

Selectmen's minutes of meeting April 20, 2021

Members present: Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Mark Newman, Joanne Grybosh by remote, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Remote participation information provided.

Brian opened the public hearing for William Taylor and Jaye Moscariello on the application for a special permit to operate an art gallery/home studio at 7 New Hartford Road, map and parcel 201-1-23. The art gallery will be in one room of the house. The building inspector has already reviewed the handicap ramp and has no other issues.

George asked if there is a separate door or do people have to go through the house. Jaye responded that they will enter through the front door and go directly to the art gallery.

Mark asked about parking, Jaye responded that there is enough parking for 10 to 12 cars.

Reviewed a small sign.

Explained that for an additional sign they would need a special permit for the sign.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to grant the Special Permit.

Roll call vote: Brian, yes, George, yes, Mark, yes.

Reviewed and signed the rental agreement between the Town and the Fire Dept., Inc. for the rental for fire stations 1 & 2. The lease is for 5 years.

Brian explained that it spells out what the Town is currently responsible for. Mark questioned the air system. He is also concerned about the snow plowing and timing of sanding and shoveling the doorways. We will follow up on these concerns.

Chris Joyce asked whether the maintenance should fall under the building owner.

Brian clarified that this is covered under their regular budget.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to accept and sign the lease contingent that we can sign a 5 year lease.

Roll call vote: Brian, yes, George, yes, Mark, yes.

Mark presented quotes for a records storage facility. He contacted 4 companies. One is a service company and is not feasible. Will Scott Modular Systems has some for lease. Discussed leasing and purchasing. Purchasing a facility is very difficult at this time due to Covid. There is a shortage of them. The cost to lease is \$55,807 for 3 years. George feels we could purchase a new one. Mark responded that a new one is about 2 years out.

Discussed digitizing. George would like to get a consultant to come in and inventory what could be saved and digitized.

Dolores reviewed the condition of the current storage facility. It is overrun with pests. Without electricity and climate control the records are molding.

Brian would like to look into digitizing, George will look into the process of digitizing.

Mark will continue to look for a used trailer or a one year lease.

Discussed reopening the town buildings. We are waiting to hear from the Board of Health.
Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to open the town buildings with minimal numbers, following all Covid guidelines until we hear differently from the Board of Health.
Roll call vote: Brian, yes, George, yes, Mark, yes.

Reviewed the conditions for SAMA Productions LLC. Town Counsel reviewed and suggested some changes. A copy will be posted on the Town's website.

Inspections: George would like complaints that have any costs associated with them be borne by the applicant.

Discussed abandonment and removal. Brian explained a circumstance that if it were abandoned the property would be more valuable with the buildings. The state mandates that all cannabis is removed once the business ceases to exist.

George would like to use the Surety Bond to remove fencing and buildings. The bond would be to cover the Town in the worst case scenario.

Brian responded that it should either be to return to raw land or remove all traces of cannabis. Amend III Abandonment and Remove to remove fencing and greenhouses.

Lev and Sarah Natan purchased 11 acres at 105 Town Hill Rd. and were unaware of the special permit. They were hoping to build a nature facility, they do not agree with this.

Ed Brozman from West Hubbard questioned road repairs, Brian responded that they would come from the applicant.

Ed asked if SAMA would be allowed to move forward with land clearing before they get a license from the CCC. Brian responded that if they were building a house they could cut the driveway and start clearing the land. It should be no different for SAMA. He will follow up with Town Counsel.

Jay Greenwell asked why the selectmen approved the conditions before the Conservation Commission hearing. Brian responded that we are obligated to review the special permit based on our bylaws.

George commented to the Natan's that they should not base their opinions on the information provided by the Sandisfield Times. Their article was not accurate coverage of the special permit hearing. George reiterated that the board has listened to all concerns and that is why they came up with 5 pages of conditions.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the conditions.

Roll call vote: Brian, yes, Mark, yes, George, yes.

Future agenda items:

Mark will follow up on the records storage facility.

Barbara Cormier would like to discuss holding a Meet the Candidates event.

Brian responded that they could but no food or beverages, follow social distancing and wear masks.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

Roger Brown asked about the trailer for the Fire Dept. Brian responded that they are looking into other options.

Brian reviewed a request from the Board of Assessors. They are behind on revals. They would like to do some of the work themselves. Bethany Perry is willing to do the work at \$20.00 per hour instead of paying a contractor \$70.00 per hour.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to allow Bethany Perry to do this work.

Roll call vote: Brian, yes, George, yes, Mark, yes.

Joanne announced as a reminder that tomorrow from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. there is a Zoom meeting to review the dirt road assessment results.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman