

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on February 7, 2017, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog. Administrative Officer Joyce Stille was also present. Also present were Superintendent Kristin Heckt, Liz Krueger, Sylvia Ounpoo, Barbara Amodio, Arlene Fiano, and others.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment: K. Heckt and members of the Board of Education were present because they had understood that the high school project closeout would be discussed at the meeting. R. Morra said that was miscommunicated, but the BOS, K. Heckt, and BOE members then had a productive discussion on the current status of the closeout. There are two items the state is currently questioning: FFE (furniture and fixtures) purchasing and the submittal of the final change order. Staff is combing through correspondence and documents dating back several years to validate those items for grant eligibility. G. Marrion asked about a reimbursement she had heard about that was not requested. J. Stille and K. Heckt said Michelle Dixon, with whom they met with at the state Department of Education, directed them to do the application for that reimbursement with the final submittal of the closeout. The state has said that closing out the high school project is a priority for them as well.

A. Fiano, Bolton Heritage Farm Commission, said she and some others with the Historical Society are looking ahead to the 2020 town anniversary and wanted to know if there was anything in the works yet. R. Morra said it will be basically a committee of people involved in relevant groups in town. J. Stille said there is a Founders' Day fund that was created a number of years ago, but there is not much funding in it right now. She was not sure of the exact number but it is reported in the audit.

B. Amodio, 50 Volpi Road, of Bike Walk Bolton, reported that the Hop River trail was featured as trail of the month in the Rails to Trails magazine. She also has preliminary results from the infrared counter but it is raw data form and not ready for publication yet. S. Ounpoo, 48 Stonehedge Lane, of Bike Walk Bolton, said that they are working on a National Trails Day event. They already have some naturalists and historians coming on board.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 11, 2017 Meeting: Motion by R. Neil. M. Eremita seconded. G. Marrion pointed out the following corrections:

Item #2, first paragraph, fifth line, "busses" should be "buses."

Item #2, seventh paragraph, first line, "Welch" should be "Welch."

Item #6A, fourth line, the typo "fi" should be removed.

Item #6D, third paragraph, fifth line, "is" should follow "Gwen Marrion" and "and asked questioned" corrected to "and she questioned."

Item #6D, third paragraph, final sentence, "Kristen" should be "Kristin."

R. Neil and M. Eremita accepted these corrections. Vote 5:0:0.

B. January 17, 2017 Budget Workshop: Motion by R. Neil, seconded by M. Eremita. Vote 5:0:0.

C. January 24, 2017 Special Meeting: Motion by R. Neil, seconded by G. Marrion. Vote 5:0:0.

D. January 24, 2017 Budget Workshop: Motion by R. Neil, seconded by M. Eremita. Vote 5:0:0.

4. Correspondence: A letter of resignation from the Economic Development Commission was received from Scott Rich, who found that it conflicted with his prior time commitment to the Board of Education. S. Pierog moved to accept his resignation with regret and thanks for this service. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

5. Unfinished Business: None.

6. New Business:

A. Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension: For the proposed trail on Route 44 from Quarry Road to the Coventry town line with a spur down Tolland Road, the boundary survey has been reviewed by the Trails Committee. After a few minor changes have been made, the information will be available to the public. The Trails Committee will hold a final public presentation, with a Q & A to follow, at 7 pm, March 2nd, Town Hall. G. Marrion added that this trail work was done under a DEEP grant for just under \$70,000, towards which the town only put \$3,600 plus in kind services for a very good result. Neither the Trails Committee nor the BOS has yet discussed a next step. The funding for the segment from the Manchester town line to Notch Pond was approved by the bond commission so it will now move forward.

A DEEP grant was received for the former Route 6 properties. Either a RFQ or RFP will be developed for services. The towns are still waiting on documents officially awarding the grant for the project. M. Eremita asked how much the town will have to contribute. J. Stille said it has a match, but will be split with Coventry. At the worst, it will be around \$10,000. The total may also be split more proportionally and over two years. In kind contributions will count towards that total.

B. Lower Bolton Lake Status Report: The ice hasn't been tested because it has been melting too quickly.

C. FY17 Budget Report: The town is 49.67% expensed, compared to 50.49% at this point in FY16 and 50.14% in FY15. Tax levy is at 99.86% of the budgeted amount. The Interim Assessor sent a memorandum that the Grand List is showing an increase of .7%. The Governor's budget is to be released tomorrow (Wednesday, February 8th).

D. Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and/or Appropriation Requests: None.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Reports: Finance/Administration: R. Morra reported they are working on the hydraulic fracking ordinance language. It was approved as developed by the subcommittee and has been sent to the Town attorney for final review. Drafts for refuse/recycling and a school activity fund were

also received by the committee. With the list of capital projects ahead, he suggested a retreat be held with that as the sole focus.

B. Properties and Facilities: S. Pierog reported they have had a pre-contract-close-out conference call. The work is substantially complete, with some administrative paperwork to be filed. The state said no paint on the silo, and no paint on the cinder bricks.

C. Revenue Sources: Finance Director J. Collins is going through revenues to see where the town is this year and estimates for next year.

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. Meeting on Shared Services: R. Morra reported that the recent forum was excellent and informative. He will be attending the next Board of Finance and Board of Education meetings to suggest a joint meeting to discuss shared services.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. CRCOG: The Governor has proposed \$5 million for testing for failing concrete foundations. CDBG is also proposing funds for testing. CRCOG is trying to get them to go beyond testing, as it is already known that many foundations are failing and after that is determined; people still have no resources for relief. A qualified vendor list has been compiled and there is info available on the CRCOG websites. Current information on crumbling foundations and service sharing was shared by J. Stille.

B. CCM: J. Stille distributed the report from the state-local partnership panel she served on. The report looks at a new ways to move forward as a state in the areas of revenue diversification and service sharing. Whether COST or CRCOG or CCM, the focus has turned to responding to legislation that is being proposed at the state level and fighting for small towns.

Information on the Opioid Epidemic forum was also distributed.

10. Appointments: None.

11. Adjournment: R. Neil moved to adjourn. M. Eremita seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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