

# Town of Sandisfield

Select Board  
March 7, 2022

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: George Riley, Alex Bowman, Steve Seddon

Called to order at 7:00PM

- 1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded**
- 2. Review and sign minutes of meetings. Points to minutes**
- 3. Review and sign purchase orders**

## **6. Clarification of current Town website policy in regard to postings**

This item is addressed first, in order to allow Sandisfield's Webmaster, Larry Dwyer to attend the School Committee meeting occurring concurrently with the Select Board meeting.

George explains that presently, all town news or announcements posted on the website by the Webmaster will be accompanied by a posting of the link to said announcement on Connect Sandisfield.

It is also requested that anyone who posts on the town website should be sure to check off the "Send E-Subscriber notification for this update" button.

Alex expresses concern that too many links posted on the website may cause subscribers to ignore the posts. He instead suggests a weekly post that includes all news and announcements for the upcoming week. This will be looked into further, but the town will continue with the established policy for now.

While Larry originally took on the Webmaster position as a volunteer, due to the increase in duties, he has requested the Select Board reinstate the stipend for the position. The Select Board agrees, and notes the stipend would be \$5,000 annually, which Larry requests be paid quarterly.

George motions to pay Larry Dwyer as Webmaster an annual stipend of \$5,000 paid quarterly from the Technology Salary account. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **4. Discuss and vote to appoint Don Torrico as Alternate Building Commissioner**

Don Torrico has been operating as Sandisfield's interim Building Commissioner while the town looks for a candidate to fill the position permanently. Don can no longer hold the position, but has offered to stay on as Sandisfield's alternate Commissioner. Steve reports there have been questions about how Don should be paid. For his service as interim Building Commissioner, Steve suggests Don be paid the same way as the previous Building Inspector, which was a budgeted amount plus mileage. However, as Alternate, Steve believes paying Don as a consultant may be better, for he would be operating as needed. The Select Board agrees to hire him as an independent contractor.

Steve notes the Building Department has yet to receive a work laptop or an operable cellphone. He will follow-up with the Town Manager.

George motions to appoint Don Torrico as Alternate Building Commissioner. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **5. Adam Brown in for Yanner Park Updates**

Yanner Park Committee Chair Adam Brown begins by presenting a letter of resignation from Jessica Cofrin.

The Yanner Park Committee has been working on some projects to increase the beautification at the front of the park, which include repairs to the stone entry sign and the purchase of granite entry posts.

In 2018 a stone post was knocked over by a logging truck and has yet to be repaired. Adam received an estimate from a stone mason for \$2,500. However, this mason proposed purchasing granite entry posts for either side of the entrance instead, which would be \$400 each and installed for free. These are in the budget. George questions whether the loggers will be paying for the granite post they damaged. Adam reports this is up to the Select Board, for they do not have contact for the loggers, nor do they feel it's their responsibility.

Yanner Park is also seeking an estimate for the construction of a pavilion at the park for community gatherings. A meeting to begin this project will occur later this month. This project is estimated to take a few years to complete. The same group that is establishing hiking trails on the property will be assisting in this development through a program called Pathways to Trades, which trains local youth with tradesmen.

The Greenagers will begin trail construction at Yanner Park which connects a hiking path from Town Hill Road to Hammertown Road and into the Clam River trails this summer. The project will take two summers to complete. This is being paid for with a \$50,000 grant.

The Committee requests that asplundh trucks not be parked on the Yanner Park property, for this space will need to be reserved for the trail building team. The Select Board will notify the DPW Superintendent.

### **7. Discuss town employee hierarchy structure, in regards to elected and appointed positions**

This item is tabled.

### **8. Discuss future work sessions with Select Board and Town Manager**

George summarizes a work session with the Town Manager occurred in January which established a list of goals for the year. However, there is concern that without follow-up these items will not be addressed. George proposes a monthly meeting to discuss the goals to be scheduled, the first meeting tentatively for March 28.

### **9. Town Manager Updates**

### **10. Select Board Updates**

The Select Board is in ongoing negotiations with the DPW Union, where they offered substantial changes to the wage structure which would incentivize and motivate the DPW employees. Shortening the time-frame for wage increases based on experience was also proposed. The DPW has a new Union Representative, Jay Osowski.

A Public Special Permit Hearing for Berkshire Mountain Cannabis is scheduled for March 24 at 7:00pm in the Old Town Hall. The application and Host Community Agreement can both be found on [sandisfieldma.gov](http://sandisfieldma.gov) on the Select Board page, along with more details about the Hearing.

A recent School Committee budget meeting went well. George thanks Roger Brown, Finance Committee Chair for his work on this item.

Steve reached out to Smitty Pignatelli inquiring about the Federal Infrastructure money. Smitty informed Steve there will still be money given to towns over the next few years,

and the towns who have already received this money had done preliminary work and had shovel ready projects. Steve suggests Sandisfield do the same and reports he spoke with DPW Superintendent, Brad Curry about this.

Steve notes that budgeting is due March 31st.

#### **11. Future agenda items**

Douglas Miner reports that temporary Town Clerk, Mary Kronholm suggests appointing him as Assistant Town Clerk, where he can learn and operate under her supervision. It is to his understanding that Mary would maintain this arrangement until she felt Douglas was ready to take on the position of Town Clerk. George notes the Town Clerk appoints this position, not the Select Board.

#### **12. Review mail**

#### **13. Review and sign warrants**

#### **14. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

George motions to accept Jessica Cofrin's resignation from the Yanner Park Committee. Steve seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

---

George Riley

---

Alex Bowman

---

Steve Seddon