

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Ed Juengst, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Rodney Bartlett, Nancie Vaihinger, Nicole MacStay, Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Beth Marsh, Budget Committee: Bob Hanson, Roland Patten, Donald Parkhurst, Mandy Sliver, Ed Henault, Richard Clark

Chair Juengst called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Property deedding

Ms. Marsh explained that there is one property for tax deedding, 9 Webb Road. The house is vacant, the homeowner's sister has affirmed that the owner will not be returning to the property and no longer wishes to keep it. Her recommendation is that the Select Board accept the deed and take the property. Ninety days wait time is required, allowing the current owner to buy back the property. The owner asked if this could be skipped, and by written request it is possible to skip this 90 day period.

She further explained that is a half-acre lot in a nice neighborhood. The owner owes around \$25,000 in back taxes and the property is assessed at over \$100,000.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the deed on 9 Webb Road.

Vote: Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

HTA – Main Street Bridge Update- Matt Lowe and Aaron LaChance

Mr. Bartlett explained that the NEPA application for the final design process of the bridge has been approved. The discussion of the pedestrian bridge has recently come up concerning the final architectural design of the project, whether it is needed, and possible reassignment to the south side as well as other issues. He opened this up to Hoyle Tanner representatives Matt Lowe and Aaron LaChance. He explained that the NEPA document covered a multitude of options and proposed actions with regard to the bridge. He addressed the concern over maintaining the current width of the bridge, as was brought up by the Heritage Commission. Ms. Miller asked why we cannot have two sidewalks on either side of the bridge. Mr. Lowe said that having two sidewalks is a possibility. He added that the lanes on the bridge are considered narrow and balancing the Heritage Commission's desire to maintain the historical width of the bridge with widening the travel lanes for safety, reducing the sidewalk to one side was the compromise. Ms. Miller added that she understood that DOT had their own specifications for the bridge. Mr. Bartlett explained that determining the 11 foot lanes with the pedestrian bridge was the original design that had been approved. Any changes would require a revisionary process with NEPA. Ms. Miller asked about the timeline or costs. Mr. Lowe admitted that it would add more time and costs, and this would be a new area for them – reopening NEPA. Ms. Miller asked if there would be a cost savings if the pedestrian bridge were to not be permanent. Mr. Lowe explained that there could be a cost savings, and added that underground utilities were to be carried along the pedestrian bridge therefore those cost savings could be negated by installing a temporary bridge with additional construction later. Mr. Juengst expressed concern over jeopardizing the timing of this by making changes this late in the process and that he would personally not be in favor of putting the timing of the bridge at risk. He expressed his concern over the pedestrian safety at that intersection juxtaposed to the timing issue. Ms. Miller added that she supports Mr. Juengst's concern, and expressed her own concern regarding the

architecture. Mr. Lowe responded that they are not architects, and adding treatments to the bridge with regard to aesthetics could add cost to the project. Ms. Miller asked if it would be possible to use the same architect for the Route 101 bridge. Mr. Bartlett explained there is little opportunity to match the bridges. Mr. Ward expressed his concern over the aesthetics of the bridge as it reflects the history of the oldest tax supported library. Mr. Lowe explained that if we agree to the current design of the pedestrian bridge, then reopening NEPA would not be necessary. Consensus building is part of the NEPA process, and this process takes time. Even if the project moves forward as it stands, March of 2018 would be the earliest to move ahead. He recommended making the decision that is right for the town. Ms. Miller expressed that the focus for her is more about the aesthetic of the current design. Ms. Miller asked if there has been another town faced with the same issue. He answered that in Durham there was a similar issue, but it was a modern steel bridge so it doesn't match the same issue of aesthetics. Mr. Juengst opened the discussion to the floor. Ms. Chronopolous spoke to the issue of the architects working on the new library, asking why there couldn't there be two sidewalks back on either side of the bridge, and would it cause the same time delay. Mr. Lowe admitted it would delay the process and would have to reopen NEPA since this would be a different conclusion. Bob Hanson expressed his concern over the narrow lanes on the bridge and supported the idea of removing a sidewalk. Tom Webber, working in town with an architecture firm expressed the sensitivity of this project, keeping the pedestrian component, the value in informing the town of some of its history. He further expressed that as a town that wants to invest in who we are, we need to take the time to get the bridge that we want without the pedestrian bridge looking like an afterthought. He feels the pedestrian bridge needs to have a dialogue with the library, since it will have direct front access to the historic front lawn of a historical library. He'd like to see the bridge project move ahead, but from the public standpoint and as a person in the architecture profession, that we take the time to take the consideration needed. Mr. Juengst brought to light that it was his understanding that the aesthetic is an important component to this project and posed rhetorically the possibility to leave the pedestrian bridge in place but work to create the best aesthetic for its current planned location. Ms. Chronopolous agreed. Mr. Bartlett agreed to compile a list of pros and cons surrounding the concerns from this discussion.

Community Center Landscaping

Ms. Von Mertens presented Karen Fitzgerald, a professional landscape architect, explaining that a few years back Joe Byk and Pam Brenner came to Ms. Von Mertens regarding landscaping the area around the community center. Ms. Chris Mann was also involved in the initial design discussion, as well as the Recreation Committee. The idea would be to dedicate the landscaping to Jim Grant as a memorial. The logical concerns were maintenance and cost. This is in the conceptual stage. Ms. Fitzgerald spoke to the scope of the project, recognizing the potential of this space, recognizing this as a catalyst for more changes in the neighborhood and adding to the overall use of the community center. Concerns were the parking and distribution of food being dropped off as well as distributed. Teaching edible landscape ties into the Cornucopia project garden in the back. Introducing natural play elements into the design, including winter activities as well as summer activities that could be incorporated into the recreation activities, a bocce ball court as an example. Mr. Juengst asked what he sees as next steps. Ms. Fitzgerald responded that developing the design would be the next steps, quantifying the design and a fundraising strategy. Mr. Ward asked if this was a fundraising effort or if they would require funds from the town. Ms. Miller reminded all that the Community Center was originally agreed that it would be self-sustaining, and not receive funding from the town. Ms. Von Mertens asked about the buildings and grounds crew being willing available for some of the site preparation as it would help this effort immensely. Mr. McIntyre asked if the farmers market would still be able to take place in this area. Ms. Fitzgerald agreed that the farmers market would be able to stay there.

Mr. Patten added that having enough parking spots would be paramount for the amount of activity of the food pantry. He added that by making these improvements, it adds quite a bit more maintenance in landscaping for this area and this needs to be a consideration with regard to the town's Building & Grounds budget.

Appointments to Agriculture Commission – Gary Cullinan and Mike Lombard

Mr. Ward spoke to both Mr. Cullinan and Mr. Lombard.

Motion: Mr. Ward made a motion to appoint Mr. Gary Cullinan and Mr. Mike Lombard to the Agriculture Commission.

Vote: Ms. Miller seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2016

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2016.

Vote: Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Juengst announced that Dario was named building inspector of the year. He recognized Nancie Vaihinger for her dedication of 20 years of service to the town.

Mr. Juengst opened the meeting to the Budget committee.

Joint Budget overview of draft fiscal year 2018 budget

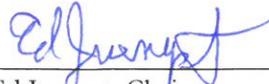
Mr. Bartlett explained the struggle to expand revenue to offset the costs of the current departments. Looking back to last year, the draft budget is slightly over 10%. He encouraged the committee to open the discussion looking to generate questions, concerns, and priorities. He suggested January 17th as the date to develop the 2018 budget meeting. He continued that taxation is up 5%, in order to cover the appropriation for the departments. Included are a part time police officer, a part time custodian, removing of the tires from the recycling center, as well as others.

Mr. Patten asked the select board, if they had seen any guidelines with regard to their desire for the final numbers for the budget. Mr. Juengst responded that putting off budget items catches up over time. Mr. Bartlett added that administration can support the budget committee in a cooperative effort. Mr. Ward asked about the confidentiality of these discussions. Mr. Bartlett responded that there will be a compilation of the issues and questions asked. Mr. Juengst responded to this issue, confirming to not attribute the questions to a particular person. Ms. Macstay agreed that we can take people's names out of the equation and can keep that information confidential. Ms. Miller spoke to attempting to keep the budget flat, and due diligence in responsibility to our tax payers.

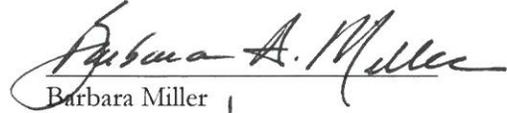
As there was no more business to discuss, Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ward seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vanessa Amsbury-Bonilla, Department Assistant

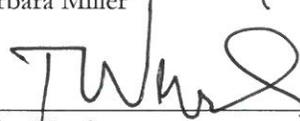
PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:



Ed Juengst, Chair



Barbara Miller



Tyler Ward