

**aMinutes
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2022
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road**

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

Others Present: Allison Gage, FRCOG; Janet Chayes, Open Space Committee; Kendall Clark, Grant Ingle, Cynthia Lawton-Singer, Pollinate Conway!; Ron Sweet, Highway Superintendent; Véronique Blanchard; Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes

On a motion from Bob to approve the Minutes of May 9, 2022, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Warrants

None

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Erica had no meetings. Bob went to the Vertex hearing on May 10th. Most Conway people support the tower. Others were not so supportive and would like to see it shut down. Phil had a Frontier School Committee meeting and on Thursday he went to the Floodplain hearing.

Public Comments

None

Old Business

None

New Business *Allison Gage, FRCOG. Discussion and vote on MOU for regional energy planning assistance.*

Allison said that FRCOG will provide as much or as little technical assistance as requested on energy projects, assuming we receive the funding. Her request is due on the 20th so she needs a signed MOU before then. The scope of work lists what we can get funding for; she will send it on to the DOR. This request will be for May 2023, and is usually a 2-year project. **On a motion Phil from to sign the MOU for FRCOG regional planning assistance, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Police Dept. nomination of Michael Habel to serve as a reserve officer

Ken said that Mike has the training and expertise to serve as a reserve officer. He will come in when he is needed for example, special traffic details, etc. He also has his own equipment to some extent. **On a motion from Phil to nominate Michael Habel to serve as a reserve office on the Conway Police Force, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Deerfield River Study, potential addition to Wild/Scenic Rivers system.

This bill was introduced in congress in 2019 for a study to allow portions of the Deerfield River to be designated part of the Wild & Scenic Rivers system. This designation gives the town the ability to gain funding to keep the river in that status. **On a motion from Phil to support the study to allow portions of the Deerfield River to be designated part of the Wild & Scenic Rivers system, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Open Space Committee & Pollinate Conway! to discuss planning process for town center open spaces

Janet said she is hoping plantings can be done on the island by the library, possibly for the fall. Most of the shrubs that are there are overgrown, and the Open Space Committee has a design proposing native perennials. There is a bench that needs to be moved as it's too close to the fir (Christmas) tree. They need approval to use the water connection on the island. It's an underground faucet and requires a special key, though Ken Ouimette may have one. Maintenance is critical, so about 6 volunteers are working on a schedule to assure that watering, etc. are done on a timely basis. Open Space will provide funding out of their own budget, and others have volunteered plants. For the future, it should cost around \$700 a year to hire a person @ \$25/hour for a few hours per week to take care of the established beds once they're in. Supervision would be delegated to an experienced gardener,

signing paysheets to vouch that the work had been done properly – a consultant vs. a town employee. Ron said he was in favor of doing the library island first and seeing how it works out before moving to re-do the town office. Anything that makes mowing more difficult will be problematic and costs the town money. Janet expressed an interest in Open Space and Pollinate Conway! being a part of the process of re-doing the Veteran’s Park across from the Town Hall. A question was asked about the possibility of those maintaining the downtown park areas using part of the building on the South Meadow for storage. There was more discussion about the aesthetics of tree trimming that has occurred recently. Ron said that the first consideration of tree trimming is safety.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Permission given for the use of all town-owned properties to be posted with Town Meeting notices/signage.

Town Administrator update

- On Tuesday I attended the third in FRCOG’s State Funding webinar series, this latest showcasing the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) program grants. I also attended the first hour or so of the Vertex public hearing.
- On Thursday I attended the MMHR ‘bootcamp’ and found it to be incredibly helpful. I look forward to receiving the presentations as reference materials going forward. I also attended the Floodplain public hearing.
- On Friday I met via Zoom with LocalPower to follow up on their request to give a presentation to the selectboard. We had a very good conversation, and they sent me their presentation and other information on the technology they are promoting. Several issues came up, such as needing a certain amount of trash tonnage to make the program viable, being able to both site and permit a new facility, as well as questions I had about the actual technology. I gave them some other contact names to try, and will be asking colleagues who work on international waste issues to give me feedback about this technology, since it is supposedly used in both Europe and Japan.

Select Board member comments/concerns

There were some concerns expressed regarding holding Town Meeting, as the COVID-19 numbers in Franklin County have climbed recently from medium to high. Alternative sites have been considered but aren’t readily workable.

Mail

Eversource sent a letter regarding a hearing to make a rate increase because they underfunded MassSave.

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

Monday, May 23 at 6:45 p.m. at the Grammar School Library. As it’s pre-town meeting at 7, it is hoped the meeting will be brief.

Adjourn

On a motion from Phil to adjourn, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.