

MINUTES
Tues, September 26, 2023
Select Board Meeting – 5:00PM
Town Hall Community Room 1st Floor & Virtual
27 Sturbridge Rd.
Holland, MA 01521

Select Board Members in attendance: James Whalen, Ernie Fancy, Kate Landers

Others in attendance: Stacy Stout (Town Administrator), Brian Johnson (Highway Surveyor), J. Jasper (Farm Bug Co-op), Eric Schwartz (Farm Bug Co-op), James LaMountain (Canna Mountain Development), Mr. & Mrs. Daniel LaPlante, Mark Lund of 11 Leisure Drive; Travis Koske of 19 Leisure Drive

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Available Minutes - None
3. Host Community Agreement with Farm Bug Status - Discuss draft Host Community Agreement with Town of Holland. Farm Bugs Questions/Concerns should be directed to Town Administrator Stacy Stout who will then forward them to Town Counsel. Then the Town and Farm Bug can discuss at a follow up meeting. The need for odor control and water control was discussed. Also, how community impact fees should be levied among the various lessees.
4. Trunk or Treat – Was not on the previous meeting Agenda officially. The dates were agreed upon but the Vote was not valid

Motion to approve trunk or Treat for Saturday, October 28, 2023 by E Fancy, 2nd by K Landers; All in Favor, Yes

5. Appointments – None. The Police officer appointed at last meeting declined the job offer. So that appointment is null and void.
6. Use of Town Property
 - a. There is a Bee Hive on the old landfill. There was a concern raised by a resident over use of that public land by a private individual or business. Town Administrator Stacy Stout said this is no town policy or bylaw allowing or not allowing the use. The issue is, will every resident now use that public land for their Bee Hives? A donation was accepted for one-time seasonal use. The owner is prepared to remove the Bee Hive is required.
 - b. Hot Dog vendor Daniel LaPlante set up his stand on a corner of land by the dam. They put a sign and a bench up for their customers. A resident complained. This use was not approved by the Board. If the town approves this use, there would have to be an agreement with the vendor. Other issues were, can the use of that space be limited to this single vendor. He can attend events with his stand because he has his BOH license but until this issue is resolved he cannot operate his stand on that corner of land.

- c. 61 Mashapaug Road, Bill Robertson asked if permission was granted to put the private memorials in the State Funded parking lot at the lake. BOS was unaware there were 2 or more memorials placed there and will look into it.
7. Drainage Concerns – Mark Lund of 11 Leisure Drive states drainage issues at the catch basin causing damage to vehicles. His septic company cannot get into his driveway to pump his septic. He is concerned people walking at night can get injured. The highway department has made temporary repairs to it over the last few years but there needs to be a permanent fix. Repair will be labor intensive. Spoke about damage to a vehicle. Difficulty driving past that spot in the winter because tires spin when you drive over this area and car gets stuck. Another Resident showed picture of the bottom of her driveway. Stacy requested a copy of the pictures because they cannot be presented unless they are on record. Travis Koske of 19 Leisure Drive stated he watched an Amazon truck drive over the catch basin, causing the truck to pull to the left and leave skid marks down his lawn. There was no cone at that time to warn the driver. Brian Johnson Highway Surveyor says he is looking to repair it before Thanksgiving, pending financing, as Leisure Rd is a private road, not a public road. The town will look into grants and the residents also would like to look into converting the road from private to public.
8. Special Town Meeting - Stacy is going to confirm which date in October the special town meeting will be held. They want to keep the agenda isolated to bylaw changes. Annual Town meeting will be held in June (date TBD). Notifications will go out to all registered voters 14 days before the meeting. Regular Meetings for October 3rd and October 17th. Stacy suggests another meeting date specifically for the bylaws discussion. BOS agreed to October 5th at 5:00 PM. Also discussed making Tax Collector and Treasurer combined appointed positions, not elected. Residents voted against this (by two votes) when it was presented 2 years ago. A cooling off period needs to be met before the issue can be addressed again. Kate asked if it would also be possible to appoint the Highway Surveyor instead of electing them. This can be discussed in future meetings.
9. PVPC Invoices - 4 monthly Administrative Invoices from Pioneer Valley planners from January to April numbered 21, 22, 23 and 24. Money was allocated via a grant for these invoices.

Motion to Approve all 4 of the PVPC Invoices by E Fancy, 2nd by K Landers; All in Favor, Yes

10. FY22 Audit Summary - Tabled. Stacy is still reviewing and plans to send BOS a summary of all three documents.
11. ARPA- Ernie Fancy will be meeting with a contractor on 9/28/23 to get a quote for a generator for the town hall. Stacy already completed the RFP for the funding.
12. Board/Committee/Department liaison updates.
 - a. Finance Board – They will be going to two meetings per month during budget season.

- b. Lake Oversight Committee – August 31st test came back good. For areas that need to be reapplied or looked at again we are looking at the end of fiscal year 2024 around June. Trying to reduce costs of treatment. As previously discussed, BOS had missed the window for treatment but they can look into treating again next September 2024 and the cost will be under \$3,000. They have not decided yet on a point person to take over for Bob Kamay. There are two open positions on this committee. Dam inspection is awaiting State conditions for debris removal in the catch basin. There may be a request for postponement on the inspection. Looking into a program where FHRA may pay half the costs of organic material clean up along beach lines. Researching benefits of hydro raking clean-up. Considering bylaw proposal for wakes from boats in lakes.
- c. School Committee – No Update
- d. ByLaw Committee – Ernie Fancy working by committee to put a footnote on Table 2 when the requirements for acreage/frontage were changed. Should have an update by the first week in October. Stacy Stout suggests considering putting a town charter in place.
- e. Planning Board update – Ernie Fancy says the planning board put in a request to the Town Clerk for all the Warrant articles going back to 1975. They received those records on 9/25/23 and will review them to find out what all the zoning requirements are. The records requests by Peter Frei are excessive. Town Clerk and Town Administrator are unable to keep up with the requests. Stacy Stout is working with the State on how to deal with this issue. Stacy states the BOS needs to encourage him to understand that he can simply speak with his colleagues to access the records he is requesting rather than submitting a formal request which puts a 10-day timeline on the town clerk and administrator to produce the records.
- f. PVPC – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission first meeting James Whalen will be attending will be on October 12. He will update the BOS after that meeting.

13. Select Board Communications

- a. Email from 10 Over the Top Rd about drainage concerns. James Whalen and Brian Johnson are going to meet to discuss. Stacy Stout will respond to the email.
- b. Email about dead tree hazard on the corner of Barclay St and Shore Dr. Stacy forwarded the email to the Board.
- c. Complaint regarding some social programs at the community center being shut down due to covid but other programs were not. Stacy Stout explained that it is up to the Community Center's director's discretion to make decisions that she felt was in the best interest of protecting the health and safety of all who use the center.

14. Bi-weekly Warrants for approval - None

15. Upcoming Meetings

- a. October 3, 2023
- b. October 5, 2023
- c. October 17, 2023
- d. November 7th will be the public hearing for the community development block grant.

16. Public Comments – No Public Comments. Stacy discussed how the Small-Town Administrator Association brought to Gov. Healey’s attention the difficulty small towns especially in the western part of the MA have with complying with Open Meeting Law timelines because town hall hours and staff may be limited. Briefly reviewed Open Meeting Law.

Chair Closed Meeting - Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Gumlaw