

# Town of Sandisfield

## Select Board

Minutes for Select Board meeting held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA

Members present: Steve Seddon, Robert Fedell, Jonathan Sylbert

Participants: Lynn Rubenstein, Ron Pachulski, Tegan Abear, Willard Platt, Barbara Cormier (remote), Carl Nett (remote)

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

### **2. Joint meeting with Cemetery Committee**

#### **• Discuss Cemetery Plot Fees**

Lynn Rubenstien clarifies that a plot is for the burial of one person and a lot consists of four plots. It's noted that Sandisfield plots are one of the largest in Berkshire County, measuring 7'x10'. Lynn gathered a comparison of the costs of a plot in Sandisfield versus surrounding Towns. Sandisfield is one of the lowest at \$125.00 per plot. Sheffield public cemetery and Great Barrington for non-taxpayers are the highest at \$1,400 per plot. Lynn reports that when their Cemetery Superintendent sells a plot, he gets \$100.00, so the Town only makes \$25.00, half of which goes into Perpetual Care. Lynn suggests the Select Board consider creating two separate fee prices; one for taxpayers and a higher one for non-taxpayers. The Town could also choose not to permit non-taxpayers from being buried in Sandisfield. There is hesitation towards this idea, as this may prevent someone from being buried with their family. After some discussion, the Select Board supports only permitting tax-payers to be buried in Sandisfield. However, should a non-taxpayer already have family members buried in Sandisfield, they will be given special permission. The Select Board asks the Cemetery Committee to propose a new fee for lots.

#### **• Discuss Cemetery Rules & Regulations**

The Cemetery Committee is proposing a few new rules

- No in-ground plantings of any kind. Plantings will not be required to be removed at an already established plot.
- No plastic containers shall be left at a plot, as they often blow away in the wind and get hit by landscaping equipment causing litter.
- Size restrictions for headstones were added per plot, as they were previously only specified per lot.

The Select Board agree and support these changes.

#### **• Discuss Green Burials**

It's noted that should the Select Board permit green burials, a section of the cemetery would need to be designated for them, as they can cause shifts in the ground which could ultimately affect surrounding plots. The Cemetery Committee does not support green burials in Sandisfield at this time, as there are too many potential issues that come with them. Issues may include contamination to the ground and waterway, disturbance of the buried body, and designation of an area in the cemetery. Jonathan will determine whether the Town can legally prohibit green burials.

Cemetery Committee adjourns meeting.

### **3. Review Conservation Commission Enforcement Letter**

The Town received a cease and desist from the Conservation Commission for culvert installation done on Dodd Rd. The Town will need to apply for an NOI. The Town is currently in the process of getting a blanket NOI. Once the blanket NOI is received, the Conservation Commission will have to confirm whether this portion of Dodd Rd falls under the blanket.

### **4. Chief Procurement Officer Appointment**

Janey Beardsley completed her Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) training and has officially been designated.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Janey Beardsley as Chief Procurement Officer

Steve Seddon	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

### **5. Yanner Park Appointment**

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Lauren Paul to the Yanner Park Committee

Steve Seddon	Aye
Robert Fedell	Aye

### **6. Sign Presidential Primary & Caucus Warrant**

The Select Board sign the warrants.

### **7. Budget Discussion**

The School revised their budget to include a 1.61% increase; this is the only significant change to the overall Town budget since the Board's last discussion. There is about \$9,000 to be designated before the budget surpasses the Select Board's goal of no

