

Town of Sandisfield

Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Alex Bowman, John Field, Jonathan Sylbert

Called to order at 6:30PM

1. Call to order: Note that the meeting is being recorded

2. Review List of Streetlights to be Removed

Alex hosts a presentation on the streetlights, where he reviews all the light locations, and the wattage of each bulb. He notes that while switching to LED bulbs would save energy costs, the cost to rent these types of bulbs is more expensive and therefore no money would be saved at the bottom line.

All the streetlights Alex has determined to be “low value” are reviewed. Low value can be defined as lights that are not located at places with safety requirements, or are unwanted by the closest neighbors. Should all the streetlights recommended by Alex be removed, the town’s electric energy use would reduce by 41% and would save around \$1,700.

The Select Board requests feedback from the Fire, Police, and Highway departments, as well as from the residents of Sandisfield. A notice will be posted on the website asking for comments.

3. Discuss Policy and Procedure for Addressing Bylaw and Code Violations

Steve drafted a policy outlining how building code and bylaw violations will be addressed.

Bylaw violators will first be sent an informational warning to alert the property owner which bylaw they are in violation of, and the date where applicable. It will ask the property owner to bring the violation into compliance within 30 days or face fines. Fines will be clearly stated on the notice dependent on the values in the town bylaws. If the property owner has not corrected the violation after 30 days of the first letter being sent, then the first citation will be issued by certified mail starting the fining process. Everyday thereafter will constitute another violation.

Building code violators will also first be sent an informational warning to alert the property owner of the building code violation that will state which code is violated, and the date of the violation. It will also state the fine if the condition is not corrected within

21 business days. It will be at the full discretion of the Building Commissioner to determine the seriousness of any violation and whether a stop work order is necessary. If the property owner has not corrected the violation within 21 days, there will be a citation hand delivered or sent by certified mail starting the fining process. Every day thereafter constitutes another violation. If a second notice is issued, the property owner will have 24 hours to correct the condition or face potential criminal prosecution per MGL chapter 148 section 34c and pay accumulated fines.

Letters will begin to be sent to bylaw violators daily.

4. Town Manager Updates

A letter was received from Tolland withdrawing from the Sandisfield-Tolland Ambulance Agreement, as they will now be partnering with Granville. The Select Board had previously been negotiating a more fair agreement with Tolland, as Sandisfield lost money when responding to calls in Tolland.

BSC has submitted a recommendation to accept the lowest bid for the no-name culvert bridge. The Select Board has 60 days to do so. By next week, a plan should be established to address the state and explain Sandisfield does not have the funds to complete the bridge replacement.

There is effectively no difference in energy cost between Sandisfield's aggregate and Eversource.

5. Select Board Updates

6. Future Agenda Items

- No-Name Culvert Bridge
- Establishing a Wood Bank
- Remaining Financial Policies

7. Review and sign minutes of meetings, purchase orders, warrants, and mail

8. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Steve Seddon

Alex Bowman

John Field