

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020, 7:00 P.M. - VIRTUAL
MINUTES**

		Present	Absent
First Selectman	Sandra Pierog	X	
Selectman	Robert Morra	X	
Selectman	Mike Eremita	X	
Deputy First Selectman	Kim Miller	X	
Selectman	Robert DePietro	X	
Administrative Officer (Staff)	Joshua Kelly	X	
Members of the Public			

1. Call to Order:

By: Sandra Pierog

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual

2. Public Comment:

Paula - A citizen expressed her appreciation to the BOS and Staff for the amazing job they have been doing with keeping residents informed and safe during the pandemic. She publicly commented on Facebook about this in the past. She read the BOS meeting minutes since the election and the Board seems to be on the same page for the direction of the town. With the exception of one vote, most of the decisions have been unanimous. She came this evening to express what happened on the Green during the filming of the Memorial Day service and the comments made on Facebook. She is not hear to comment about what happened on the Green because she was not there to witness it. Someone at the service posted about his perception of the incident on an unofficial Bolton page. His comment and those that commented on that have a right to do so. People were upset by the way the BOS handled the situation. People posting in the unofficial Facebook page know and accept the rules for commenting. However, the comments turned ugly against Pierog and turned townspeople against townspeople. Then the comments attacked the First Selectman's character. She voiced her extreme disappointment in the silence from the other four Selectmen. Given these four know Pierog the best in a working capacity for the town not one stepped up to defend her character publicly. It was clear someone wanted this to go viral and be a story in the newspaper. If the other Selectmen spoke up the character attacks may have been tamped down. Adam Teller did this job for them. While he did a good job it would have been better coming from one of the Selectmen, or even better, coming from the four Selectmen in a united front. All four of the Selectmen not only let Pierog down but the Town down as well. During this citizen's time on the Board of Education all of the BOE members presented a united front if the Chairperson was verbally

attacked. That is leadership. Privately the discussion was completely different about how things could have been handled differently, but publicly personal insults were not tolerated. When we have injustices if we don't stand up for the little ones how in the world can we stand up for the big ones? She does not expect the Members to be social media experts, but you do need to keep yourselves informed about the town in a timely manner. You cannot make decisions in what is best for the town when you don't know what is going on and ignorance of the event is no excuse. We elected you to lead. How can she believe the Members to step up for a more serious matter than this one? She expects the Members to comment on whether you truly believe a colleague you know intended to not let people honor vets or wants people to get the coronavirus. This nation, this state, and this town needs healing. And it can start one person at a time and it can start with you.

Comments from the Board on the citizen's comment:

Eremita admitted he joined Facebook the other day because he heard what was going on, he is not a social media person. Paula is 100% correct. We should have done something different as a group; he should have done something different as an individual. While he may not agree with what the First Selectman did, Pierog has done a lot for this community and that far outweighs any one individual event that some of us may not have liked. We owe Pierog a debt of gratitude for the years of service she has given and done very well by this community and by this Board. Eremita apologizes for not stepping forward with an apology to Sandy right now. Pierog thanked Mike. Paula thanked him as well saying that does take character.

Kim Miller will do the same. She very much agrees with what Paula said. Miller is on Facebook and saw the initial posts/complaints about it. To be honest she has not followed it and she apologizes for that. As an officer of this Town she really should be following in more detail those types of things and also for stepping up for Sandy because she does not think there is anyone who would not agree Sandy is probably one of the most dedicated people that we have working in this town on one of our boards. Miller is always amazed by the amount of time Pierog puts in. She also apologizes to Sandy and next time Miller will do better. Pierog and Paula thanked Kim.

Morra's response is simple; he has been off of those Facebook sites for a number of years and he refuses to go back onto them. He has been totally trashed on those sites. Paula commented he does know what that is like. He took it and dealt with it. It was part of the job. Sandy is a tough lady and he is sure she can handle it well. Morra's not commenting has nothing to do with respect or disrespect he has for our First Selectman. He feels that most of Facebook is a sewer and will not lower himself.

Pierog shared with Paula that Bob DePietro did reach out to her privately to check in with her. Paula thanked Bob DePietro. Pierog also thanked Bob DePietro.

Paula - Another issue briefly she wants to comment on what she has seen time and again in the meeting Minutes. Over the past few years she has noticed more and more people are using abstentions instead of voting and there is strong public policy that members of a legislative body take a position and vote. The two general rules for why you can abstain are – one, for real or perceived conflict and two, is if you weren't there for discussion. She has seen with multiple Boards in town there has been a difficult discussion and people can see both sides but can't or don't want to make a decisions for various reasons. You should ask for specific information you need and the rest of the Board can say we will wait to vote

until the information is received or we will call the question and you have to make a decision now. Either way you have to vote. Most people will vote no if they don't get the information needed. She is asking all Board members to make decisions even if they are not right. As long as you are doing right for the town. You were elected to represent the town. Please stop abstaining if you were there for the discussion. Please take a stand, do the best you can and we will appreciate you for that. She is asking that it be put into the Minutes as to why someone is abstaining so the citizen can know.

Morra responded that if she goes back four to five years you won't find more than two or three times this has happened. She agrees. This Board does make decisions, makes hard decisions from either party. That's our job. Everyone here has made decisions, tough decisions, yes and no. If someone has made a decision not to vote it has been for good reasons. Paula is asking for this across all of the Boards and Commissions; she is not specifically targeting the BOS. It is difficult to make some of the decisions, just put it into the Minutes if somebody is going to abstain.

Kim Miller stated this doesn't happen often as pointed out by Morra. She decided to abstain on a vote at the last meeting because it was apparent the motion would pass no matter her vote so she did not want to extend the discussion. Miller is happy to continue the discussion in the future if that is the preferred mechanism. Paula feels that is fine just put the reason in the Minutes. It makes it seem like Miller did not want to take a position.

Eremita commented that this BOS and the previous BOS there will be very, very few instances where we weren't unanimous and we have discussed and come to the conclusion, for the most part, we all agree. Paula stated yes, and that is impressive. When Eremita abstained Pierog asked him to state his reason which was a conflict on his part. For the most part there may be one or two per year other than Minutes. Eremita commends this Board and talks about it throughout the state that he doesn't remember when it wasn't a unanimous decision. This is the best working board he has been on in quite a while. We think pretty much alike and from the discussion he dares anyone to figure out who is a Democrat and who is a Republican. Paula agrees with that and posted on Facebook that she thinks the BOS is doing a great job.

Pierog repeated that the BOS has adopted a new public comment procedure for these virtual meetings. There is a link to register to make comments at a meeting or written comments can be submitted to Townadmin@boltonct.org and you will be recognized.

Mary Terhune, registered to speak – Staff indicated, as virtual meeting host, he has been scanning to see if she has called in. Staff does not see her present. Terhune made some comments on the form that Staff read into the record. She stated how thankful she is for the hard work of the Town employees, the Town Administrator, and all of the Boards during this pandemic. Everyone has had to adjust and they have done it under the strong leadership of the First Selectperson. She has worked tirelessly making hard decisions to keep the health and safety of our community as the goal.

3. Approval of Minutes:

May 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

Corrections:

- Page 2, item 4 – add “DePietro” as voting for.

- Page 8, item 10.A, third sentence – change “Rupert” to “Pierog”; correct Carrie’s last name as “Concatelli”.
- Page 9, item 11.B, third paragraph – change “Tom” to “Mark”; change “Andover” to “Columbia”.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 regular meeting as corrected and with the additional correction on page 2, item 7.A, first paragraph – change “centers” to “cents”.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, Miller, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

4. Appointments:

None

5. Correspondence:

None

6. Reports & Updates:

A. Subcommittee Reports

Pierog reported the Properties and Facilities committee has held two meetings concerning virtual net metering proposal. Talked to someone who presented a proposal. Today we spoke with a potential consultant to advise through the process. As a result we are reaching out to a second consulting firm for an additional opinion and proposal. After the meeting this afternoon an email was received from Tim Sadler summarizing his viewpoint on the participation in virtual net metering. When we get to New Business, A, 2 Pierog will be requesting the BOS postpone that until a later meeting to receive additional information.

B. Memorial Day Commemoration Report

John Toomey was present to provide an update. If the world was different we would have had a parade, we had a lot planned. We were able to keep from the original plan was the Grand Marshal John Roboto, a WWII veteran. He came to the town green for the videotaped observation of Memorial Day. The decision was made to videotape the observation on Friday so the tape was available to the public on Memorial Day. We kept social distance, there were no handshakes, there were no hugs. Toomey thanked the Community Voice channel for taping the event and providing it at 10:00 on Memorial Day. We were lucky to have Bolton Congregational minister provide an opening and closing pray virtually from his grandfather’s grave. We are fortunate the Town Administrator is gifted with a beautiful voice and he sang our national anthem. Unfortunately, we couldn’t have the children were not present to sing; there was no Senior class speech; there were no students to give the Gettysburg Address or In Flanders Field. We improvised by having Pierog, Morra, and Toomey recite the

Gettysburg Address by splitting it into thirds. Mrs. Roboto, from memory recited In Flanders Field. Toomey hopes people saw the tape. If he is allowed to he will do a parade with floats and cars and bands the way we intended it. Mr. Roboto should be the parade marshal in 2021. Pierog the presentation is available for viewing at cvcct.org. It's worth the twenty minutes to view it. Toomey thanked the BOS for allowing this event to be held and it was an honor.

C. Properties and Facilities Report

Staff indicated John Butrymovich and Jim Rupert were present and they have recently conducted the final inspection of the Town Garage. Rupert reported there was a small checklist of items to be worked through. A reinspection will be done soon.

D. Open Space Management & Acquisition

Pierog stated this will be talked about later on in the meeting.

E. Lower Bolton Lake Report

Pierog asked Rupert if he had anything to say about this item as Emergency Management Director. Rupert stated he is here in a support role for questions or assistance; he will let Pierog speak on this item. Staff stated there were a number of sightings occurring in Vernon of alga bloom that were reported to the Health District. In one report it was stated a dog became sick because of the result of potential contact with algae. There were tests conducted that were sent to the Health District and the DEEP. Those agencies have decided an advisory is the proper point of response. The lake remains open for recreation with people being aware algae may exist and avoiding areas where algae is present. Also pets should stay away from these areas if possible. This is blue-green algae. Northeast Aquatic Resources (NEAR) will be testing on a weekly basis.

Pierog reported there was an incident on Sunday where an individual was operating a boat on the lake well in excess of the 6-mph limit. The operator stood up in the boat and managed to sink the boat. They were rescued by another fisherman on the lake, taken to shore. The Fire Department responded; there were no injuries. Pierog does not know if the boat is still at the bottom of the lake or not. The Journal Inquirer managed to get the facts wrong stating gas motors are prohibited on the lake when, in fact, they are not. Motors larger than 6 horsepower are prohibited. From the newspaper photo it appears the rescue boat had a motor much larger than 6 horsepower. However, it also had an electric motor on it. Pierog does not know what they were operating. The key was there a quick response, nobody was injured, and we are happy to move on. Eremita stated to his knowledge the boat is still in the lake. Also the boat of the gentleman in the picture has a motor of 150 horsepower and has been clocked at 72 mph. He was using a trolling motor on our lake to fish; he was well under the speed limit.

F. FY 20 Budget Report

Staff reported there are no departments that are over expended from the past three years or is beyond the current percentage of the year. Doing better than anticipated with 76.87% of the budget expended putting us on target for the remainder of the year.

Pierog reported the bill for the State Police has been received for the current fiscal year. It came it a bit less than anticipated.

G. Other

7. Ongoing Business

A. Consider and possibly act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests

Pierog reminded the Members that transfers approved by Pierog and Staff were included in their packets. Those were well below the \$5k limit.

Staff provided detail about each of the transfers being requested.

- \$9,903.83 to Building Improvements – Town Building Operations from Regular Payroll – Admin.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer request of \$9,903.83 to Building Improvements – Town Building Operations from Regular Payroll – Admin.

By: DePietro

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

- \$35.00 to Other Payroll - Conservation Commission from Office & Operating Supplies – Cons. Comm.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer request of \$35.00 to Other Payroll - Conservation Commission from Office & Operating Supplies – Cons. Comm.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

- \$2,900.00 to Vendor Maintenance – Fire Dept from Other Professional Services – Fire Dept.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer request of \$2,900.00 to Vendor Maintenance – Fire Dept from Other Professional Services – Fire Dept.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Discussion: Pierog asked Eremita as part of the fire department to explain why this was not a budgeted item. Eremita replied he can't other than when the vehicle was in for annual inspection it was detected the tires needed to be replaced. These are large tires carrying a significant amount of weight making them expensive.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

- \$1,435.39 to Vendor Maintenance from Repairs & Maintenance.
Eremita stated this is for a light that has been a problem for a couple of years. Repair attempts have failed. It is time to replace the halogen light with an LED light. Pierog stated this item can be approved by herself and Staff.
- \$19,500.00 to Medical Supplies – Town Building Operations from Prof & Tech Services – Admin.
Eremita provided extensive background detail about this request to replace certain AED units.
Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer request of \$19,500.00 to Medical Supplies – Town Building Operations from Prof & Tech Services – Admin.

By: DePietro

Seconded: Morra

Discussion: Training will be required on the use of these new units. Eremita stated this will be done during one of their EMS evenings. These are easier to use than the old units.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

- \$60,000.00 to Employee Separation Fund from Health/Major Medical – Employee Benefits.
Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer request of \$60,000.00 to Employee Separation Fund from Health/Major Medical – Employee Benefits.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: Miller thought we planned for these transfers. Is it that we do plan but make sure we don't need the money somewhere else? Pierog replied that is correct. This is a planned event, now we are executing it.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

- \$4,945.00 to Other Contracts – Town Clerk from Regular Payroll – Admin.
This can be approved by Pierog and Staff as under the authorized limit.
- \$7,000.00 to Legal Services, Admin from Prof & Tech Services – Admin.
Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer request of \$7,000.00 to Legal Services, Admin from Prof & Tech Services –

Admin.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

- \$12,000.00 to Prof & Tech Services – Building & Land Use from Prof & Tech Services – Admin.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the budget transfer of \$12,000.00 to Prof & Tech Services – Building & Land Use from Prof & Tech Services – Admin.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. Other

8. New Business:

A. Consider and possibly act on the following:

1. The possible relocation of Bolton's polling site for the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and 2020 General Election.

Jim Dwire wrote a letter about this matter. As background, by law the move of a polling place has to be approved by the BOS. By law the primary and its subsequent election must be in the same place. There has to be one voting booth for every 250 voters. We can't use the normal six booth tables set up. With COVID-19 distancing requirements Town Hall will not be adequate. We are proposing the polling location be moved to Bolton Center School with the gymnasium or auditorium having the required space.

Eremita has some concerns. Hopefully, school will be open again and we will be doing things differently with masks and everything and there will be requirements for cleaning. Has Mr. Dwire spoken to the Superintendent about if there will be adequate time to do the cleaning required? Students would be coming back to school the next day. Everything will have to be cleaned out by 8:30. It will probably take some overtime but Staff feels we will have adequate time to remove the polling furniture and property clean the space. Eremita asked if this location is approved will it be in this location going forward? He is attached to having voting in the Town Hall. He would hate to see that portion of the Town's heritage lost. Dwire stated right now this is for this voting season only. Dwire added the budget referendum cannot be held in the school because they are in session; this will still be at Town Hall. But it depends how we get over the pandemic. Morra would prefer to having voting back in Town Hall once we get over social distancing.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the polling place for the Presidential Preference Primary on August 11 and the General Election on November 3, both in 2020, be moved to the Bolton Center School gymnasium.

DePietro asked if the students are back in school on November 3, 2020 how will the presidential election take place? Pierog responded school is closed on presidential election day. That became a state law a year or two ago.

Public comment from Rod Fournier, 4 Hanover Farms Road – The middle school is a good place to have the voting for the presidential election and primaries but he hopes it doesn't go any further than that.

By: Morra

Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

2. Authorizing the First Selectman to sign a letter of intent for prospective participation in a virtual new metering program.

Pierog the subcommittee meeting today voted on asking the BOS to defer this to a future meeting. Consensus from the Members was to defer this.

3. The 2020 opening of Indian Notch Park.

Staff put together a summary about this. Are there any questions of Staff? John Butrymovich and Jim Rupert are also available to answer questions.

Morra read the summary and shows the extreme difficulty of trying to open that facility and still maintain the guidelines the State is requiring of us. He does not see how the facility can be opened for June or July and unless all the social distancing disappears for August it appears to maintain the distancing requirements it would be a terrific burden to put on part-time staff to police and controlling the flow. He thinks it will be extremely difficult or impossible to open.

John Butrymovich stated it would definitely putting a burden on us.

Eremita agrees with Morra. In just the past week he has seen many, many people refusing to wear masks and keep their social distance. This is not over by any stretch of the imagination. Eremita does not think a teenage or college age student will be able to control what may go on there and he would not want to put them in that position. Morra added coupled with the State closing all of their lakes for the season that means if this were open the pressure would be beyond what we've seen in the past.

Miller does not think she knew the States have closed all of their lakes for the season. Pierog added more specifically in our area Gay City is closed for swimming. Gay City remains open for hiking. Miller asked what our responsibility is if people are not meeting the social distancing requirements? What about

enforcement? Pierog stated we are not obligated to enforce the law; that's a job of the State Police. Rupert agreed with Pierog's statement. Our job is to educate and ask people to comply. If people choose to follow directions we could call the State Police for enforcement. If we open the park meeting all the guidelines, it would be at a financial loss. The traditional bathroom/dressing room at the park it is impossible to keep the distancing requirements. We would need two additional staff people to be door monitors for that facility. Port-a-potties and a hand washing station were suggested by the Health District, but that means adding cost to running the facility. If we open the park only 36 people are allowed in at a time there could be a large number of other people wanting to use the park they would be parking their vehicles somewhere nearby and walk in over the dam which is dangerous or leaving their vehicles alongside roadways making travel on the road difficult. We run the risk of the parking situation even if the park remains closed. Miller asked if we know the reason why the State closed all the lakes – was it the same type of issues? Pierog replied yes; Rupert replied they weren't large enough. Eremita asked if the potential algae bloom makes this discussion moot? Staff replied there is but right now we are trending in a better direction with that. Kim Welsh indicated this is six weeks earlier than we've ever had a bloom. Eremita suggested we don't go forward with opening the park seeing the conditions we are currently seeing. DePietro asked if we know what other towns are doing like Ellington with Crystal Lake. Staff indicated the only town he knows about is Coventry and they are attempting to open the lake. Pierog does not know where Vernon is with Middle Bolton Lake or Ellington at Crystal Lake. Morra indicated Crystal Lake is closed currently but does not know what the status is for the remainder of the season. Rupert thinks Columbia is opening as well. Staff commented if the BOS is interested in trying to take this matter on a month-by-month and open a challenge would be hiring in lifeguards later in the season. Some of the other lakes are open to residents only. Morra stated we run into problems on the weekends when out of town residents want to use the park. With no one else open that is a problem. During the weekdays it has been local residents. The number of people that can be allowed into the park with the social distance requirements will be minimal and the costs extraordinary. Morra if the criteria changes at the end of the month we could consider it and then we would have to check on the availability of lifeguards before we could make that move. Where does the hiring process stand with Parks & Rec filling the park positions? Staff understands that former lifeguards have been contacted to see if they are willing to come back. The department feels they would have enough staff for a modified five-day schedule unless we hire someone who has not been at the park before. Eremita commented this is a decision he does not want to make but we have to. Morra added one of the biggest days is Fourth of July weekend and whatever term we consider we should include that thought. Once beyond that date we might consider open. Morra would consider a move to keep it closed at least until July 15, 2020 and then reconsider if circumstances change. We will work with what is happening state-wide.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen keeping Indian Notch Park closed until at least July 15, 2020.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Discussion: Pierog stated our next meeting is July 7, 2020; July 15th is the

following Wednesday. Fourth of July weekend will be a three-day weekend. Eremita would like to recommend that Pierog be empowered with advice from Jim, John, and Staff that we could open sooner to call a Special Meeting for that purpose between now and the July meeting. If circumstances change rapidly that would allow us to open the BOS should have a meeting and make a change. Pierog is open to a special meeting after getting guidance from the State or others that may have opened their beaches without problems and may have guidance for us to open Indian Notch Park as well. Morra concurs with what Eremita and Pierog stated.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

4. Changes to the FY 2021 Town, Capital, and/or Debt budgets.

Pierog reminded the Members that following the public hearing by the Board of Finance (BOF) that Board reduced the overall the Town, Capital, and/or Debt budgets by \$25k. Staff has identified and in the process of a storage garage at the Fire Department and installation of windows at Bolton Center School comes to a bit more than \$25k. Pierog recommends we cut the amount needed from the Capital Improvement budget and leave the remaining the \$720 in the capital improvements we originally placed it.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen that the annual budget ending June 30, 2021 be amended to reduce \$25,000 from the Capital Improvement section of the budget.

By: Eremita

Seconded: DePietro

Discussion: The \$25k is coming from leftover various categories to be spent this year for the storage garage and windows. Staff added that some of these transfers were discussed and approved at the last BOS meeting. Pierog hopes that by the next meeting we will know what accounts are actually under spent for this fiscal year. That money goes back to the taxpayers of the Town and goes to the General Fund. We've committed an amount to the BOF to reduce next year's mil rate by adding to next year's revenues.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

5. Formal rejection of any donation of 170 Tamarac Drive to the Town.

Pierog stated this property could only be accessed by going down Villa Louisa Road and into Glastonbury. We've been approached by the attorney for the current owner of the property where the State of CT turned down the property for open space in 1990. This land does abut Gay City State Park and it is landlocked. It cannot be accessed anywhere other than from the abutters property. Morra spoke to this matter. This is a parcel from a subdivision in 1989. This is a back parcel with the majority being wetlands. The developer at the time offered it to the Town. As the

town did not have need for a piece of properties with wetlands and cannot be accessed it was suggested to be given to the State of CT. The State stated they did not want it. One of the two abutters would like to purchase it as adding acreage to their property. This is non-developable with 75% - 85% wetlands. In order for the abutter to purchase the property they would need a letter from the Town stating they don't want it. Morra looked at the property in 1989 or 90 and made the recommendation that no way does Bolton want this land. The Town has no way to access it; it is of no benefit. The Land Trust was approached also and they came to the same conclusion. Patrice Carson was on the call and added the way it was approved the Mylar on file says it is to be donated to the State of CT. If anything else happens with it she believes the Planning Commission would have to act to correct that decision. The letter from the past indicated the State could only deal with the highest priorities because of staffing issues. They have suggested they could take another look and decide they don't want it the Planning and Zoning Commission could take action to do something other than keeping it as open space if the Town or Land Trust does not want it. Carson's question was when this happened she does not think the open space subdivision requirements were in place yet. Morra replied that is correct; there was no required donation or compensation at the time. Morra asked what the PZC's action would be. Carson thinks we need to hear first that the State doesn't want it. The State is at a very different place than in 1990 and they may actually want it now. And the Town doesn't want it the approval would have to be changed or corrected so another map could be in the Land Records and the approval at the time is amended. If the BOS acts on this now the PZC could act on it once they hear from the State. DePietro asked why a formal rejection is needed? Morra's conversation with the attorney included since the property was offered up to the Town as open space should the abutter decide to purchase and the Town comes back saying it does want it the purchase would be jeopardized. The abutter wants to proceed in an uncomplicated manner. They want to clear this up so it can be transferred without issues assuming the State does not want it. Rupert reported the State needs to be asked again because it was a condition of approval that the land be given to the State and it's on the record and that has not been corrected. If the State now says they want it, it should go to the State. If we get a letter from the State that says they don't want it, it would require corrective action by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the filing of a new Mylar without that condition of approval.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen inform the attorney for the present owner that the Town of Bolton has no interest in acquiring the property known as 170 Tamarac Drive

By: DePietro

Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: Carson wants to add that this is not the only process the owners have to go through even though the BOS is not interested in the property. Morra stated that should be in a follow up letter from Staff. Staff added he will work on the wording of the letter with Carson and Rupert. Pierog suggested Staff and Rupert either be the signer or copied on the letter to be sure what the Town's requirements are to let them move forward.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller
Against: None
Abstain: None

6. The tax-exempt status of the land parcel located at Lot 50, Map 18, Brandy Street.

Pierog stated this is a property recently purchased by the Bolton Land Trust. The BOS approved a temporary suspension of property tax in January 2020. This is the formal approval.

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectmen approve the suspension of property tax for the land parcel located at Lot 50, Map 18, Brandy Street.

By: Morra

Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: Pierog noted for the Minutes this had previously been forest land and the taxes collected by the Town were very minimal. It will not impact our revenues in any significant manner.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. Other

None

9. First Selectman's Report:

Pierog deferred to Kelly's report due to the lateness of the hour.

A. COVID-19 Preparations

B. Sustainable CT

C. Other

10. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. COVID-19 Preparations

Staff has been keeping track on the numbers for our area, state-wide, and county-wide. Bolton is trending in a way that makes him comfortable having a partial reopening on June 8, 2020. There is some slight concern that numbers may start to rise after the 14-day period for the partial reopening that happened almost 14 days ago. Staff, Rupert, and others including Carson will continue to monitor those numbers very carefully. The plan allows for the stepping back on the reopening if necessary. The plan for Monday calls for having one person in Town Hall and Notch Road Municipal Center per department per day. This will be broken up in two-week periods with a A Team and a B Team. These groups will not be crossing over in the foreseeable future to make sure should anyone on Town staff have to go into quarantine it will only affect half of the

employees. A final meeting will be held on Friday to determine if there will be a go-ahead with this plan. Outside access will remain with functions taking place under a canopy and folding tables. People call ahead to make an appointment. Rupert added the important thing is that we are trying to service the residents and citizens that come to Town Hall at a very high level. Most of the information needed does not require entry into the building. Employees are doing the research and gathering the documents needed and putting it into the mail, faxing it, or scanning it and getting it to them in a timely fashion. Operations will continue to move forward in a robust fashion. It will be easier for employees to have staff in every department in every day. It will increase the level of service with the balance of health safety of the staff and the residents of the Town has been paramount. Carson added the staff has been well informed. When concern has been raised, Staff has listened and included those concerns and issues in his thinking. Everyone has worked together toward this and there are no surprises. We were fortunate that at the beginning of this that we are so well virtually connected.

B. Administrator's Goals

The report on the survey is long; Staff put together an Executive Summary of the report. Staff will be finishing this up and emailing it to Members. BOS can review it before it goes out to the public. Some of the responses may be what Members would expect and other responses may surprise them. The Senior Center had commented on how improvements can be made. Employees have also made comments and suggestions about the running of the Center that are separate from the survey. Those have not been included here.

The Four Town Economic grant that was received was put slowed activity down on this because of the pandemic. Staff does not have a report for the BOS at this time. They were trying to have a regional branding released as the same time as the report. That regional branding discussion continues to need to be reviewed.

C. Other

Staff was asked to report on the status of cemeteries. This started before the pandemic and it is something we need to continue to focus on. Staff has heard from townspeople that it appears there is a new team from the company that is servicing the cemeteries. That team has been very respectful by items left by gravesites, respectful of the gravesites and has been cleaning up quite a bit of mess. To that end it is hoped this is turning a corner and the contract will be extended through the end of the summer. Should we continue to deem it necessary to change vendors that will give us time to draft an RFP for those services.

11. Executive Session for the consideration of land acquisition

Motion: I move the Bolton Board of Selectman enter executive session at 9:02 PM for the purpose of considering land acquisition to include Josh Kelly.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne B. Filip

Yvonne B. Filip, Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary

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