

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING – A/P
6:30 PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
BOLTON TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD**

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Members Present Via Zoom: First Selectman Rodney Fournier, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra, Mather Clarke, Gwen Marrion, Tim Sadler, Amanda Gordon, Pamela Sawyer

Staff Present Via Zoom: Town Administrator James Rupert, Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

Others Present Via Zoom: Damian Pec, Chris Hickey, Robb Goehring, Thomas Williams, Eric Brierley, and two others

1. **Call to Order:** R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Consider and Act on the A/P Report:**
P. Sawyer MOVED to accept the A/P report as presented. R. Morra SECONDED. J. Rupert answered board members' questions. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.
3. **Consider and Act on Budget Transfers:**
J. Rupert shared information on a transfer of \$750 from the Equipment category to the Travel category in the Fire Commission budget. This transfer does not require any action by the board.
4. **Discussion and Possible Action on Grant for South Road Parking Lot:**
G. Marrion suggested the board not move forward with applying for a grant using the design the board has been given at this time. She said she feels strongly that the board get to look at alternatives and objectively consider all of the information presented to the members. She feels the design is over-engineered and does not represent what she envisioned, especially for the boardwalking through the wetlands. No one had any chance to review the design before it was presented to the board. She said the boardwalking should be similar to the boardwalking at the east end of Heritage Farm, where it is wood, set low to the ground and there are no footings. This design shows two 24' footings and railings and G. Marrion said the property needs something with less impact. She questions the need to spend \$18,000 for bituminous concrete and whether the guardrails need to be replaced.

G. Marrion shared some alternatives for the project. She believes the best alternative at this point is to consider the location directly across the street from the parking lot as shown. This is town property that is a flat area and not much grading would have to be done. The benefit would be that this area is already cleared of trees where the cars could pull in, turn around, and pull out, not having to back out.

G. Marrion said the board has to be objective about what the neighbors' concerns are. She spoke to the categories of concerns that people are generally against a trail and that they are against the parking for safety concerns.

G. Marrion recommended, in the future, when the board has a design by the engineer, the Town Administrator, board members or whoever is spearheading should be given a chance to talk with the town engineer before the board sees the report for the first time.

R. Morra commented when the trail was originally adopted, all the towns involved agreed when dealing with a wetlands crossing it would be as natural as possible.

P. Sawyer spoke about various reasons why she believes this is not the right time to move forward on this project, including the trail proximity to the wetlands.

J. Rupert asked G. Marrion if her idea is to put together a working group to study this and come back to the BOS with a well thought out proposal. G. Marrion responded more perspectives on this could really help. J. Rupert said he would be happy to participate too. This would help the town be ready the next time a grant opportunity comes around.

G. Marrion, M. Clarke, R. Morra volunteered to participate in an Ad hoc committee. G. Marrion asked if she could invite Brent Mayerson to serve on the committee as he is familiar with the property. R. Fournier responded in the affirmative.

M. Clarke agreed this proposal needs more discussion, input, and design ideas. He said he feels the board is rushing this because of the grant deadline but, in light of the whole sensitivity of this project that has come to light, the board needs to slow down on it and put some better thoughts and energy to it.

R. Morra MOVED that the Board of Selectmen form an Ad hoc committee to study and come to the board with a plan for a parking area for the existing Nathan Hale walking trail . A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

5. **Adjournment:** R. Morra MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

Linda H. McDonald

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