

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
June 1, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Douglass
Marie Brilliant
Ruth Lyons
William Thompson

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Roland Tufts

STAFF PRESENT: Richard Roedner, Town Manager

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, June 1, 2017 in the Donald A. Russell Meeting Room, at the Municipal Building, 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Douglass called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The recording secretary took the roll call and noted that all Selectmen were present, except for Selectman Tufts, who had been excused.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

As many of you are aware, about two weeks ago, our Fire/EMS and Police were involved in a search and rescue on the Androscoggin River, with one person still missing. Earlier this week, our Police Chief received a letter from Col. Jon Cornish of the Marine Patrol, thanking our Police Department for their assistance.

“Good Afternoon Chief. I wanted to take the time to pass along Marine Patrol’s gratitude for the support your agency provided on the search for the missing boater two weeks ago. In particular, I want to commend Officer Garrison for the assistance he rendered using his personal bass boat with side scan radar. Having this additional asset on scene definitely provided enhanced visibility of the bottom and improved the potential for a recovery. Troy has participated in local searches in the past and having him there with his expertise is definitely a bonus. Given Marine Patrol’s limitations it is great to know that there are competent municipalities such as yours that are ready to play a role in these types of scenarios. Please send along our sincere thanks to Officer Garrison. Being a Topsham resident it is reassuring to know that he is on Patrol.”

Col. Cornish is also a Topsham resident, and as a resident, passed along this note of thanks on a separate issue:

“On an unrelated note, last winter I lost my dogs while out walking along the river. They were young and having them gone at the edge of dark on a frigid night was not pleasant. It was very reassuring when Officer Mathieu stopped by after being alerted that the dogs were missing. I am sure that she had more pressing things she could have been doing, but she took some time out of her schedule to drive around the local area to look for the dogs. My family really appreciated that. Please pass along our gratitude to her and keep up the good work.”

I will say that too often we relegate our views of Police Officers to what we hear and see on the nightly news. I dare say, that the examples these two officers have shown in community policing are much more common than what we hear on the news.

Earlier this evening, we held a grand opening of our new multi-use path that connects Main Street and Community Way, just in time for National Trails Day on Saturday. This is a wonderful new amenity for Topsham residents, and I would encourage everyone to get out to enjoy it this weekend, or one of our other trails, Head of Tide Park, the trails around our recreation fields, the Riverwalk from Summer St. to the Swinging Bridge, or Town Landing Trail off of Town Landing Road.

Also worthy of note, today’s M section of the Portland Press Herald has an article about Topsham’s charms, including Head of Tide Park, Swinging Bridge, the food and drink.

Lastly, the Planning Office has welcomed its Bowdoin Phi Upsilon Intern, Ripley Mayfield. Ripley will be with us for the next 10 weeks or so, and I am sure she will be before the Board at some point.

Selectman Lyons reminded those using the trails to keep their legs covered and to use appropriate sprays to keep the ticks away.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – None noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE – None noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of May 4, 2017.**
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the Special Selectmen Meeting of May 17, 2017.**

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To approve the minutes of the Regular Selectman’s meeting of May 4, 2017 and the Special meeting of May 17, 2017, both as written.

PUBLIC HEARING – None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None noted.

OLD BUSINESS - None noted.

NEW BUSINESS

17-48 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ACCEPTING A DONATION OF A GRANITE BENCH TO THE TOPSHAM BIKE PATH FROM ELIZABETH DAVIS

Mr. Roedner said Elizabeth Davis has requested permission to have a granite bench placed along the walking path in memory of her Father, Perry H. Jordan. Mr. Jordan walked his dog to Tom Horton's Restaurant every morning and was looking forward to the opening of the walking path. Sadly, he passed away before the path was open. A photo of a similar bench was included in the Board package. Inscription on the bench will read: "*ONE COULD DO WORSE THAN BE A SWINGER OF BIRCHES...Robert Frost ...In Loving Memory of Perry H. Jordan.*" Public Works will place the bench in an appropriate place.

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To accept the donation of a granite bench from the family of Perry H. Jordan, to be placed on the Topsham Bike Path in his memory.

17-49 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF JAY HERRICK AS CONSULTANT FOR THE SAGADAHOC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIRGROUNDS ROOF REPLACEMENT PLAN

Memo was included in the Board package explaining the request from the Sagadahoc Agricultural Society to hire Jay Herrick as the Architect of Record to design plans for the roof replacement to the grandstand roof (memo dated May 24, 2017).

Following discussion, motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was

VOTED

3-0-1 (with Selectman Brilliant abstaining) to approve the hiring of Jay Herrick as consultant for the Sagadahoc Agricultural Society to design the roof replacement on the fair grandstand roof, with cost not to exceed \$2,500.

17-50 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA FISCHER AS FINANCE DIRECTOR

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Brilliant, and it was

VOTED

To approve the appointment of Debra Fischer as Finance Director for the Town of Topsham. (The vote was 3 in favor with 1 opposed (Selectman Lyons)).

17-51 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION SEEKING SPIRIT OF AMERICA NOMINATIONS

The Town Manager reviewed how each year the Town is contacted to nominate an individual to be recognized for their volunteering efforts. The program is sponsored by the Spirit of America organization.

During discussion several concerns were expressed including the thought that the Spirit of America should select and honor an individual from the Town and not leave the responsibility up to the Select Board. Concern was also expressed that Topsham has many, many volunteers all doing a great job and how difficult it would be to choose just one individual.

No action was taken on this item.

17-52 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ACCEPTING CHANGES/UPDATES ON OUR INVESTMENT POLICY

A draft of the current Investment Policy was included in the Board package. Town Manager told the Board that the auditors suggested the policy be reviewed and the language updated.

The need to update the language and clarify the limit of what the Board can or cannot make decisions to do, such as purchasing CD's or other investment options was discussed. Selectman Thompson suggested getting a third party investor involved.

The Board was in agreement to add Item No. 9, under Section B to the Investment Principles to Guide the Treasurer:

“9. The final investment policy or mechanism shall be subject to Board review and approval.

Motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To approve the revised Investment Policy, with the addition of #9 to read: “The final investment policy or mechanism, shall be subject to Board review and approval.”

17-53 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION SEEKING GUIDANCE ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FROM SERVING ON MULTIPLE BOARDS

It was noted that this item was placed on the agenda as an individual currently on the Finance Committee was asked to serve on the Library's Board of Directors. Chairman Douglass said that while there is no true conflict of interest, the perception of a conflict might become an issue from members of the public.

During discussion the question arose if legal guidance was needed in this situation.

Motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To direct the Town Manager to seek the opinion of MMA and, if necessary, the Town's Attorney, seeking guidance on conflict of interest on serving on any Board that receives financial benefit from the Town of Topsham.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None noted.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Brilliant, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

(The Board moved into a workshop meeting.)

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Williams, Recording Secretary