



**Select Board Minutes  
Tuesday August 29, 2017 - 6 pm  
Holland Town Hall  
27 Sturbridge Road  
Holland, MA**

Present:

Bettina Schmidt - Chair

Elias Gillen - Member

Lawrence Mandell - Member

Kelli A. Robbins, Esq., Executive Secretary

**Call to Order:**

Ms. Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6PM

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting are not yet available.

**Motion 082917-1**, Mr. Mandell to approve the August 24, 2017 minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Gillen. So Voted. Ms. Schmidt abstained.

**Old Business**

Fire Chief email from Ethics Commission re. Mr. Mandell began to read the letter aloud. Mr. Mandell was reminded that letters from the ethics commission are not public record and should not be read aloud. Mr. Gillen asked if Chief Gagne had completed the forms. Ms. Robbins stated that he had but they did not make it to the Select Board office. Ms. Robbins will follow-up with the Fire Chief to have them for the next full board meeting.

**Motion 082917-2**. Mr. Gillen to table until the completed forms are available. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Mandell. So voted.

**New Business:**

Dangerousness hearing:

Chief Haughey explained that a complaint was received regarding a dog attacking another dog. Chief Haughey felt there was insufficient notice to the parties in order to allow them to mount their cases. The law gives no guidance on how or when to notify the parties that a hearing will take place. After multiple attempts to notify the parties they were only reached a short time before the hearing was to take place. In light of the short notice, Chief Haughey asked that the hearing be postponed until a date further so that the parties could have time to prepare.

**Motion 082917-3**, Mr. Mandell to postpone the September 19<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Gillen. So voted.

Driveway permit for Leno Road.

The party at Leno Road seeking a driveway permit. The permit request is already signed by the Highway Surveyor.

**Motion 082917-4** Mr. Mandell to sign driveway permit. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Gillen. So voted.

Mr. Ed Hood of the Opacum Land Trust (hereinafter Opacum) described the Sichel land, that the Sichel's and Opacum would like to see conserved. The parcels consist of approximately 173 acres of land.

Discussion ensued regarding;

1. The need to protect the land for various reasons, including the cold water river fishing and clean water streaming into the reservoir.
2. The Town is seeking a way to gain senior housing. These parcels would prove to be beneficial for senior housing while preserving the majority of the land in an open state
3. developing trails
4. Possible funding
5. Assistance offered by Opacum

Mr. Howie Fife spoke regarding Holland's Open Space plan. By establishing an Open Space Committee one more of the Open Space Plan goals would be met.

Mr. Mandell asked what, short of a vote at Town Meeting, could be done by the Select Board? Mr. Fife repeated that creating the committee would be a good start in showing that Holland is serious.

Ms. Schmidt stated that the Town had applied for a grant to do a study for Senior Housing, but that it was not received by Holland.

The State requires that an outside conservation group hold a conservation easement on conservation property to be eligible for funding

**Motion 082917-5** Mr. Gillen to form the Open Space Committee consisting of one Planning Board member, one Conservation member, one Trails Committee member, one Senior Housing member and one member at large. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Mandell. So voted

**Motion 082917-6**, Mr. Mandell to appoint Shannon Horn-Eldred as Library Trustee to replace Margaret Lowell, until the next election. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Gillen. So voted

Review of Warrant for upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Ms. Schmidt read each warrant article number to the Select Board. If any member wants to question an article, they said hold. Holds placed on Article 3 and 10-36.

Discussion regarding article 3. Mr. Gillen asked if the article would work the way it was written, without a cost, as it appears. Ms. Robbins stated it would not. Ms. Schmidt stated that if there was an amount the Finance Board would need to rework the budget, the tax rate would not be set on time, therefore the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter billing would not go out on time, causing the town to have to

borrow money to pay the bills, costing interest, plus the residents will have to pay the year end taxes in one lump sum.

**Motion 082917-7** Mr. Gillen to remove article 3 from the warrant. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Schmidt. So voted.

Articles 10- 36 pertain to Conservation Commission. Mr. Harhay was asked to address the Board's questions. ??? asked why there were so many changes. Mr. Harhay stated that the Conservation Commission bylaws had not been updated for 25 years. Mr. Harhay stated that he and the Commission had compared Holland's bylaws to that of other towns, Pelhem being a good example. Ms. Schmidt asked why people would have to go to the building inspector if they did not have a building project? If a tree needs to be removed it would not be up to the building inspector to tell the applicant that they need to go to Conservation. It is not a building issue. Mr. Harhay stated that it is way is supposed to be done, using the procedure sheet.

There was a typo in article 10 where it should be consistently "Conservation Commission". The typo will be corrected before publication.

**Motion 082917-8** Mr. Mandell, to approve the warrant as amended. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Gillen. So voted

**Announcements:**

Bulky Day was a great success. Ms. Schmidt thanked the Highway Department for their great work on this project.

Ms. Schmidt also noted that the Zucchini Festival was a big success. She thanked all involved with that event for volunteering to come out and make the day happen.

Mr. Gillen thanked Brian Johnson for coming to the Lake Oversight Committee meeting. It was very helpful.

The following boards and committees are looking for members:

Conservation - 1 member

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 member

OPEB - 2 members

Bylaw Committee - 1 member

Capital Planning Committee - 1 member not affiliated with any other committees or departments

Counsel on Aging - 1 member

**Motion 082917-9** Mr. Gillen to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Mandell. So voted.

Meeting closed 6:59 PM