

**Carver Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room #1  
March 2, 2021 - 4:00pm**

In Attendance: Chair Sarah Hewins, Vice-Chair Robert Belbin, Jen Bogart, Jim Hoffman, Mark Townsend, Interim Town Administrator Rick LaFond & Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston.

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and Belbin read the community prayer.

**Citizen's Participation:** None

**Appointment to Agricultural Commission:**

Motion to appoint Megan Arruda from an alternate member to a voting member of the Agricultural Commission by Belbin second by Townsend.

Bogart thanked Arruda for filling out the application.

Vote 5-0

**Covid-19 update on testing and vaccinations:** EMS Director Michael Ryan gave an update on the planning of testing and vaccinations. The town's emergency site has been the Middle High School for years and remains so. The rapid antigen test is available for town employees. The recommendation from the state is to use the old fire station. The Planners from the state are working with the Town which will hopefully move our location to be approved quickly. The state however, is looking for mass vaccination sites and not small local sites. Anything south of Quincy is not covered. Kingston is looking to use the Kingston Mall. This will cost the town money and an amount has not yet been established. Each participating community will need to contribute, however if it becomes a mass vaccination site and Carver does not participate, they will need to accept residents from Carver as they cannot turn anyone away. The Marshfield drive through clinic is available for vaccinations, however they are not receiving enough vaccinations to keep up with the demand. Carver is on the list for the Housing Authority to receive the vaccinations. The information on this is vague. Once the vaccine arrives, the Town has 10 days to use it. All doses received are to be used for the first dose only and cannot be saved to use as the second dose. Once the Housing Authority is done, the next on the list is mobility impaired- currently there are 17 residents on that list.

For those that don't have internet access or need assistance to register for a vaccination, the Library staff will be able to assist, however an appointment is necessary as they have a limited amount of computers.

Regionally, there are no sites available and he will continue to work with the Board of Health to request doses and will seek out opportunities as they arise.

LaFond questioned if the Kingston Mall location came to fruition, what would the rollout timeline be. Ryan stated there is a two week timeline. This would put us out to at least the end of March as each town would need to have their anticipated numbers in.

Townsend thanked Ryan for advocating for as local an option as we can get. Belbin stated he appreciated everything Ryan is doing for the Town. He questioned if there was a group of people that were trained to do this. Ryan stated the Medical Reserve Core is a group of volunteers. There may not be enough people to run two or three stations. They are currently helping Duxbury. Kingston is looking into South Shore Health Services to assist them.

**Conservation Commission warrant article by-law amendment:** Conservation Commission Chair Savery Moore went through the proposed changes of the bylaw. Section 9.2.1.2 would add Invasive species to the list; Section 9.2.1.3 simplifies what people can and cannot do; Section 9.2.1.4 adds more to the definition and changes the fee from \$35.00 to \$75.00 for a Request for Determination of Applicability; Section 9.2.2.2 adds a chart of fees and changes how people put the public notice in the newspaper and how it gets paid for; Section 9.2.3.3 adds Zoning setback lines to the plans; Section 9.2.5 wording was added in a few of the definitions and a change was made under the definition of Variance as well as the adding of an additional definition of Vista Pruning.

Belbin questioned on invasive species- if there is a listing and will it be posted on the website. Hewins stated IPANE is a website that lists the invasive species. Moore stated the list is long.

Belbin stated that it does not state that if you are an abutter to a bog that you can maintain your property within a certain distance of a bog such as plant grass, shrubs, etc. without going to the Conservation Commission. Moore stated under the statement under jurisdiction it is the state law and you do need permission to alter within 100' of a wetland. Hewins stated if things are grandfathered in you do not need to go before the Commission, such as mowing a lawn, but removing or planting a tree, you do. There may not necessarily be fees associated with it.

Belbin also asked under the fees increasing, what are the costs of the Town that are being incurred to ask for this increase. He also questioned if there was a listing of shrubs, etc., to be listed under definitions.

Bogart did not like the wording of "Beneficial use". She stated that it is open ended to be subjective. The applicant is going to be coming to the Board for something that benefits them but what about the Town or an abutter? Moore explained that this wording goes back to the applicant's exact proposal and that a variance would be granted if there was no other option. Bogart stated that this phrase is just unsettling to her and she is uncomfortable with it.

### **Chapter 3 of Town Bylaws:**

Motion to table to next meeting by Townsend, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

### **Town Administrator Update:**

Cares Act Update: Four out of the six submissions to date remain in the evaluation phases by Plymouth County. The estimate for the reserve capacity remains approximately \$250,000. This could potentially grow if there are submitted costs that are disapproved.

Budget Process: The Finance Committee's last meeting with departments was March 1<sup>st</sup>. A joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss their recommendations is necessary to complete the town meeting warrant and post the budget recommendations in advance of Annual Town Meeting. The recommendations of the Interim Town Administrator and the Finance Committee to the Select Board and town will be identical. LaFond stated they have worked closely to ensure that the proposed spending plan meets identified goals and restores the \$220,000 in reserves utilized at the October 2020 Special Town Meeting in order to prevent reductions in workforce. The suggested date for a joint meeting is Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. This will likely need to occur at the High School in order to accommodate the number of participants. If this date does not meet the Select Board members' schedules, the Interim TA will work with the Finance Committee chair to suggest alternatives.

Street Light Retrofit Grant: The Street Light Retrofit Grant was sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and began in February 2019. This grant served to change the 573 town-owned street lights from sodium to LED lights. This was an involved process and was facilitated by Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston and Operations and Maintenance Deputy Director John Woods. Funding for this project was approved at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. The town was notified of approval and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with MAPC in August of 2019 to secure grant reimbursement funding. The Town was unable to move forward until the state completed the procurement process of vendors for purchase of street lights and installation. An audit of our street lights was completed as a pre-requisite of the grant. The contract was signed in January 2020. The cost of the audit was negotiated down by Elaine from \$10 per light to \$8 per light for additional savings of \$1,146. All public safety chiefs were consulted prior to ordering new lights. The lights were replaced with equal wattage LED lights. Sargent Sarmiento was present to review the lighting samples to help approve what was chosen. All public safety chiefs were satisfied with existing lighting in town and did not wish to have any turned off. Installation of the lights was over a two week time frame the first two weeks in May 2020. The final report was completed and submitted in October 2020. The Eversource energy incentive payment of \$22,919 was received in November 2020. The MAPC reimbursement of \$30,680 was received in February 2021- two years after the grant was

initiated. The total project cost was \$156,984 and the cost to the town after reimbursements and incentives was \$103,385.

Plymouth Street Water Line: The Town is under an Administrative Consent Order to install a water line to service residences impacted by contamination originating from the North Carver Landfill. The Order requires the following deadlines to be met:

- a. 8/30/2020 Filing of all necessary permits with town
- b. 12/30/2020 Secure all necessary permits
- c. 1/31/2021 Send out Invitation for Bid
- d. 4/30/2021 Seek appropriation from Town Meeting
- e. 4/30/2021 Subject to appropriation of funds - award bid
- f. 5/30/2021 Subject to appropriation of funds – begin construction
- g. 11/30/2021 Complete water line to the service point of each impacted dwelling

The invitation for bid is out and is due March 8 and bids will be opened March 8.

LaFond read a statement regarding the North Carver Water District Testing:

Recently, there have been erroneous statements posted on social media stating that the water supplied by the North Carver Water District has not been tested in 7 years. This is not true. As these comments may cause NCWD customers to worry unnecessarily, and falsely believe that we have a public health issue, I feel compelled to inform the Select Board and the citizens of Carver that this is not accurate information.

Be assured that the NCWD is mandated by the MA Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP), to sample all our public water supplies according to the drinking water sample schedules issued and monitored by the MADEP. We collect all required drinking water samples, have them tested & analyzed by MA certified water testing laboratories and then report all these results to the MADEP in a timely manner, as required. Additionally, these testing results are summarized and reported on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> every year, in the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as required by the Federal EPA. This CCR is sent to all water consumers, Board of Health, MADEP and is also posted on the Town's website.

The NCWD has been, and remains, in compliance with all state and federal drinking water requirements and regulations and is therefore considered safe to drink, according to these same requirements and regulations.

In light of public comments regarding the testing of 19 private wells in the Plymouth Street vicinity, be aware that the town's consulting engineer has reported that the most recent round of testing demonstrates no changes from the prior round. There were no additional detections

for any of the tested parameters during this round within the required testing area. Should anyone desire further testing detail please feel free to contact LaFond or the Health Agent.

Other: Connie Kelly, Council on Aging Director, has taken advantage of the public shut down by initiating replacement of the ceiling tiles and flooring in the main dining/gathering area. This also includes painting. LaFond stated he was fortunate to have been able to find funding necessary for this project. The Council Board may be scheduling a reception at the facility to highlight the improvements to other public officials and the public.

Gateway Health: On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, LaFond met with representatives of the Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District to discuss terms and conditions for the district for entrance into the Gateway Health Group. After conducting their due diligence by examining multiple opportunities, they have applied for admittance into the group. The Town of Lakeville is a charter member of the group. In addition to ensuring the continued participation of Old Rochester Regional High School, this would be a significant accomplishment for stabilizing rates into FY 2022 and beyond.

**Next Meeting:** 3/16/21 at 7pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** 2/2/21 & 2/16/21

Motion to approve minutes of 2/2/21 & 2/16/21 by Hoffman, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

Request for use of Town Property Shurtleff Park: Carver Farmer's Market Sunday's 6/13-10/31, 2021  
10am-6pm

Motion to approve by Belbin, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

**Community Announcements:**

**Belbin:** The MA Division of Fish & Wildlife are increasing fees. Their website will field all questions.

**Hewins:** The Farmer's Market will not have to pay a fee this year.

**Hoffman** – The Kane Strong Memorial Golf Tournament will be 5/15 Bay Point Country Club. The golf portion is sold out and they are still accepting raffle items.

**Select Board Notes:**

Bogart: Begin discussion & planning of hiring of a full-time Town Administrator

Motion by Townsend at 5:20pm to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A §21(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions: (Police Union) that may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town if held in open session, and to reconvene in open session second by Hoffman.

Roll call – affirmative: Bogart, Belbin, Townsend, Hoffman & Hewins

Return to Open Session at 6:05pm

**Police Union Memorandum of Understanding:**

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Carver Police Union and the Town of Carver by Belbin second by Townsend

Vote 4-0-1 (Bogart abstained)

Motion to adjourn at 6:12pm by Hoffman, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0