



**Selectmen's Meeting
June 21st, 2017
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: *Chad Hanna, Harry Lowd III, Paul Yates.*

Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Bill Benner; Todd Maurer.*

Selectmen were called to order by chair Chad Hanna at 7.00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was proposed by Yates and seconded by Lowd to accept the Minutes of the meeting of June 7th; passed 3 – 0.

Chair Hanna proposed to take two items of business out of agenda order, for the convenience of members of the public present.

1. Liquor license renewal: Selectmen approved the renewal of the license for Maurer and Partners Corporation, d/b/a Stone Cove Catering.
2. Bristol Village Improvement Society:
 - (a) Benner reported the vote of the Annual Meeting of the Bristol Village Improvement Society (BVIS) to offer to deed its two parcels of land adjacent to the Town Hall, to the Town in perpetuity. These small parcels include fractions of the Town hall's parking lot and its embankment to the river. It was proposed by Lowd, seconded by Yates, to Thank the Society for its offer; and to place the acceptance of these parcels on the Warrant for the 2018 town meeting, with the legal costs of conveyance to be borne by the Town. Passed 3 – 0.
 - (b) The BVIS also wished to transfer responsibility for the watering trough to the Town, as the circa \$400 annual cost of maintaining liability insurance on the trough represents a major burden on the BVIS; this cost could be dramatically reduced by its absorption into the Town's general liability policy. The historic trough is in the MDoT right-of-way; Benner recounted the history of its move when the state highway had been widened in 1955, and its restoration and re-siting with approval from MDoT. Administrator Hall reported that the 2005 grant of overflow water rights to the BVIS, filed at the Registry of Deeds, was not clear as to whether these rights could be transferred. Selectmen asked Hall to approach the new owners of the well with a view to securing a new grant to the Town. The matter was tabled until this had been undertaken.

In reply to questions, Benner reported that no further action was needed from the BVIS, as its chair Don Means had been authorized to conclude any legal documentation for the transfers. The BVIS intended to continue its tradition of volunteer mowing and gardening of the Town's lands in the village center, and water testing on the water trough, regardless of whether the Town took over the lands and trough.

Public Hearing (Liquor License application):

Selectmen reviewed and approved the grant of a liquor license to new owners of The Harbor Room restaurant.

Old Business

(1) Tax anticipation borrowing: Hall reported the conclusion of a \$500,000 line of credit with The First, N.A.. The Town's cash balances were expected to be in the region of \$100,000 following the processing of this week's warrant; he expected to authorize the bank to transfer an initial \$100,000 from the credit line to the checking account next week. He expected that if the tax demands are mailed the week after July 4th, the cash balances should be back into surplus by mid-July.

(2) Boston Post Cane: Hall reported that the presumptive candidate for award of the cane, Kip Recor, has passed away the previous week. The presumed holder is now a 98-year-old resident of Chamberlain. A notice is appearing in the June 22 Lincoln County News stating that the Town is searching for candidates.

Selectmen reviewed the draft criteria for eligibility for the Cane, which Hall had drafted with input from the Old Bristol Historical Society to include (i) a 15-year residence criteria and (ii) to allow for a holder to be at a care facility outside the Town, provided s/he retains voting registration in Bristol. Selectmen expressed the wish to keep the process in the hands of Selectmen, as per the original grant of the cane by the Boston Post newspaper; but they were pleased to have the Old Bristol Historical Society take a role in publicizing and recording the presentation.

It was moved by Yates and seconded by Lowd, to adopt the draft eligibility guidelines, with the deletion of paragraph 2 under 'The Search Process' and renumbering draft paragraph 3 accordingly. Passed 3 – 0.

(3) Proposed marijuana ordinance: the Planning Board had agreed to modified wording, eliminating a definite sunset for the ordinance, given the uncertainty around possible legislative action (or inaction). It was moved by Hanna, seconded by Lowd, as follows:

- To adopt the draft ordinance language as reviewed by the Planning Board;
- To set a date for a public hearing on the Ordinance at the scheduled Selectmen's meeting on July 19th;

- To place adoption of the Ordinance before a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday August 22nd, to be conducted by written secret ballot, the polls being open from 8 am to 8 pm.

Motion passed 3 – 0.

Selectmen then discussed further warrant items and process for a Special Town meeting. Administrator Hall reported his understanding that the Shellfish Committee were preparing an Ordinance amendment, which should be on the Warrant if a Special town meeting is held. It was proposed by Hanna and seconded by Yates to bring a Shellfish Ordinance amendment on the Warrant, if the amendment could be agreed and published ahead of the July 19th hearing. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Yates indicated his desire to add a further Warrant article, being a non-binding advisory or ‘Sense of the Town’ question, “To see if the Town is in favor of the Use of Illuminated, Digital Signs in the Town.” Placing this on the Special Town Meeting ballot was moved by Yates, seconded by Lowd; passed 3 – 0.

New Business:

Tax-acquired property: an offer had been received from the former owner to redeem a property in New Harbor acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes in 2006. The offer proposed to pay the taxes, interest and fees due at the time of acquisition. Hall reported that the amount of taxes and interest which would now be due, had the property not been acquired 11 years ago, would be some four times the amount offered.

Selectmen agreed to table the matter pending gaining a greater understanding of the needs and capacity of the former owner who is still resident in the property.

Other regular business:

- Selectmen approved an Extension of License on Premise application, for The Anchor Restaurant for July 4th.
- Selectmen reviewed and approved an application for renewal of a Tree Growth abatement.
- Selectmen reviewed and approval seven Homestead Property Tax Exemptions and two Veterans Exemptions in connection with the revaluation hearings now under way. Hall reported that on completion of the hearings, it should be possible to quickly move to set a mill rate and send the 2017 tax demands. Hanna requested that, if possible, the calculation of a mill rate should be ready on Wednesday June 28th for approval by Selectmen, with the mailing to go out as soon as possible after that.
- Selectmen reviewed and approved two Building Permit applications.

- Correspondence received: a letter of thanks was received from a property owner on Lower Round Pond Road, for the drainage and culvert work completed adjacent to his property; and a letter enclosing a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) was received from the Medomak Valley Land Trust, for which thanks had been conveyed by the Town Administrator.
- Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants were approved for the Town, Fire and Rescue, Parks and Recreation, and Bristol Consolidated School.
- There were no Public Comments.

Notice was given of the forthcoming public meetings:

- Bristol Mills Dam Advisory Committee: Tuesday, June 27th, 6 pm at the Town Office
- Harbor Committee: Thursday, June 29th, 6 pm at the Town Office.
- Selectmen, Wednesday, July 5th, 7 pm at the Town Office.
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday July 11th, 6 pm, Ellingwood Park Information Center

Motion to adjourn at 8.35 pm: prop. Hanna, seconded Yates, carried 3 – 0.