

Approved via Zoom  
by RC, SW, JK on  
10-15-20 988

Board of Selectmen  
September 24, 2020

Via Zoom Remote Conferencing\*

Robert Czekanski, Chair  
Stanley Wysocki  
Jonathan Keep  
Don Lowe, Town Administrator  
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Chairman Czekanski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

#### Cares Act Reimbursement Request

Chief Jeff Legendre updated the Board on the CaresAct Reimbursement. In round one we sought to bolster the ambulance response with the purchase of an emergency first responder vehicle, second cardiac monitor and second LUCAS device which is a CPR machine for the Town. Initially we were denied the request, but after several discussions we were awarded \$112,861.50 to complete that part of the Fire Department EMS upgrade. We have also received \$17,000.00 for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and \$33,056.00 in Grants from the Executive Office of Public Safety to purchase additional PPE.

Chief Legendre also updated on the ALS Program voted on at Town meeting. It was delayed due to the inability to get an inspection with the pandemic, but has now passed inspection and is 30 – 45 days out from being on line. With the extra funding from CaresAct we will now have two vehicles with paramedic level service. The Selectmen and Mr. Lowe thanked Chief Legendre for his outstanding efforts in pursuing grants.

#### MVP Grant Application

Conservation Agent Rebecca Longvall shared that we have been awarded \$250,000 for our Apple Country Ecological Climate Resiliency and Carbon Planning and Assessment. It has a large emphasis of community outreach and engagement and will produce assessment, planning, tools and maps.

#### Lot 2 Bare Hill Road Gift

This is a gift from Mr. Keith Myles of 155 Bare Hill Road of 1.87 acres of residential land. Mr. Myles was not in attendance. Ms. Longvall explained that this is a location that has had trails on it and is a popular location to cross to Bower Springs. It is a key parcel. Mr. Myles was kind enough to purchase to work with the Town so that the use could continue.

**On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to accept the gift of lot 2 Bare Hill Road, a residentially zoned parcel of 1.87 acres from Keith Myles of 155 Bare Hill Road. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

Mr. Lowe noted that the Conservation Restriction has been reviewed by Town Counsel and there are no issues.

The Board thanked Mr. Myles.

**On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 in support of the Conservation Restriction on lot 2 Bare Hill Road. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

#### Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Mr. Lowe introduced Lisa Shepple who was the unanimous choice of the interview committee. Ms. Shepple has been volunteering for Parks and Recreation for 18 years. Ed Sterling, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission added that having her experience will be a tremendous benefit.

The Board welcomed Ms. Shepple.

#### Presidential Election Update

Town Clerk Pamela Powell addressed the Board with news related to the upcoming Presidential Election and details of the vote by mail and early voting. Board reviewed the schedule which is posted on the website. There will be a ballot box installed to the right of the rear door for depositing ballots securely. Town Clerk's office are in good shape with volunteers for the election. Ms. Powell thanked the Post Office for their assistance during the primary.

If residents completed the card for the primary and requested vote by mail for the presidential they will be receiving their ballot. For residents that did not vote by mail for the primary they will be getting another mailing.

#### 401 Main Street

Megan Moran of Cultivate Care Farms appeared before the Board to request approval for two special events to be held at 401 Main Street. Ms. Moran explained that both events will be 9 am – 3 pm and have a capped number of people, socially distanced and wearing masks.

**On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve two special events to be held at Cultivate Care Farms located at 401 Main Street.**

- **Pride Day on the Farm, Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 9am – 3pm**
- **Barnyard Trick-or-Treat, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 9 am – 3pm (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

#### Sign Requests

Andrew Keane of the Bolton Lion's Club appeared before the Board to request permission to have two signs placed at the intersection of Main Street and Wattaquaddock and a second sign at the corner of Wattaquaddock and West Berlin Road to announce the Cider Donut Sale. The donuts are sold from mid September until late October from 10am – 4pm on weekends and Columbus Day.

**On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the placement of signs at the intersections of Main Street/Wattaquaddock Hill Road and Wattaquaddock Hill Road/West Berlin Road for their annual cider donut sale. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

Eric Schartner was not in attendance. Mr. Wysocki explained that the sign is at the intersection of Wattaquaddock and West Berlin Road. The sign is for Schartner Farm. The Board was comfortable moving forward without Mr. Schartner.

**On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the placement of signs at the intersections of Wattaquaddock Hill Road/West Berlin Road for Schartner Farm. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

Mr. Schartner joined the meeting late and was informed that the sign had been approved.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

##### Taggart Property

Purchase and Sale is signed and the borrowing rate we received is .64% from TD Bank.

##### DPW Director Update

Mr. Lynch's last day was September 18<sup>th</sup>. We have already begun the search for a new director. We will be taking applications until Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have received applications already which is a good sign for interest in the position.

The interview committee will be expanded to include either the chair or coordinator of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the chair or conservation agent for the Conservation Commission.

**On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to include those two functions on the DPW Director search committee. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

##### Update on the Timeline for Negotiation with Lovecraft, Inc.

Lovecraft, Inc. is the entity looking to do business at 58 Main Street for the sale of marijuana and other functions as well. Mr. Lowe met with Atty. Falk and spoke with several residents. Atty. Falk is putting together a document. Once it is ready they will be meeting with Mr. Catt. The timeline is probably the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>.

##### Covid-19 Update

The governor has extended the outdoor dining to December 1<sup>st</sup>. The restaurants that are approved will automatically be extended to December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### FY20/FY21 MassWorks Update

The soil will be upgraded next week and hydroseeded.

Mr. Czekanski urged the homeowners to water the seed since the forecast is dry.

#### SELECTMEN BUSINESS

##### Public Service Announcements

Mr. Lowe announced that the residential spraying has ended for the season. Signs can be removed from properties. Tire removal services are available. There will be announcements sent out next week for the tire removal program.

Mr. Lowe also announced that the 2020 Flu Clinic will be Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Nashoba Regional High School from 2 – 4 pm for residents 60+ and from 4pm – 6pm for all ages.

Daniel Crump of Bolton Woods Way asked the Board why they were considering Lovecraft, Inc. The Board could not address his question as it was not on the agenda but Mr. Czekanski explained that the role of a Selectmen is circumscribed by law. The Selectmen are obligated to follow the vote of the Town.

David Bergsbaken of Bolton Woods Way requested a copy of the plan from Atty. Falk. Mr. Lowe explained that it is not a public document at this time.

Mr. Wysocki urged the public to continue to wear masks.

##### Police Chief Evaluation Process

Mr. Lowe reported that in a discussion with the Chair about the Police Chief's evaluation he informed the Chair that the position is the only key position reviewed by the Board. The Town Administrator performs all other evaluations. It is a legacy situation from before there was a Town Administrator. Mr. Wysocki noted that he felt comfortable with the Town Administrator performing the evaluation as he has day to day contact with him. Mr. Keep noted that the Police Department is different from other departments as it is more public facing and that is worth maintaining this tradition. Mr. Czekanski noted that the Board of Selectmen don't add anything to the process and it would be more appropriate if the Selectmen bowed out of the process.

**On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 2-1 to move the evaluation of the Chief of Police to the Town Administrator and remove the Board of Selectmen from the process.(Wysocki-yes, Keep-no, Czekanski-yes)**

##### Bolton Senior Housing Lease for 600 Main Street

The document is identical to the lease that we are operating under. There is no increase in rent. It allows access on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and defines the hours of operation. Though not addressed in the lease Mr. Lowe will request that the COA Director and Events Coordinator to be allowed into the building on Mondays and Fridays as well.

**On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to execute and sign the lease with Bolton Senior Housing Corporation for 600 Main Street. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

##### Bills and Payroll Warrants

**On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve Bills/Payroll warrants: W21-6 & W21-6A, W21-7 & W21-7A. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

**On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to adjourn at 8:01pm. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)**

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.

*\*All attendees participated remotely via Zoom Remote Conferencing pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.*