

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

July 27, 2021

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Heath Cummings, Chair; Barbara "Bee" Jacque, Vice Chair; Alexander Meisner; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk

Selectboard Absent: Mary Sullivan-Bowen

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

Others Present: Tom Walker, Highway Superintendent; Jessie Martin, Eversource; Laura Kaye, 26 East Northfield Rd.; Jeff Maxtutis and Charlie Creag, Beta Inc. (remote)

- **Call to Order**

- Tom Walker, Highway Superintendent: Storm Damage update
 - Walker gave an update on road damage sustained from heavy rains.
 - 10 roads damaged with a cost estimate of \$10,000 to \$500,000. Some roads have been opened temporarily. Four Mile Brook Rd had the worst damage.
 - Walker thanked the contractors for their assistance. Chief Dunnell is seeking assistance from FEMA/MEMA. Declaration of Determination required from FEMA for assistance.
 - Engineers will need to be hired for long term repairs
 - Discussion of driveway runoff problems and causes

- **Scheduled Appointments**

- Pole Hearing: Eversource/Schell Bridge
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board voted to open the pole hearing at 6:20 pm.
 - Read for the Record: Under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto, or amendments thereof, the Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing on 7/27/21 at 6:05 pm on the petition of Eversource to install (2) jointly owned poles and 4-5 x 10' manholes. The poles to be set are number 24/11 and 24/14 will be set approximately 10' West of HSE number 37's driveway and approximately 25' from the edge of driveway across the street. 24/11 will be set to the edge of the new shared used path in line with the existing R.O.W pole line. Both poles will have down guys and 14: anchors and only be used for Verizon at this time. The (4) manholes proposed are number 24/11 U, 24/12 U, 24/13 U and 24/14 U. All will be within the new shared use path. There will be a duct bank between manholes consisting of 6-6: conduit's and 2- 6" conduits from the IST in last manholes to poles 24/11 and 24/14.
Reason: The purpose of this work or use to replace the existing overhead wires and install them underground for a future betterment work. This will be done in conjunction with MA dept. of transportation project number 607588
 - Jessie Martin of Eversource explained the overhead wiring would be moved underground and a circuit created for the Schell Bridge project. Job to be done at appropriate time during the bridge construction.
 - Laura Kaye of 26 East Northfield Rd questioned house number 37. May be on the West Northfield side. To be verified.
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to accept the pole petition MassDOT project 607588 Schell Bridge Shared Use Path
 - Motion by Cummings, seconded by Meisner the board closed the pole hearing at 6:29 pm
- Brian McHugh; Franklin County Regional Housing Community Development
 - FCRHCD to include Northfield in the Community Development Block Grant.
 - Information meetings will be scheduled before a public hearing
 - McHugh gave a review of the applicant process. Loans are forgiven after 15 years.
 - Discussion of income requirements and situations where loss of income of applicant previously over the income requirement does not disqualify them.
 - Erving would be the lead town

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- Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to move forward with the application with Warwick and Erving for the Community Development Block Grant
- Local Rapid Recovery Presentation
 - Jeff Maxtutis and Charlie Creag of Beta Inc. gave a Power point presentation on a local rapid recovery plan to stimulate business in three phases
 - Gather data for existing conditions and survey. This phase is completed.
 - Develop recommendations
 - Summarize phases 1 & 2 and draft a plan to be completed by mid-September
 - Project categories included: engaging property owners, regional marketing campaign, consider a visitor center and host events in town
 - Discussion on funding assistance for owners of empty storefronts; share planning consultant/grants coordinator with Bernardston and Gill if they have similar programs and where to access additional developmental assistance
 - A draft of the plan may be available in mid-August
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 7/29/21 Payroll warrant of \$68,617.70
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Cummings the board voted to approve the 7/29/21 Vendor warrant of \$1,040,431.84
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 6/29/21 Executive Session minutes as written
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 7/13/21 minutes as written
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Jacque: Franklin Regional Council of Gov. Executive Counsel; Hiring Committee; Planning Board; Library Director introduction
 - Meisner: Library Director introduction; toured storm damage sites
 - Cummings: toured storm damage sites
 - Boudreau: toured storm damage sites
- **Business**
 - Appoint Tax Collector/Treasurer position
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to appoint Michele Turner as Tax Collector/Treasurer for the Town of Northfield at grade 9 step 4, 24 hours per week with a review after 90 days, start date August 1, 2021.
 - \$1,200 allocated for training
 - Selectboard member future meeting attendance schedule
 - Cummings to be absent from the August 10 meeting; Boudreau to be absent from the August 27 meeting
 - Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the request for reimbursement of \$500.00 to Loaves & Fishes for emergency assistance.
 - Approved by the Trust Fund
 - Comcast Customer Service Office- license compliance
 - To notify Comcast that in the Board's judgment, the Licensee is in default of Section 12.1 of the Renewal License - Customer Service Office
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to sign the Comcast customer service office license compliance letter
 - Citizen Participation – tabled
 - Mosquito update

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- State task force warned towns granted to opt out that the process may not be the same next year
- Number of participants in the Mosquito District has grown to the point of needing more funding than originally anticipated. Storage needed for additional equipment required with increased participation
- Information to be forwarded to Senator Comerford and Representative Mark to request additional funding for services.
- Jacque to update with list of approved towns and guidance of Phoebe Walker of FRCOG
- State Task Force yearly report due in the next month or so for general mosquito control
- Bug district may be formed to include tick control
- Possible joint meeting with Board of Health after State task force report is published
- **Town Administrator's update**
 - Nelson Pond Dam: Letter sent in December 2020 has had no return communication from DCR
 - Veterans Memorial clean up: waiting for quote
 - Emergency Services Building: quotes for Owner Project Manager going out August 11. Deadline for submission August 30
 - Water Company/District: met with Thomas Aquinas and Moody Center to discuss East Northfield Water Company. Discussion included forming and running a district
- **Recognition for Service**-Emergency Services Departments for storm damage response

Motion by Jacque, seconded by Meisner the board voted to adjourn at 8:12 pm

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

Date Approved