

Selectmen's minutes of meeting September 9, 2019

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Members absent: George Riley

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

The Tax Classification Public Hearing was opened. Assessors Bethany Perry, Kathy Burrows, Steve Kopiec and Jackie Bitso present. Bethany reviewed the history of the residential factor. The town has always stayed with the one tax rate for all properties whether commercial, residential or second home. Discussed that there was very little new growth this past year, 4 more parcels were placed in Chapter 61. The estimated new tax rate will be \$13.30, up by \$1.27.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian to remain at the residential factor of 1.

Historical Commission members Ron Bernard and Jean Atwater Williams along with Bonnie Parson present to discuss the historic designation of the New Boston Center. Bonnie reviewed the inventory process of all the historical properties. They are then evaluated as to determine which are the most important for the registry. Currently the New Boston Inn is registered. The Historical Commission has received confirmation from the National Registry that New Boston Center is eligible. They are waiting for a date for a public hearing with the Mass. Historical Commission. Once a date has been set there will be a public hearing in Sandisfield. All property owners will be notified. After that meeting there will be another meeting with the Mass. Historical Commission, probably in Boston. Brian asked how were the boundaries configured with out including the cemetery. Bonnie responded that it was a distance issue. Brian asked if there was feedback from homeowners. Bonnie responded that they held a meeting at the SARC in which some homeowners were present, those that were present were positive about the designation. They stated that if the designation didn't happen they would seek to individually enroll their homes with the Mass. Historical Comm. Brian clarified that there are no restrictions such as the color of the home, rules to follow to make improvements to the home. Ron responded that the only time there would be rules to follow is if the homeowner applied for Federal Funding. Then the homeowner would have to follow the federal guidelines. Ron stated that there are 4 areas in town he would like to see designated. Bonnie said it could take up to a year before the first district is approved. Dolores asked about opting out if a homeowner did not wish to have their home designated historical. Bonnie responded that there is, they can register their complaint once it gets to the State level. Ron is going to put together a detailed informational article in the Sandisfield Times explaining this process.

Selectmen's updates:

Brian has been working on the Route 57 bridge painting project. It should take about a week to complete the painting. There are parts of the bridge that were never painted. There should be no reason to close the bridge during the painting.

The selectmen have a State DOT meeting coming up to follow up on the paving of Route 57.

The chip sealing for West Hubbard Rd., River Rd. and Town Hill Rd. should be starting the end of this week.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke