

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

September 7, 2021

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Barbara “Bee” Jacque, Vice Chair; Alexander Meisner; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk; Mary Sullivan-Bowen
Selectboard Absent: Heath Cummings

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

Others Present: Ryan O’Connell & Josh Boniauto, Highway Dept.; Tom Walker, Highway Superintendent; Colleen Letourneau, Senior Center Director; Nour Elkhattaby Strauch, Age Friendly Program Manager; Julia Blyth, Open Space Committee Chair; Susan O’Connor, Energy Committee Chair & Citizen Stewardship Award recipient; Leslie & Paul Cameron, Cameron’s Winery; Homer Stavely, Council on Aging

- Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm
- **Scheduled Appointments**
 - Meet the newest employees
 - Michele Turner-Tax Collector/Treasurer-tabled
 - Josh Boniauto Highway Foreman and Ryan O’Connell Heavy Equipment Operator
 - Interests in the positions
 - Boniauto – good at manual labor
 - O’Connell- wanted a change of scenery
 - Walker updated the board on Gulf Rd. Waiting on guardrail replacement.
 - Work will begin on Four Mile Brook Rd next week.
 - Julia Blyth, Open Space Committee presentation of the Citizen Stewardship Award
 - Award presented to Susan O’Connor, Chair of the Energy Committee for engaging and supporting natural resources
 - Blyth read the nomination submitted by the Energy Committee
 - O’Connor joined the Energy Committee in 2015
 - Developed strategies to reduce energy consumption and lower carbon use.
 - Helped raise funds, create public education and outreach
 - Involved in the Green Communities awarded grants for energy conservation work at Northfield Elementary and Pioneer Valley Regional and to help obtain hybrid vehicles for the police department
 - Worked with Eversource to improve lighting for town buildings, spearheaded electric aggregation
 - Helped connect the town with UMass Energy Extension program and resources of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments
 - O’Connor’s name has been added to the Citizen Stewardship Award plaque
 - O’Connor thanked the Selectboard, Llamas and the Open Space Committee
 - Senior Center Director Colleen Letourneau; Age Friendly Program Manager Nour Elkhattaby Strauch
 - Elkhattaby Strauch gave a presentation on Age Friendly Communities
 - Demographic Context: Franklin County population by age with 22% 65 years and older
 - Targets long term, policy and systems changes in four phases over 3-5 years from enrollment to assessment to planning to implementation
 - Explanation of the 8 domains of livability focusing help where needed
 - Partnering with AARP to encourage integrating ate-friendly and dementia friendly initiatives
 - Joining the network for Age Friendly status
 - Community Participation with support from the Selectboard
 - Focus is on community, not aging
 - Marketing strategies include Council on Aging groups, libraries, churches, social media and the internet.
 - Funding sources come from the Dept. of Health, state grants, AARP and Tufts Health

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- The entire region is included in the study
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Bowen the board voted to endorse and sign the letter of support for Age-Dementia-Friendly Project application of Franklin County/North Quabbin to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities & Communities
 - Endorsement letter signed
 - Homer Stavely of the Council on Aging thanked the Selectboard and Elkhattaby Strauch
- **Review and Approval of Warrants**
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Bowen the board voted to approve the 09/09/2021 Payroll warrant of \$65,085.19
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Bowen the board voted to approve the 09/09/2021 Vendor warrant of \$420,583.04
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Meisner the board voted to approve the 08/23/21 -Police Chief Search public forum minutes as written
 - Motion by Bowen, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to approve the 08/24/21 minutes as written
- **Meetings/Events attended by Selectboard members**
 - Boudreau: Friends of Council on Aging
 - Bowen: Events committee meeting of First Parish Church
 - Jacque: 350th Historical group
- **Business**
 - Single Precinct Authorization
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to approve and accept M.G.L. c. 54 §6 Single Precinct Authorization for the Town of Northfield to stay one precinct
 - Trailblazer sign
 - Cameron's Winery requested letter of support from the Selectboard to apply for a state installed "trailblazer" sign located at the north end of Rte. 63 from New Hampshire
 - Discussion on location. Not to be installed within the historic register signs of Main St.
 - Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to endorse and sign the letter of approval to MassDOT from Cameron's Winery for a 2nd "Trailblazer" sign application on Rte. 63 south of New Hampshire border
 - COVID protocol review/changes if needed
 - Northfield vaccination rate is 61%
 - Get input from Board of Health and Cummings before making changes
- Bowen left the meeting at 7:07pm and returned at 7:08 pm
- **Town Administrator's update**
 - Five applicants for the Emergency Service Facility project and are under review by the ESF Committee
 - Working on draft warrant for proposed fall special town meeting
 - 2020 Community Compact update-financial policies and Emergency Services & succession planning
- **Recognition for Service:** Thanks to the Open Space Committee for work on Mill Brook Trail
- **Motion by Meisner, seconded by Boudreau the board voted to adjourn at 7:32 pm**

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

9/21/21

Date Approved