

June 22, 2020

Northfield Town Hall  
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Alexander Meisner, Chair; Tracy Rogers, (via Zoom); Heath Cummings

Also Present: Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Otis Wheeler, BNCTV

Others Present: Kyle Dragon, Franklin County Animal Control Officer; Attorney Matthew Christensen; Abby Brockelbank, Elise McMahon, Canine Head Start; Susan Mahan

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- Announcement read: 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. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but 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.

- **Dog Hearing**

- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to open the dog hearing at 6:02pm
  - Abby Brockelbank, Susan Mahan and Elise McMahon were asked to take the oath: "Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Affirmed by the parties listed.
  - ACO Kyle Dragon, as the Complainant gave testimony on the facts received by him for the dog bite on a child taking place on May 1, 2020.
  - Attorney Christensen requested clarification on Dragon's testimony.
  - Dragon stated he did not feel the dog should be euthanized. The dog has been re-homed in Ashby, MA. He was not aware of the dog biting any other person.
  - Testimony of Susan Mahan, dog breeder, reported the dog "Charlie" has a good temperament. Mahan is the current registered owner of "Charlie". She had "Charlie" evaluated by an expert who found no inappropriate behavior.
  - Testimony of Elise McMahon, animal behaviorist, found "Charlie" to be outgoing and social. Recommended due to this incident and not the overall temperament of the dog that he not be placed in a home with young children.
  - Testimony of Abby Brockelbank, owner on record at the time of the incident, reported the child was in the care of the grandmother in Brockelbank's home. The incident was a horrible accident and "Charlie" is not a threatening dog. Brockelbank stated the victim had been spoken to several times in the past to stay out of the dog's face.
  - The Selectboard asked for and received the following recommendations from ACO Dragon: the dog is not dangerous in his opinion but should not be around children under 7 years of age.
  - After deliberation of the Selectboard the following vote was taken:
    - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted unanimously that "Charlie", the dog, maintains a constant restraint by leash at all times and not be around children 7 years of age and or under.
  - On a motion Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to close the hearing at 6:40 pm.

- **Citizens' concerns**

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- Robert Henry: posting of “open checkbook” on town website. Advised Town Administrator is working on project
- Joseph Stacy: request to amend warrant Art. 8 re: summer camp program funding. Advised amendment can be taken up on town meeting floor.
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
  - 6/18/20 Payroll warrant of \$90,594.98
  - 6/18/20 Vendor warrant of \$181,499.44
    - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to approve the warrants as read
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
  - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to approve the minutes of 6/8/20 as written.
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
  - Rogers: FRTA Advisory Board
- **Business**
  - Right of First Refusal Decision; Jared & Tammy Gibson; 80 West Rd; 3.2 acres removed from Forestry Land M. G. L Chapter 61
    - Historical Commission comment of no objection read; no other comments received.
    - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to not exercise the right of first refusal for 80 West Rd., Northfield MA 01360
  - Amendment to the Agreement of Services By and Between the Town of Northfield and Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the MVP Program
    - Date of expiration amended to June 30, 2021
    - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to accept the amendment to the agreement of services by and between the Town of Northfield and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the MVP program
  - Pre-Cast Culvert Bid Award
    - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to award the Pre-Cast Culvert bid to Michie Corp. based on and contingent on MassDOT final approval signoff.
  - 1/12 Budget
    - Town Administrator Llamas requested board vote to sign letter of approval to the state for the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. Budget will go into effect if annual town meeting budget does not pass.
      - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to sign a letter of a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget to the state upon completion.
  - Town Meeting Protocol- notified location of annual town meeting to be moved on the property. Meisner to contact Superintendent
  - Town Administrator Evaluation-tabled
- **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**
  - Per Governor Baker’s opening phase, the board discussed opening playgrounds and parks.
    - On a motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board voted to re-open parks and playgrounds; motion amended, contingent on advisement of the Board of Health.
    - Wood to contact BoH chair Bob MacEwen.
- **Correspondence:**
  - Resignation from Ted Penick, Trustee of the Fred Wells Will Trust effective June 30, 2020
    - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to accept the resignation of Ted Penick from the Fred Wells Will Trust with appreciation of service on this Trust.
- **Appointments:**
  - On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to re-appoint Charles Blanker to the Conservation Commission; terms expire 6/30/23

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- On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to re-appoint Denis Brennan as Veterans Graves Officer; term expires 6/30/21
- On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to re-appoint Jenny Tufts and Julia Blyth to the Open Space Committee; terms expire 6/30/23
- On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to re-appoint Stacy Bond to the Agricultural Commission; term expires 6/30/23
- On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to re-appoint Carol Pike to the Community Preservation Committee; term expires 6/30/21
- **Announcements**
  - Liquor License Hearing scheduled for July 6; 6:00 pm
  - Electrical Aggregation information for the Community Choice Power Supply Program has been mailed to basic service consumers. More information available on homepage of the town website
- **Recognition for Service**
  - Ted Penick for serving as the Trustee to the Fred Wells Will Trust since 1987
- **Proposed Agenda Items**
  - Open Checkbook
  - Town Administrator Evaluation
  - Recreation Commission Board Structure

**On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Cummings the board voted to adjourn at 7:10 pm**

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

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Selectboard Clerk

7/8/20  
Date Approved