

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
APPROVED**

SB Members Virtually Present: Alison S. Manugian, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk; John R. Giger, Member; John F. Reilly, Member

Also Virtually Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant; Melisa Doig, HR Director; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Michael Hartnett, Tax Collector/Treasurer; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Bud Robertson; Takashi Tada, Land Use Director/Town Planner; Tessa David

Mr. Degen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

Ms. Manugian said that local towns around them were seeing spikes in COVID cases and reminded people to wear masks and follow guidelines issued.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said he had no updates relative to COVID locally.
2. Mr. Haddad said that they received a press release and DOR Response Update for administrative action taken by Governor Baker to extend tax relief to local businesses. He said that the Governor had deferred tax collections on meals, sales and room occupancy taxes for businesses that collect less than \$150,000 (cumulative) in those taxes for the 12-month period ending February 29, 2020. He said that he was very concerned with this decision adding that while he supported helping local businesses, this would impact their receipts for FY 2021. He said that they would be evaluating the impact of this decision over the next several weeks and would update the Board as they determined how it would impact Groton in FY 2021.
3. Mr. Haddad said that the Capital Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) was recommending that the Board appoint John Croteau to the Committee to fill the vacancy created when Steve Lane declined being reappointed in June. Mr. Haddad said that the CPAC interviewed Mr. Croteau at their meeting last week and voted unanimously to recommend his appointment. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board consider making this appointment.

Mr. Degen moved to appoint John Croteau to the CPAC for a term to expire June 30, 2023. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye

4. Mr. Haddad said that he and Select Board Member Degen had been the Town's Representatives to the MRPC but due to their schedules, they had been unable to attend the monthly meetings. Mr. Haddad said that Peter Cunningham, who had been working with the MRPC on the potential environmental grant for the Squannacook Sportsman's Club, had expressed an interest in serving as their Representative. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board consider appointing Mr. Cunningham to that position.

Mr. Degen moved to appoint Peter Cunningham as the Board's representative to the MRPC for a term to expire June 30, 2021. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye

5. Ms. Manugian said that there were 5 Select Board goals and 5 members. She reviewed her idea for assigning members to a goal to oversee. The Board was agreeable to her proposed assignments.
6. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Board's schedule through the beginning of January as provided in the Board's packet.

RED PEPPER LANE ROAD LAYOUT HEARING

Mr. Haddad read the public hearing notice into the record.

Ms. Pine made a motion to open the public hearing for possible layout of Red Pepper Lane. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Mr. Haddad said that the road had been reviewed and approved by the Town's engineer, Planning Board and DPW Director. He said that it was being recommended that the road be accepted by the Select Board. Mr. Delaney said that this had been constructed according to plan. Ms. Manugian asked if this would be a clean transfer. Mr. Haddad said that it would be. Ms. Pine asked if there was anything different with this road because part of the road was in Pepperell. Mr. Haddad said that Groton was only accepting its portion of the road. Mr. Delaney said that the Town's work together when there are roads that cross into towns like this. Mr. Degen said that there were some drainage easements where it abutted Olivia Way and asked if there were visible drainage from Red Pepper Lane. Mr. Delaney said that the drainage was done underground adding that nothing from Red Pepper Lane drained into Olivia Way.

Ms. Pine made a motion to close the public hearing. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Ms. Pine moved to accept the layout of Red Pepper Lane as presented on the plans that evening as approved by the Planning Board engineer and DPW Director and to recommend to the Town Meeting that the road be accepted. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion.

Mr. Degen asked why this was before them before Olivia Way had been finished. Mr. Tada said that the developer had satisfied the requirements on Red Pepper Lane and thought the developer wanted to get one thing off his plate. Mr. Tada said that the Planning Board was still holding a portion of the bond. Mr. Degen said that they should use acceptance of this road as leverage until the developer cleaned up and took care of obligations on Olivia Way. He said that the residents needed to see the Board have as much leverage as they could on this one.

Peter Krakonis, the developer, said he would like to have the road accepted adding everything having to do with the drainage on Olivia Way had been completed except for the landscaping. He said that the Planning Board had bond money they were holding on to adding the engineers were responsible for the drainage issues on Olivia Way but he was asked to fix the drainage. Mr. Giger said that the drainage had not been tested adding they hadn't had any rain which was a concern of his. Ms. Manugian said she understood the concerns of her board members but asked if this could be held up because of Olivia Way. Mr. Haddad said that there was nothing linking the 2 roads adding the Planning Board's engineer and DPW Director had signed off on it. Mr. Haddad said that this was a call solely by the Select Board. Mr. Delaney said that Olivia Way would not be a town road at the end of the day. Ms. Pine asked if the Planning Board took a vote on this. Mr. Tada said that the Planning Board had not held a formal vote on this yet adding it was on their agenda later that week. Mr. Degen said he could not support this without seeing if the drainage worked over the winter. Mr. Giger said he believed there was only one bond for the development even though Olivia Way was intended to always be a private way. Mr. Tada said that the bond was only for Red Pepper Lane adding they couldn't request a bond for a private way.

There was a discussion about whether they could accept this without a vote by the Planning Board. Mr. Haddad said that they had received a letter from the Planning Board stating it was their concurrence that the road was ready for acceptance.

Roll Call: Manugian-no; Pine-no; Degen-no; Reilly-aye; Giger-no. The motion failed by a vote of 1-4.

Mr. Haddad said that the article will be withdrawn from the Fall Town Meeting warrant.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – CONT.

7. Mr. Haddad said that he had set aside time on the Agenda for the Board to discuss whether or not to change from the Transfer Station for Trash Collection to Curb Side Pick-Up. He said that they were in the process of reaching out to various haulers to get a ballpark cost for such a service. Mr. Haddad noted that pursuant to M.G.L., c.30B, §1(b)(30), a contract for the collection, transportation, receipt, processing or disposal of solid waste, recyclable materials or compostable materials is exempt from Chapter 30B Procurement Requirements. Mr. Haddad said that they averaged about 1,200 stickers per year while others utilize private haulers. Mr. Haddad said that the sticker sales average about \$54K/year. He said that they would still take in \$100K per year in bag sales if they used a private hauler to help offset the private haulers. Mr. Haddad said that they were missing the cost to go to private hauling but wanted to provide the Board with this information. Ms. Tessa David said that there were a number of services the

transfer station handled that could not be done at the curb. Ms. David said that the Transfer Station had an abundance of services adding that curbside pickup would not require recycling be separated, which meant less recycling than how they currently operated. Ms. Pine said that she wasn't sure how they would compare this. She said that she used a private hauler and didn't realize that recycling when comingled was less recycled than sorted recycling. Mr. Delaney said that they had certain recycling guidelines that had to meet adding that the haulers would need to meet the same requirements. Mr. Delaney said he didn't understand what the goal was to go to curbside pickup adding that if he lost the 2 employees that worked at the Transfer Station that would really hurt his operation. Mr. Haddad said that he was showing a potential offset but wasn't recommending that Mr. Delaney lose his 2 employees. Ms. Manugian said that this came about over social media and it raised some questions and the need for a discussion. Ms. Pine asked if it made sense to vet and recommend a preferred hauler. Mr. Haddad said he would gather more information and bring it back to the Board.

8. Ms. Pine explained two versions of a handout for Town Meeting relative to the "Sundown Town" article on the warrant provided to the Board. Ms. Manugian said she didn't notice a huge difference between the two. Mr. Degen said that to a certain degree a reference to a sundown town had to do with the color of someone's skin and not a religious or ethnic issue. He said that if they wanted to say Groton would not be a sundown town and that all were welcome than the reference to the KKK should not be included. Mr. Degen said the Board needed to offer some guidance or defer to the Diversity Task Force. Mr. Reilly and Ms. Manugian said that they would defer to the Diversity Task Force. Mr. Giger said he was okay with deferring to the Task Force but wanted them to keep focused on the removal of a Sundown Town reference. Ms. Pine also agreed with deferring to the Task Force.

ON-GOING ISSUES

A: Mr. Haddad said that a portion of Main Street would be under construction starting tomorrow through Thursday to install a water line for the sprinkler system at Prescott School.

Mr. Haddad said that Susan Horowitz had issued a resignation letter from the Board of Health. He said that they would be advertising this vacancy and would begin the process of filling the vacancy.

LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Degen said that something was going on with the hold harmless issue which the state was discussing doing away with. He said that this would mean the school district would lose \$2-6M in funding and would fall on the Towns to make it up. Ms. Manugian said that she had planned to write a letter as the State was accepting comments until October 16th and was happy to bring it to a meeting for their blessing if they wanted. Mr. Degen said that Representative Harrington was attending the next School Committee meeting and said he would be attending to hear what information she had to offer.

MINUTES

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 14, 2020. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Ms. Pine asked about Town Meeting and about the consent agendas. Mr. Haddad said that the budget would be one consent motion, the second would be a consent motion for the enterprise articles and the third would be for the CPC project articles. He said that if someone wanted to have a specific item held, that the item could be held and voted on separately.

Ms. Manugian adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.

Approved: _____
Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 10/5/2020