

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on December 6, 2016, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil (7:17pm), Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; and members of the public.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

Sylvia Ounpuu, 48 Stonehedge Lane, thanked the BOS for the bike signs that are going up. She also reviewed some highlights of Bike Walk Bolton which is now a year old. She asked if there was any word on whether the gate at the Bolton Notch trail parking lot could be painted with “no parking.” R. Morra said the town cannot do that because it is state land. S. Ounpuu also asked if the BOS had a position on the Eastern Gateway feasibility meeting on November 16. The BOS did not as they have not yet received the results of that meeting.

Barbara Amodio, 50 Volpi Road, reviewed upcoming Bike Walk Bolton plans such as an event with the Women’s Club and Heritage Farm, an area event with Andover, and pursuing bicycle friendly designation by the League of American Cyclists. B. Amodio applied for and obtained a grant for an infrared counter for the East Coast Greenway. The infrared counter is now installed and will be maintained.

John Stewart, 934 Hop River Road, Energy Commission, asked the BOS to further consider a Solarize Bolton program that would provide education, presentations, and allow residents to get discounts. Seventy-four other towns have done such a program.

R. Morra recognized Bert Flynn for his service over the years of filming the Board of Selectmen for public access since Bert is retiring.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. **November 1, 2016 Meeting:** R. Neil moved to approve. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.
- b. **November 2, 2016 Special Meeting:** R. Neil moved to approve. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.
- c. **November 21, 2016 Special Meeting:** R. Neil moved to approve. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

4. Correspondence:

A letter of resignation from the Energy Committee was received from John Muro, who was its Chairman. R. Morra expressed thanks for J. Muro’s contribution both to the Energy Committee and to the community in various other aspects. R. Neil moved to accept the resignation with regret. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

5. Unfinished Business: None.

6. New Business:

A. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:

The DOT informational meeting on a possible solution for the missing link from Notch Pond to the Post Office was well attended. Copies of the maps are available on the town website. The feasibility study grant with the Town of Coventry on a possible trail through land returned by the state in Bolton, Coventry and Andover ranges in cost estimation from \$150,000-\$250,000. Andover has not yet accepted its land back

from the state so Coventry and Bolton are deliberating on how to proceed with the grant. They are looking for suggestions for a potential trail name and for letters of support to go with the application.

G. Marrion raised a request, shared by Richard Treat, that such a grant include marking of the location of the boundaries of the town-owned land. There was a recent incident of a resident trapping animals within the boundaries of town land, while he believed he was within private property. G. Marrion moved to include in the Coventry/Bolton grant application a request for funding for location of boundaries. S. Pierog seconded. The BOS discussed the merits of marking boundaries, how they could be marked, and the scope and cost of the study. G. Marrion amended her motion to ask the Town of Coventry to modify the proposed grant request to include a request for funding to develop GPS coordinates to locate boundaries so that then both towns may mark them. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

R. Treat thanked the BOS for their action. He said that letter he sent to the BOS asking for some such measure on boundaries also went to Coventry, so it will not be the first they are hearing of it.

B. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:

The lake drawdown continues. The water is brownish green, clarifying as it gets colder. There have been a lot of birds migrating by the lake. The STEAP grant cannot be simply extended past its expiration date as originally anticipated. It requires the original resolution to be passed again. M. Eremita moved the following: "Be it resolved that it is in the best interest of the Town of Bolton to enter into contracts with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. In furtherance of this resolution, Joyce M. Stille, the Administrative Officer of the Town of Bolton is duly authorized to enter into and sign said documents on behalf of the Town of Bolton for the Lower Bolton Lake STEAP grant project. The Administrative Officer is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto. The Town Clerk is authorized to impress the seal of the Town of Bolton on any such document, amendment, rescission, or revision."

R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

C. FY17 Budget Report: The budget was 36.29% expensed compared to 35.40% in FY16 and \$37.15% in FY15.

D. Consider and Act on Resolution for 2016/17 Board of Education Facilities Improvement Program: S. Pierog moved to hold a Special Meeting at 4:15 pm, Wednesday, December 4th at the Town Hall for discussion on the capital projects and resolutions for BCS bonding and other items that may be deemed necessary. R. Morra seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

The BOS received updated figures on estimates for remaining work. In addition to the \$376,499.84 deficit from the sidewalks and carpet replacement, the change to natural gas will require replacement of the 22+ year old boilers and hot water heaters, which will be an additional \$230,000.00 deficit. The total deficit to bond will be \$606,499.84. J. Stille said they are still working with the Bond Council on the resolution language.

E. Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and/or Appropriation Requests: R. Neil moved to approve a budget transfer of \$6,000 from Health Insurance to Unemployment. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Reports:

Finance and Administration Committee: R. Morra said the Committee was against a solarizing program because the town does not want to endorse a single installer, and the committee encourages people to look at all options and companies for alternative sources of energy. The subcommittee recommended to not participate in a solarize program. R. Neil moved to not participate in a solarize program. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 4:0:1, S. Pierog against.

B. Properties and Facilities:

Heritage Farm is still waiting on the follow up of the architect on the proposed items.

J. Stille said the BOE section of paperwork to close out the BOE section of the BHS project is done. Work continues on the BHS portion.

The Eversource lighting project is moving forward in December and will likely be done by February 2017. The recycling/waste facility will be open 8 am through 12 pm, Saturday, January 7, with an inclement weather date of January 21.

C. Revenue Sources: None

8. First Selectman's Report

A. Fracking Ordinance: Work continues. R. Morra said they hope to bring it forward as soon as it is finished.

B. Town Garage Addition: A total scope and cost estimate of work will hopefully be available for the BOS in January.

R. Morra took a moment to note the giving tree at Town Hall and encouraged people to take an ornament and fulfill one of the requests. He wished the community a very happy Christmas, a safe holiday season, a happy Hanukkah, and a safe New Years'.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. CRCOG: CRCOG is working on legislative agenda. One proposal considered is for a road tax which would hurt smaller towns. CRCOG continues to look for aid for crumbling foundations. J. Stille attended a meeting with the Department of Housing Commissioner and Jim Rupert helped review RFQ responses from contractors for replacement work. Thirty-six towns are involved so far.

Also, we are discussing holding a forum on shared services between schools and towns when school representatives able to attend.

B. COST: DOT has some concerns about the effect of funding changes on CT.

Proposals from the Department of Public Health to consolidate health districts is an issue that is not supported at the local level. People are asked to lobby senators to oppose them.

C. CCM: Seven staff attended CCM conference with J. Stille. It was very helpful for staff attendees, but offered little encouragement as to the state budget. At the conference, East Conn gave a presentation on shared services between schools and towns. CCM is also working with COST to help small towns declare water utility designations.

J. Stille and M. Eremita attended a meeting with the Lieutenant from the Colchester barracks. Opioids are a concern. There has been an increase in larcenies but less so with burglaries. There was discussion of

improving communications and developing joint expectations for troopers. Discussions included police coverage and any options to improve.

J. Stille also reported on meeting with OPM Commissioner, Ben Barnes, where he indicated a 10% to 15% cut in municipal aid is possible for next year.

- 10. Appointments:** No new information on the Ethics Committee. M. Eremita said if there is nothing by January, he will move to rescind the stipulation against members serving on additional boards.
- 11. Executive Session: Land Acquisition**
R. Neil moved to go into executive session including J. Stille, seconded by G. Marrion to discuss land acquisition. Vote 5:0:0. Executive session began at 9:08 pm. Executive session ended at 9:23 p.m.
- 12. Adjournment:**
R. Neil moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m., seconded by M. Eremita. Vote 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.