

Minutes
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, June 6, 2022
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
Public Availability via Zoom

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

Others Present: Priscilla Lynch and Marilyn Webster, Forest & Trails Committee; Mary Wigmore, Wigmore Forest Resource Management; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Call to order Phil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes On a motion from Phil to approve the Minutes of May 31, 2022, Bob seconded, all said aye, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Warrants On a motion from Bob to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant W22-26 for \$114,022.19, the Payroll Warrant WP22-26 for \$129,031.07, and the Payroll Deduction Warrant PDW22-26 for \$32,450.54, Erica seconded, all said aye, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members None for Erica or Bob except for Town Meeting on June 4. Phil had a Forest & Trails meeting on Thursday, a school meeting on Friday and he also attended Town Meeting.

Public Comments None

Old Business None

New Business
Mary Wigmore, Wigmore Forest Resource Management, will give an update on the Carbon Credit report.
Mary sent two letters, made calls, and visited individual landowners to see if people were interested in joining the aggregate or even using the forest as a nature-based climate solution. Came up with 4,488 acres, which is large enough to have a program. 34% of those in Conway would be interested in selling carbon credits. She presented a map showing the parcels outlined in red and said the market has changed: private developers are buying landowners' carbon on a 10-year basis. The developers create a real estate trust to do business with the carbon buyers. 39 private owners are interested, but the developers would combine them. The state of Massachusetts is creating their own carbon market.

Bob asked how private owners can join the aggregate. Eco-Core will buy down to 6 acres. Core-Carbon makes you do a 10-year deal and they pay out a small sum each year. South Deerfield Water District is participating - they are 'quasi-governmental'. Northampton is working on investigating their own options as they have a lot of land.

Phil said that the thought was to combine public and private lands in Conway, as we are a close-knit community, using the Town Forest and taking the individual owners with us. Mary agreed.

She will finish the report and have it ready for the Selectboard by the 20th. Marilyn asked if the Fournier Property and Town Forest are included in the Carbon Credit plan, and if so, would it commit us to do certain things in the stewardship plan? Mary said suggestions would be reviewed by the community first. What about additionality? You grow more with the project than without it?

If you enter the market, you have to tell the vendor how you intend to take care of the woods in a certain way for a certain period of time. Marilyn asked if the carbon trust was more interested in storage or sequestering of carbon. Mary said both. The trust buys the *extra* of what you could have done given all the factors involved. That's additionality.

Annual Town Meeting review – lessons learned.

Comments were made regarding the trip hazard covering the cables that didn't seem to work: we could have duct-taped them. The Warrant Lite was favorably reviewed by a number of citizens. It appears that quite a few people who had never attended a Town Meeting before attended this one. Three versions of the warrant were handed out, and it seems that most people looked at the interpretations of the articles, rather than at the warrant itself, and felt that the Warrant Lite was very helpful in answering questions beforehand. Town meeting lasted 2-1/2 hours. The clickers were useful as well as it eliminated the need for lengthy counts, though they could have been used to get a count of attendees through an initial test of asking folks to all click 'yes' and then all click 'no'. Laurie had a count of 125 attendees. Some residents asked if the town meeting could start in the morning instead of the afternoon. Phil volunteered that he thought that the effort to get people to Town Meeting this year was instrumental in getting the numbers up.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None

Town Administrator update

None

Select Board member comments/concerns

Phil thanked Véronique for her handling of Town Meeting. He said that her hard work and attention to detail had resulted in one of the most efficient meetings in memory.

Mail

Mary Wigmore: Conway Town Farm Forest Walk

A Conway Town Farm Forest Walk will take place on June 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon with a rain date of June 19th, same time.

Letter from Deerfield resident re: Stillwater Bridge issues

Our local rafting company does not go off Stillwater Bridge. Phil said this issue comes up occasionally and that he felt it is based on racism and dislike of allowing anyone from out of town to use such facilities.

Letter from BETA Group describing North Poland Bridge Replacement

If the Selectboard or any town citizen doesn't like the plan, they need to notify the vendor within 30 days. The plan will be available at the Town Office with the Town Administrator.

WRAP funding contract

Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) contract came in. This funding will allow Ron to work on dirt roads. Hopefully we will be receiving \$213K soon.

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

June 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, with Zoom capability.

Adjourn Public Meeting to go into Executive Session

At 7 p.m. on a motion from Phil to adjourn the public meeting to go into Executive Session for Reason #6, to consider the purchase, exchange lease or value of real property 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.

Rejoin Public Meeting

At 7:15 Phil declared the Executive Session ended, and the public meeting back in session. He announced that the Board had approved the publication of the Executive Session Minutes of August 30, 2021, September 27, 2021, December 6, 2021, December 13, 2021, December 20, 2021, January 10, 2022, February 17, 2022, March 7, 2022, and April 19, 2022.

Re-Adjourn

At 7:17 p.m. on a motion from Phil to adjourn the public meeting to go into Executive Session, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.