

## [NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

June 1, 2021

Northfield Town Hall  
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Heath Cummings, Chair; Barbara “Bee” Jacque; Bernard Boudreau; Mary Sullivan-Bowen

Selectboard Absent: Alexander Meisner

Also Present: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Tyler Bourbeau/, BNCTV

Others Present: David Balk, Board of Health Chair; Dan Gray; Deb Potee, Library Trustee; Misha Storm; Frank Froment CoA Chair (remote); Colleen Letourneau (remote) Judy Wagner, Schell Bridge Advisory Chair and Barb Richardson, SBA

- **Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm**

- Read for the record: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the town of Northfield Selectboard will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Northfield’s website, at northfieldma.gov. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: The meeting will be filmed and broadcast in live time by BNCTV, Channel 17 and a link will be posted on the Town’s website at northfieldma.gov. Limited in-person attendance of members of the public may be permitted. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting

- **Review and Approval of Warrants**

- Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to approve the 6/3/21 Payroll warrant \$49,713.42
- Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to approve the 6/3/21 Vendor warrant \$990,744.09 (PVRs assessment, Hwy Bridges/Rails, COVID expenses)
- Motion by Cummings, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to approve the 6/3/21 Previous Year’s Bills \$960.15

- **Review and Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Jacque, seconded by Bowen 5/6/21 w/Board of Health
- Motion by Cummings, seconded by Jacque the board voted to approve the minutes of 5/18/21

- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard Members**

- Cummings: French King Bridge projects; Memorial Day parade
- Jacque: American Recovery Plan funding training from Mass Municipal Association; crosswalk follow up with MassDOT and talked to Chief Leighton re: crosswalks; Historic Commission input on crosswalks/poles
- Boudreau: contacted FRCOG; Memorial Day parade
- Bowen: Attempted to contact Franklin Regional Transit Authority; Memorial Day parade

- **Scheduled Appointments**

- Board of Health: Appointment of vacated seat
  - David Balk, Board of Health Chair introduced Dan Gray as the Board of Health recommendation to fill the vacated seat
  - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Cummings the board voted to appoint Dan Gray to the Board of Health

**>> Senior Center Director position reclassification <<**

- Llamas, Finance Committee Chair Lois Stearns and Jacque met to review and classify the Senior Center Director position
  - Ranking changed from grade 8 to 10, based on changes to the job description and changes developed by the former Director over the past two years
  - Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Jacque to reclassify position of Council on Aging/Senior Center Director from grade 8 to grade 10
- Senior Center Director Appointment
  - Frank Froment, Council on Aging Chair, introduced Colleen Letourneau as the Council on Aging recommendation for the Senior Center Director position at grade 10 step 6; July 1, 2021 start
  - Colleen Letourneau

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- 30 years in long term care and short-term re-habilitation; work with Life Path
- Familiar with area; lives in Greenfield
- Will use experience and connections to work with seniors
- Help make seniors part of the community; education; outdoor activities
  - Explained duties of a social services director; integrate care plans based on background and spiritual needs. Programs to be created based on needs
  - Boudreau, member of the Friends of Council on Aging, reported the organization will regroup and meet with the new Director
- Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Bowen the board voted to appoint Colleen Letourneau at grade 10 step 6 as Senior Center Director
- Library Director Appointment
  - Deb Potee, member of the Library Trustees, introduced Misha Storm as the Library Director recommendation
  - Storm is currently the Director for the Leverett library
  - Has subbed at Dickinson and feels the library is the community center, has more diversity and the town is more vested
  - Qualifications from resume read
  - Motion by Boudreau, seconded by Jacque the board voted to appoint Misha Storm as Director of the Dickinson Memorial Library beginning July 6, 2021; grade 10, step 1
- Schell Bridge Advisory update
  - Judy Wagner and Barb Richardson gave update on the project and thanked the Advisory Committee , Llamas and Jacque for their assistance
  - Discussion points
    - Design of railing
      - Difference discussed; the Advisory recommended the version without the second railing
    - Color
      - The Advisory preferred natural color to blend w/ landscape: Bronze
    - Info panel:
      - The Advisory chose to reference pre-colonial residents; historical uses before the Schell Bridge was built; design features of original bridge
      - Emphasize the process replacing bridge to the new structure
      - Discussion to adjust the contribution of work the Friends of Schell Bridge contributed. Current version downplays FoSB role.
  - Name
    - Department of Conservation and Recreation suggested The Schell Bridge Greenway; the Advisory initially agreed then suggested Northfield Schell Bridge Greenway.
    - Native inclusion suggested: to give historical reference add Pauchaug (translation-at the crossing/at the clear place) to Schell; colonial settlers called area Pauchaug;
    - To connect all recreational dots: Pauchaug-Schell Greenway Bridge or Pauchaug-Schell Bridge Greenway
  - Votes
    - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Bowen the board voted to accept the recommendation of the railing by the Schell Bridge Advisory Committee
    - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Bowen the board voted to accept the recommendation of Schell Bridge Advisory Committee as Bronze

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- Discussion for changes on the panel, replacing “indigenous” with three area tribes; update the Friends of Schell Bridge contribution and ask cultural resources for input. Possible 2<sup>nd</sup> panel.
  - Motion by Jacque, seconded Bowen the board voted to support and enhance the recommendation of the Schell Bridge Advisory Committee with respect to the historical panel and request strongly of MassDOT Culture Resources to make clarifications around the specific indigenous settlements and the specific details of the advocacy of the Friends of Schell Bridge
  - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Jacque the board voted to name the former Schell Bridge “Pauchaug-Schell Bridge Greenway”
  - Wagner acknowledged thanked those involved in the process
- **Business**
  - Pole Hearing scheduled for June 15, 2021, 6:05 pm
    - Public notice read: Under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto, or amendments thereof the Selectboard will hold a public hearing on June 15, 2021 at 6:05 pm on the petition of Eversource to install (6 six new fully owned Eversource poles extending southeast down the road from existing pole 71/16. The purpose of these proposed new poles is to provide electrical service to 165 Orange Rd. The hearing will be held at the Northfield Town Hall, 69 Main St. Northfield, MA 01360
    - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the board voted to hold a pole hearing June 15, 2021 at 6:05 pm
  - Town Hall Reopening Update
    - Mask mandate ended; Town Hall regular open hours as posted; library open as posted; June 15 proposed end of state of emergency
    - Signs to be posted regarding updated terms following state regulations
    - Residents not vaccinated are asked to use safety practices by wearing mask
    - Keep physical barriers if employees wish
    - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Bowen the board voted to follow the government guidelines of fully vaccinated individuals regarding wearing masks and respect people wearing masks, employees & citizens, and allow employees to retain accommodations within their offices as they see fit.
  - Time Off Request
    - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Bowen the board voted to approve the time off request
- **Town Administrator’s update**
  - Draft of personnel policy screening/interview policy
  - Emergency department new radios
  - Former town meeting funded training for Selectboard; poll for time to hold
- **Citizens’ concerns**
  - Reduce speed on Highland Ave. Needs approval from MassDOT
- **Correspondence:** Resignation from Board of Library Trustees: Margot Fleck
  - Letter read
  - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the board voted to accept the resignation
- **Proposed Agenda Items**
  - Street speeds
- **Announcements** -Local Rapid Recovery grant Post Covid Business Recovery Initiative Report & Public Meeting; key meeting June 10 6pm; information on website
- **Recognition for Service:** To John “Jack” Ware who passed May 21, 2021, for his years of service to the town working at PVRS (38 years) as a member of the Northfield Fire Department (62 years), Constable, Transfer Station attendant, and volunteer for the Senior Center. The board expressed their sympathy to the family.

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- **Adjourn**

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Bowen the board voted to adjourn 8:10 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

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Selectboard Clerk

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Date Approved