

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
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	8	X	

1. Call to Order:

By: Sandra Pierog Time: 7:02 p.m. Place: Town Hall

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pierog stated that a new business item was omitted from the agenda.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen add to the agenda New Business, item C - set the budget referendum date.

By: Pierog

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

3. Public Comment:

Kim Welch - Bolton Lake Commissioner – Spoke of five items related to the lake.

- Two dates are needed to discuss all things lake. The first is with the Friends of Bolton Lakes (FBL) and other stakeholders; the FBL believe a date of February 26, 2020 has been set. The second date needed is for the public information meeting with the lake consultant that is held every year. There is a chunk of data from 2018 and 2019 that needs to be shared. Welch would like to see this meeting scheduled for March.
- FBL is filing a 3-19 grant application with DEEP that provides funds through the EPA for watershed planning and projects. The application deadline is February 27, 2020.
- Ms. Welch wants to confirm that the permit required for any treatment to the lakes for the 2020 season is in place. Curly pond weed did not get addressed last year; it will be back with a vengeance this year. This should be ready when we start having boats in the water in the May timeframe. Morra stated that the consultant company Solitude should have that information. Welch and Staff will meet next week on this matter.
- FBL wants the Board of Selectmen to know that they are interested in being involved with the 300th celebration. Taking part as a parade float was mentioned.

Morra asked what the goal is of the grant? Ms. Welch replied that Bolton, Coventry, and Vernon are trying to get a watershed base plan together. This is a very expensive project but it will benefit the four towns in the watershed for decades. In particular, non-source pollution runoff that is impacting the watershed can be addressed.

Pierog asked if the meetings should be scheduled for a day or night meeting. Welch indicated she thinks the meeting with FBL and other stakeholders could be scheduled during the day. The one with the lake consultant should be for the evening; four towns are trying to coordinate a date/time.

Matt Anderson, Stone Hedge – Representing the Hartford Marathon he sent an email to Pierog and Kelly about participating in this year’s race set for August 29, 2020. Last year’s event went smoothly in town. Anderson reported as a member of Bike Walk Bolton providing some information regarding trail usages and requested improvements by users of the trails. His report is attached to these minutes.

4. Approval of Minutes:

January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting.

By: Eremita

Seconded: DePietro

With the following corrections:

- Page 2, item 6 – change “Buxon” to “Buckson”.
- Correct “DiPietro” to “DePierto” throughout.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: Miller

5. Appointments:

Re: Hartford Foundation Grant Advisory Committee

James Clark would be an excellent addition to the committee. Staff spoke to Jonathan Weaver. Weaver is new to town and wants to get involved. He has expressed interest in this committee and the fire department. Kate Chambers provided a letter as a way of introduction.

Motion: I make the motion that the Bolton Board of Selectmen appoint James Clark, Jonathan Weaver, and Kate Chambers to the Hartford Foundation Grant Advisory Committee.

By: Morra

Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

Pierog stated with the existing nominees these bring the committee to full capacity. The Foundation will be contacted and meetings scheduled.

Re: Branding Focus Group

Dorothy Hall and Tania Tomoroga were present at the meeting. Tomoroga has a marketing background.

Motion: I make the motion that the Bolton Board of Selectmen appoint David Mitchell, Dorothy Hall, and Tania Tomoroga to the Branding Focus Group.

By: Eremita

Seconded: DePietro

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

Staff added that Richard Tuthill phoned indicating he would like to serve on the focus group; he is on the Board of Finance. Heidi Luck was contacted, but declined at this time. This group is not closed and there are other people who should be asked to serve.

6. Correspondence:

Members received the Bike Walk Bolton report dated February 4, 2020.

7. Ongoing Business:

A. Subcommittee Report

The Facilities and Public Safety subcommittee met with the Bolton Heritage Farm Commission on January 21, 2020. The Board of Selectmen has been asked to adopt the business plan of the Commission.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen adopt the business plan and approve the grant application of the Bolton Heritage Farm Commission.

By: Pierog

Seconded: Eremita

Discussion: This is a matching grant; there is money in the budget. If the grant is obtained an engineer will survey the barn and provide options to make it suitable and whole as an assembly facility with a determined capacity. It is not safe for public assembly right now having no handicap access, no electricity, no water, etc. The engineer will provide a report so we can better understand what the options may be and the associated costs. The vision of the commission is for the barn to be profitable but also be used for assembly space.

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

B. Properties and Facilities

A meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. with the purpose of discussing with the Energy Commission solar installations on several town buildings.

C. Open Space Management & Acquisition

Gwen Marrion, 38 Maple Valley Road, and Brent Mayerson provided an update on the Nathan Hale Corridor update. The land is available because of the give back by DOT of land taken under eminent domain for the Route 6 corridor as the entities involved could never agree on the placement of the corridor. Bolton received 154 acres along a 7-mile corridor. In 2017 Coventry and Bolton jointly applied for a grant through DEEP to do a feasibility study to construct footpath along the land in the towns; BSE was the chosen vendor. BSE submitted two alternate paths. However, no GPS coordinates were provided.

Marrion and Mayerson have spent approximately 12 hours scouting different, more walkable path. The northern section is on ridges and is brutally beautiful. They have tried to find a route behind England Hardware where there is a steep ravine. Along the way they have tried to get the boundaries of the trail defined. Some flagged trees have been located that may have been done by BSE. They are trying to get all the way over to Stony. There is a gigantic wetlands are in one part that is tough to get through. This would require several hundred feet of boardwalk to cross over the wetlands. It takes a long time to walk and decide on where to put paths to showcase interesting features without steep slopes to prevent erosion. The next section to be scouted is from Stony to South. Bolton Pond Brook is an obstacle to find a way around.

There is a mowed path into and parking for 20 cars behind Bolton Collison. All the paths enter and exit here. There were 115 people who participated in the Thanksgiving walk. The plan is to map trails that are walkable. Most are established trails that abutters have put through. Not all trails shown on the presentation slide will be proposed. Mayerson reported they have seen other people on the paths. This is a wonderful asset for the town of Bolton. You feel like you are out in the middle of nowhere.

DePietro asked if permission has to be obtained from the landowners? Pierog stated this is all town property. Coventry accepted the deeds from DOT, as did Bolton; Andover did not for various reason.

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

E. FY 20 Budget Report

Staff reported as of January 31, 2020 we are at 52.05% expensed; this being the lowest over the past three years. Tax collection is at 100.09% as of December 31, 2019.

DePietro asked how this compares to the education budget. Morra replied that we do not historically see their expenditures, which can be quite different than ours.

F. Other

None

8. New Business:

A. Consider and possibly act on recommendations made by the Facilities & Public Safety Committee regarding the Bolton Heritage Farm Business Plan.

See item 7, A.

B. Consider and possibly act on the following draft resolutions:

1. Supporting Bolton's Inclusion in the C-PACE Program.

Pierog and Staff met with representatives of the Connecticut Green Bank about this program. Individuals can work with the program to get free engineering and/or low-cost loans for the addition of solar or significant renovations to reduce carbon footprint. C-PACE bills to the Tax Collector with collection on the loan through the person's tax bill. The loan monies are paid to C-Pace once per year. There will be no other additional attempts to collect other than through tax collection. If action is necessary, C-PACE could put a lien on the property and handle the necessary legal procedures.

Staff has spoken to the Tax Collector about this process. Even in large towns there are not usually more than eight to ten property owners participating in C-PACE at any one time. The Collector feels the office can handle the few collections that may take place. This will be a gradual introduction. Coventry has adopted the resolution. One developer in Town was looking into taking advantage of the program. However, because Green Bank insists on being the primary lien holder funding is difficult to obtain. There is one property owner who is thinking about participating.

DePietro suggested the Planning and Building departments be made aware of the program. This is one more thing that makes building or doing business in Bolton more attractive. Syndet and Bolton Veterinary Hospital may be good candidates for this program.

Miller asked why are they putting the Town in the middle? Pierog replied Green Bank does not have the administrative people to administer the program.

Members would feel more comfortable if this is reviewed by the Town Attorney first as Bolton does not want to get caught in a legal bind. There are few programs available through the State to benefit business.

Motion: Move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen table this item until the opinion of the Town Attorney is received.

By: DePietro

Seconded: Eremita

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Eremita, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

2. Supporting Bolton's Inclusion in the OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program

Staff reported that two of the four project will highly involve Bolton. This will allow Bolton to participate in grants being applied for and managed by CRCOG. The planimetric data will be an excellent asset.

Motion: Move that the Board of Selectmen adopts the attached Draft Resolution approving Bolton's inclusion in the OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Eremita, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

C. Other

1. Set the budget referendum date

This is traditionally in mid-May on a Tuesday. This scheduling provides time for subsequent dates, if needed.

Motion: I move that the Bolton Board of Selectmen set the budget referendum date as Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

By: Eremita

Seconded: Morra

Voting:

For: Pierog, Morra, DePietro, Eremita, Miller

Against: None

Abstain: None

8. First Selectman's Report:

A. Charter Revision

This committee held the first meeting with all members present. Before starting discussion on the charge, they must hold a public hearing. That hearing is set for Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Regular meetings will be held after the public hearing; there will be a public comment section on each meeting's agenda.

B. Sustainable CT

A meeting was held with the list of assignments and members of the Commission published. The next meeting is set for April 26, 2020. If Bolton does adopt C-PACE it will be another item accomplished for the Sustainable CT program.

C. Economic Development Grant

Staff reported the report should be delivered by March 1, 2020 to the four participating towns – Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland. The Town Planners will be meeting.

D. National Parks Service and WaRo

The program Bolton knows as W3R is named WaRo by the National Parks Service. The meeting is being reschedule for March or April as the National Parks representative was called back to active duty. The grant for the signs at the Heritage Farm as a student capstone project is proceeding. A Rochambeau group have a meeting in early June to visit the farm and walk Bailey Road.

E. Other

Pierog and DePietro attended the Farm Bureau's breakfast. There was an enlightening presentation about transportation and farmers.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

A. Personnel Updates

Four positions have been advertised. All are between the interview phase and getting final acceptance.

B. 300th Celebration

Staff commented that this subject is active and ongoing. Staff has made it a policy to have the current month's activities listed on the website along with a look ahead to the next month. Pierog added volunteers are being sought for the Winter Fun Day set for the last Saturday in February.

C. Administrator's Goals.

Kelly had provided the Members with the preliminary results. He is in the process of crafting a more detailed report.

Staff met with Joe Maselli about the Student Representatives to the Board of Selectmen. Maselli is interested in the proposal. Ways to implement the program were discussed. Maselli will hold a meeting in March to provide an overview. If there are one or two students that seem to be good fits we can have a conversation about appointing these students. If there is more interest a Civics lesson in the election process could be run in September at the start of a new school year. DePietro suggested asking student council and/or debate group members. Maselli will be reaching out to likely candidates.

Dorothy Hall mentioned that she does an artist challenge at the library. This year's challenge topic is what we love about Bolton. She can type of the information and give that to Staff to add to the 300th anniversary calendar of events.

D. Other

Pierog reported the Town Garage framing is done; the floor has been poured and the roof is being worked on.

10. Adjournment:

Motion: Move to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

By: Morra

Seconded: Miller

Voting:

For: Pierog, Eremita, Morra, DePietro

Against: None

Abstain: None

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.