant, Corrinne, sent an email saying there will be a hearing before a joint committee postponed to the 26<sup>th</sup> at 11. Does anyone from the town want to give testimony supporting that bill, which will help bring monies to towns like Conway to help make public safety upgrades possible? It was felt by some that Conway would likely not benefit, as the funding tends to go toward towns with larger populations first.

**Funding available to explore Regional Shared Conservation Commission Agent Possibility**

Bob noted that we have lost our circuit rider in Springfield who approves all our Conservation Commission issues and who gives us his expertise on conservation-related issues. A number of towns are asking if a shared agent with expertise on Conservation Commission work would be helpful in providing expertise similar to the way FRCOG does. If Conway joins the other towns in asking FRCOG to circle agent as one of the three projects we're allowed to propose for the coming year. FRCOG is willing to do this at no cost to the towns.

**Town Administrator update 01/10/21**

We have advertised for the Administrative Assistant to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board, as Lara De Lucca has resigned.

I attended a training put on by the FRCOG on how to use the accounting software Abila in order to print out reports.

I have had preliminary budget meetings with both the Fire and Police Departments.

The website working group received quotes from CivicPlus; one for their 'central' project and the other for their 'open' project platforms. I will be reaching out to some references which were provided from towns which use the open project, which is the cheaper of the two options. The group will then put together a list of pros and cons from the three platforms; WordPress, RocketFusion and CivicPlus for discussion.

**Select Board member  
comments/concerns**

None

**Mail**

Deerfield Climate Change Forum: Bob said the forum was to be in person, but if it's held in February they won't be able to do it that way due to the pandemic. It would be postponed to April 2nd. He felt we didn't have to talk about it now but discussing it prior to April 2<sup>nd</sup> will allow it to be included in *Conway Currents*.

**Announcements**

None

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Adjourn**

**At 6:55 p.m. on a motion from Erica to go into Executive Session for Reason #6 - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. All asserted that they were alone and not being heard by anyone.**