

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall- 108 Main Street
November 15, 2022 - 6:00pm**

In Attendance: Chair Mark Townsend, Vice-Chair Sarah Hewins, Jen Bogart, Jim Hoffman, John Cotter, Town Administrator Robert Fennessy and Shelby Roy

Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and Cotter read the community prayer.

Citizens Participation:

Dan Badger - 165 Plymouth Street

In regards to the applicants being interviewed for the Conservation Commission, Badger asked if the Bylaws that currently exist are robust enough to protect our resources.

He also stated that he noticed that there is an update on the North Carver Water District on the agenda, and asked if there are any plans for a working body to discuss the operations for this system, long-term funding plan, a pro-active treatment plan and if there is someone with a background in water filtration to oversee the system.

In addition, he stated how there are different resources for Affordable Housing. He discussed different locations for community centers for seniors that possibly could be used for recreational purposes. He asked that at a future meeting if there could be a discussion on the mechanism of communication set up between departments to discuss plans.

Cara Dahill - 43 Myles Standish Drive

Dahill noticed the item on the agenda of her resignation as the Town's Record Access Officer (RAO). She explained her reasoning that it was too hard to keep up with these multiple requests especially with being busy with the Elections. She suggested that when looking for someone to appoint as RAO that there be a Primary & Secondary RAO. She believes this would be the best way to handle these requests.

Dave Siedentopf: Update on Town Hall siding and Library HVAC repair/replacement

Tabled to next meeting (December 6, 2022) as Siedentopf is not available.

Community Preservation Committee Request for Appointment: Applicant Mary Ross

Fennessy read Ross's application.

Motion to approve Mary Ross to the Community Preservation Committee as an At-Large member by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Conservation Commission Request for Appointment:

Conservation Commission Chair, Savery Moore, is in attendance.

Patricia Cooney – Cooney explained how she had grown up in this Town and is very familiar with it. She believes that the environment is important and to keep it intact.

Hewins asked Cooney if she could to inform the Board of her environmental experience.

Cooney stated that this all new to her, but she is willing to learn anything. She has always been interested in conservation issues.

Hewins explained that this committee takes site walks before each hearing on Wednesdays at 10am and asked if Cooney would be available for these.

Cooney stated that she is local and has plenty of support from family and friends that would help her be available for site walks during weekdays.

Bogart asked how she heard about this opening.

Cooney stated that she saw the opening on a website and since her children are old enough she is now able to start being more involved with the Town.

Cotter asked that from a Conservation perspective, what does she think the Conservation Commission is doing correctly and what could they improve upon?

Cooney explained how there is potential with cranberry bogs and utilizing them for other types of crops. She said that with the food shortages coming up, growing proper crops is important.

Cotter asked Moore what type of training does a new member receive.

Moore explained that site walks, learning the by-laws, understanding the jurisdiction is very helpful. This committee is more of an "on the job" type of learning.

Hewins explained that the DEP offers a lot of training.

Hewins also stated that most cranberry bogs are wetlands and the DEP is very strict on what can be grown on the abandoned bogs.

Bruce Maki – Maki stated that he had left the Planning Board in the spring at the conclusion of his term after being on it for 12 years. During the period from last April to now, he got involved

with the Solar and Battery Moratorium committee as Chair. He saw this opening on the Conservation Commission as an opportunity to continue to help the town. He explained how he has dealt with wetland issues in the past and has good knowledge of what this committee does.

Hewins asked if he would be available for site walks, which are typically held at 10am on Wednesdays.

Maki confirmed that he is available for the site walks.

Bogart asked how he heard about this opening.

Maki explained that he heard about the opening from an employee in the Planning Office.

Cotter asked the Board if this would conflict with his position on the Solar Committee.

Hewins explained that the Solar Committee is not a permitting committee, as it is a "Study" committee.

Cotter asked from a Conservation perspective, what does he (Maki) think they are doing correctly and what could they improve upon?

Maki stated how he thinks the Conservation Committee is going in a good direction and they are very careful with what they do.

Curtis Lake – Lake stated that he has been reading the articles on the landfills, the telephone poles in the bogs, etc., and is looking to get more involved in the Town. He explained that he does not have much experience with the by-laws but he is a quick learner. He stated that he has a Certificate in Wildlife/Forest and Conservation and is looking for the opportunity to use it.

Hewins asked if he would be available for site walks at 10am on Wednesdays.

Lake stated that this would not be a problem and would be available for these.

Bogart ask how he heard about this opening.

Lake stated that he saw on social media, specifically Carver Helping Carver.

Cotter asked if he has had any experience with site maps.

Lake stated that he has not, but he has experience with compasses from boy scouts.

Cotter asked from a Conservation perspective, what does he think they are doing correctly and what could they improve upon?

Lake stated that he does not have any experience with this committee, but just wanted to get involved and be more active in the Community.

Motion to appoint Bruce Maki to the Conservation Commission by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Hewins stated that this committee needs someone with experience, but also appreciates the new applicants who applied.

Bogart stated that she respectfully disagrees with Maki's appointment and believes that this motion is the "easiest decision" for the Board. She stated that she would like to see one of the new applicants be appointed and appreciates them for stepping forward, as it would send a signal to other new people to get involved in the town.

Cotter explained that he also believes that appointing new applicants might be good for the Town because of the different perspectives they might bring to the table.

Hoffman asked if there were any alternate positions for this committee.

Moore confirmed that there are no alternates.

Vote 2-3, motion fails.

Motion to appoint Curtis Lake to the Conservation Commission by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Bogart stated that she can relate to both of the two new candidates and loves to see people like them step up and that she supports either of the remaining candidates. She believes that Lake would be a great asset to this committee.

Vote 5-0, unanimous

The Board thanked Maki & Cooney for taking the time to apply and coming in to speak to them.

Review and possible vote to add Financial Policy Statement #10 to read: Prior to the close of the warrant for each annual town meeting, the Town Administrator and the Finance Director shall review all open articles in which there remains funds to ascertain whether the remaining funds can be moved from the article(s) to offset deficiencies or be applied to the next fiscal year town budget.

Motion to add this statement to the Finance Policies by Hewins, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Discussion and vote to set the Tax Classification Hearing date (Tuesday Nov. 29, 2022 at 5:00pm)

Fennessy stated that the Assessor has asked to have this date set for the classification hearing, as the town assessment is still in progress.

Joe Roche – Town Assessor was in attendance and explained that this has been delayed due to the staffing shortages with the company that does these inspections.

Motion to set the Tax Classification Hearing for Tuesday November 29, 2022 at 5:00pm by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 4-0-1, Bogart abstained.

Townsend reminded the Board to have their DLS Gateway passwords to login.

Town Administrator Update

- Salvation Army “Red Kettle Kickoff” event: Wed., Nov. 16, 2022, 3:30pm at town hall gazebo

The Salvation Army has moved this event to November 22, 2022 from 3:30pm – 4:30pm because of anticipated inclement weather for November 16th. He noted that this is the first time this kickoff event is planned in Carver, which is exciting for the town. He also noted that he was informed that all monies raised by the Salvation Army in Carver remain as funds to assist those in need in Carver. He stated that he would love to see community involved for this event. He also thanked Lisa Eriksson from the Veteran’s Office for coordinating this event.

- Town of Carver Code of Civil Conduct

Fennessy drafted a Code of Civil Conduct and supplied it to the Select Board, and asked them to review and comment on the draft document, and return it to him. He stated that he would like the Board to add the review and vote to a future meeting.

Townsend said that he is in support of having a good Code of Civil Conduct and thanked Fennessy for preparing one for the Board. He also said that he would like this matter to be brought up sooner rather than later and possibly for the next meeting on December 6, 2022.

- North Carver Water District(NCWD) progress

Fennessy noted that the system is being cleaned and the membranes are installed. He noted that there was a slight delay in getting parts for the work, but they are in and the complete process of cleaning, maintaining, and installation of new parts should be fully concluded sometime around the January 1st, after which a switchover from Middleboro water will commence.

In response to Mr. Badger’s concerns during Citizen’s Participation, Fennessy noted that there are now three new members on this committee and one of them is in this water filtration and system maintenance industry and has the extensive knowledge in the field. He is confident that this commission is now moving in the right direction.

Townsend asked if there would be a need for a joint meeting with the NCWD in the future.

Fennessy stated that he does not believe so unless there are any changes or concerns by both Boards.

Hewins asked if this committee has a plan to hire someone for the residents to communicate with from the Town.

Fennessy explained that the new Facilities Manager, John Ball is a possibility to take on some of these duties, but the hiring of staff would be considered and done by the NCWD Commissioners. .

Hewins asked if there is a plan for funding in place for future needs, (such as membrane replacements).

Fennessy stated that the committee will put something in place for this and he is working closely with them and feels confident in their ability to monitor the needs of the system.

Cotter believes that there needs to be an outside company to do an evaluation on the entire system and to make sure Small Water Systems is the right company. He does not want this to happen again. Fennessy said that he would pass that suggestion along to the NCWD.

- Resignation of Cara Dahill as the town's Record Access Officer

Fennessy expressed his appreciation for Dahill coming to this meeting and speaking about the Record Access Officer position. He also stated that he had met with Dahill when she informed him that she was being inundated with these requests and it was overwhelming, and that she did not feel that she could do her position as well as the RAO position due to time commitments for both. He explained that she has done a great job and that he understands this decision. He is in the process of finding someone to appoint as the RAO, but in the meantime, he and the Select Board office staff are handling these matters.

- Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) litigation

Fennessy informed the Board that Townsend was aware of a class action suit for cities and town to seek awards for detection of PFAS in the water systems. Fennessy said he looked into that and suggested that the Board meet in Executive Session at a future meeting with the law firm. He will look to set that up to coincide with a meeting date is available and will let the Board know.

- Habitat for Humanity Purchase and Sales agreement

On November 1, 2022, the P&S agreement was fully executed for 11 Green Street. The next step is to have a Deed drawn up and that this is in process. Habitat for Humanity had expressed to him that they are looking forward to this project and are very excited. Fennessy added that it would be nice to get community involvement when the renovation project is actually taking place, and will keep the Board informed as it progresses to that point.

Minutes/Licenses/Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of meeting

Approval of minutes of 11/1/22 – Tabled to next meeting December 6, 2022.

Approval of Executive Session minutes of 11/1/22 and not for release – Motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of 11/1/22 and not for release by Bogart, second by Hewins.

Vote 4-0-1, Cotter abstained.

Pole Hearing: NStar/Verizon to install 2 mid-span poles on Shoestring Road –

Faye Sweatman representing Eversource was in attendance.

Townsend stated that the Board was notified that the poles on the application appears to have already been installed prior to any approval, and looked for confirmation from Sweatman.

Sweatman stated that she is not aware of that, but will reach out to who the engineer is involved in this project and will confirm the status.

Fennessy stated that this could be an issue if they have been installed without authorization from the Board.

Bogart explained that she had stopped by and noticed that the poles were already installed and took pictures for proof.

Motion to continue this Pole Hearing to December 6, 2022 at 6:30pm by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Select Board Announcements

Hoffman – Wished everyone a “Happy Thanksgiving”.

Hewins – Also wished everyone a “Happy Thanksgiving”.

Cotter – Thanked the Sportsmen’s Club & Boy Scouts for a great Veteran’s Day Breakfast.

Bogart – Wanted to recognize Cara Dahill for all that she does besides being the records officer. She feels as though she is underappreciated and stated that the Town is lucky to have her.

Townsend –

Recognized Cara Dahill as well as the elections workers.

He appreciated the number of Veteran's events in Town. Last week, there was a dedication to the Rochester Road Bridge with the Medal of Honor sign from the State.

He read the following statement: Lowell Maxim was born in Carver and served in the Civil war as a corporal in company F of the 7th Massachusetts Infantry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor on August 24, 1896 for his gallantry during the second battle of Fredericksburg in May of 1863. His citation reads: Though severely wounded and in the face of deadly fire from the enemy at short range, he rushed bravely forward and was among the first to enter the enemy's works on the crest of Mary's Heights and helped to plant his regimental colors there. He was honorably discharged on August 16th due to wounds he received during the Gettysburg campaign. He, as well as his family members John and Nathan are among the names listed on the Carver Civil war monument in Shurtleff Park. Mr. Maxim passed away on February 13, 1931 and is buried in Mayflower Hill cemetery in Taunton. Townsend said it was a great event to honor these servicemen. He then showed a mock-up of the actual sign that has been installed on the bridge.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2022 at 6:00pm

Motion to adjourn by Cotter at 7:11pm, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Exhibits: Applications to Committees – Mary Ross, Patricia Cooney, Bruce Maki & Curtis Lake, Finance Policy Statement, Draft of Town of Carver Code of Civil Conduct, draft minutes of 11/1/22 and Eversource Pole hearing application documents and legal notice.