



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, August 8, 2022*

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Dana Ketchen, Steve Russo, and Ed Perry along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Also present: Charlie Corey, Mike Wenrich, Jeffrey Stewart, Graham Loff, Jay Kramarczyk, Tom Laroche and Yvonne Gutierrez.

6:30pm Eddie opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and read the ground rules for hybrid meetings.

Public Input

Buddy Dougherty said since the state paved the road in front of the Annex, the sidewalk floods after every rain and the water is not flowing to the catch basin like it should. He said it is not a big deal now but come winter it will be. **Dana** asked **Mike Wenrich**, who was present, if he could notify the state, he said he can. **Buddy** also said he did not see anything about well water on the agenda tonight. **Eddie** said the Board decided to push that out a couple of months. **Eddie** announced the "Touch a Truck" fundraising event happening at the BPW building on Saturday, September 17th involving all town department vehicles.

Approve Minutes

Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve the public minutes from the Monday, July 25th meeting as amended; Voted Yes 5-0. Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to approve set 2 of the non-public minutes from the Monday, July 11th meeting as amended; Voted Yes 5-0. Dana moved, seconded by Brendan, to approve set 1 and sets 3-6 of the non-public minutes from the Monday, July 25th meeting as written; Voted Yes 5-0.

Sign Warrants for Payment

Dana moved, seconded by Steve, to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #31 in the amount of \$994,454.05, Payroll Warrant #32 in the amount of \$70,866.80, and Police Detail in the amount of \$210; Voted Yes 5-0. Steve moved, seconded by Brendan, for the Chair to sign follow-up documents from the Conservation Land purchase of the Town of Hollis portion of Lot D-62; Voted Yes 5-0.

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Approve Public Works Building Project Warrant #17

Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve Public Works Project Warrant #17 in the amount of \$880; Voted Yes 5-0.

Review American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Requests

Brendan said we should allow any town commission, committee, or department that has a budget to make appropriate requests for use of ARPA funds, including the Library, if they have not already received separate funds of their own. **Eddie** said we can review the requests before us tonight, but no decisions will be made until all requests have been received. **Scott** referred to an email from **Tad** back in May stating what the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) thought would be eligible. He said his only concern is when he read the latest document from the US Treasury on what is eligible, the guidelines were more narrowly defined. **Scott** said once we complete the final list of items we feel are eligible, he would like to send it to the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) for approval before purchases are made. **Dana** said it will be helpful in the decision making process, if the requests from each department are prioritized before they are submitted. **Graham Loff** said he is worried that if you turn this into a grab bag for every department, it will turn into, "I need this and this and this." He said we were informed at multiple meetings that the Library doesn't technically answer to the Selectboard, so if we give them money, they can do whatever they want with it. He said what would guarantee they meet the criteria the Board previously set if they only answer to the Library Board of Trustees. **Eddie** said the Fire Department is structured similarly where the Board of Engineers are in control of the Fire Department, and we are including them in this. He said whether they listen to the Selectboard's guidance or not they do have to follow the guidance of who is giving them the money in the first place which is the federal and state governments. **Fire Chief Corey** said he was on the Board of Fire Engineers for several years and he wants to clarify that we never thought the engineers were even with, or above the Selectboard. He said we always followed their guidance with our budget and thought of the Selectboard as our boss regardless of how it is set up. **Ambulance Chief Stewart** said the phased radio equipment project that was started in 2016 is still not done. He said a 10% increase in the radio equipment we still need to purchase goes into play on August 15th, the longer the Selectboard waits on this particular funding the more expensive the equipment will be. **Eddie** said let's set a deadline of September 2nd for all requests and get clarification if the Library has received funds already or if they will be included in this. **Dana** said the radio project meets the criteria set and we have already weighed in on it so she would like to pull this one out separately and get a specific answer on it, if it qualifies, then she would feel comfortable making a decision on this one if it does. **Brendan** said there are pieces of this that the town has talked about and there are pieces such as the Hollis Communications equipment we are hearing about for the first time, so he would like to review that line item. **Ed** asked if we communicate this to all the committees by email. **Scott** said yes. **Ed** said so departments/committees submit their requests, we review to see if they follow our guidelines, and **Scott** submits that to GOFERR for approval, but are we going to have an opportunity to find out which items have been collecting dust or getting more expensive as time goes on.

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Eddie said if we can hear from the departments that are here tonight and the rest at the September 6th meeting, we can separate the “needs” and focus on those versus the “wants”. **Ed** said if the departments have something specific on their list we should know about they should bring it to our attention, and we can make note of it. **Mike Wenrich** said most of the department heads live in town and have a really good sense of how things go around here and at town meetings, we are not going to throw things on this list that would ever be perceived as a “want” because that just doesn’t fly here. He said we will have to defend everything on this list, and we understand some things may be taken off but that doesn’t make them any less important. **Charlie** said the Fire Department installed their communications equipment for the other emergency departments to build on down the road to save money and time. He said police and ambulance are still operating on the old system, so it is very important to complete this radio equipment project because it could save someone’s life. **Mike** said without a conditional approval for the radio equipment portion of the ARPA funds tonight to meet the deadline for the equipment going up, you are agreeing to pay 10% which would be \$9,500. **Brendan** said, he appreciates that, and he supports the radio project, but to ask us to make a decision tonight without having told us the consequences if we don’t, is a surprise to him and he doesn’t feel comfortable making a decision on this one piece without having a chance to talk about everything as a whole. **Chief Stewart** said we actually started submitting the initial information on May 12th and we have already met collaboratively on the radio project as department heads. He said he doesn’t know where the breakdown of communication was, but they as department heads were briefed on this and started it back with **Tad**. **Chief Stewart** said he has the breakdown of costs and can send that over to **Scott** to share with the Board. **Eddie** said he would like to have a special Selectboard meeting prior to August 15th to review the breakdown and decide whether or not to move forward on the radio equipment purchase if the state says it is allowable. **Eddie** said let’s invite the other groups, including the Library, to submit their lists by Friday September 2nd then come to the Tuesday September 6th meeting to review and figure out what we want to include. **Dana** said how can we share this information with the public, so they know what we are talking about. **Eddie** said we can post it on the town website.

Visioning PW Director M Wenrich

Mike said there are two main points he wants to make clear for this department to grow. First is public engagement, a lot of what we do can be alarming to people, mainly because they don’t know what we do and why we do it and what property is and isn’t theirs. He said working with people with that understanding can go a long way in creating a town that everyone can buy into and get what they want by creating good, esthetically pleasing, and safe infrastructure that is also financially viable, but it takes an understanding of all of those points to make it work properly and that starts with public engagement and education. **Mike** said the other side of that is investing in the right technologies, the excavator was a highly valuable purchase for our infrastructure and continuing to make purchases in technology like that is what he sees working for the BPW. **Mike** said, additionally, he would like to see a white board installed in this meeting room. He said he also plans to be posting information on the website to further

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educate the public on the BPW and he would like to figure out how to get groups of people to meet at the public works building for informative sessions.

EM Tabletop Exercise

Scott said **David Coffey** would like to hold another emergency management exercise with the Selectboard. The Board welcomed the idea. **Scott** will set up the 3 hour event on an upcoming Saturday morning agreeable to everyone's schedule.

Private Functions at the Grove.

Scott referred to the email chain initiated by resident **Jay Kramarczyk**. Recreation members **Yvonne Gutierrez** and **Tom Larochelle** were present representing Grove Management. **Dana** asked how much the Grove receives from the yoga class. **Yvonne** said \$2 per person per class. **Jay** asked how much the Grove received last year, **Yvonne** said \$126. She said we are not trying to rake anyone over the coals for cash, we are just trying to allow people to use the Grove in other ways. **Eddie** said the response from the Recreation Commission about the complaint was not acceptable to **Jay** which is why this came to the Selectboard. He said does the Recreation Commission have any further explanation as to how this came about and why they feel it is acceptable to rent the beach out. **Tom** said the beach closes at 6pm, but it isn't exactly "closed" since the gate is not locked. He said we didn't think it was a problem since it was 1 hour per week on a Sunday evening after closing. **Yvonne** said the class is held from 7:30pm – 8:30pm. **Dana** said in response to the emails she received today, she placed a call to **Chief Quigley** to find out if the information was accurate that the police had been involved and she was told that they have been called to the Grove 3 times, one call was at 7:14pm to go down and ask everyone to leave the beach because yoga was starting at 7:30pm. **Dana** said there are families hanging out at their town beach in the heat and the police are asking everyone to leave and she just thinks it's wrong. She said it's a big beach and she doesn't think we should disallow residents from being there because of a yoga class. **Dana** said if people are being harassed or throwing sand at the class, then by all means, call the police. **Yvonne** said that's why she called the police. **Dana** said not at 7:14pm, the class had not started yet. **Yvonne** said the yoga teacher was setting up before the class and was being hassled. She said it was the third time this summer that she has been harassed by adults and teenaged boys. **Eddie** said that is certainly not acceptable behavior. **Yvonne** said she called the police so things would remain calm and not escalate to something else. **Dana** said is the harassment because they are upset they are being asked to leave. **Yvonne** said she was not clearing the beach at that time. **Dana** said, well it is a town beach, the gates are open, and people have always used the beach. **Brendan** said but they haven't always and that's where the fuzziness comes from. It used to be if you were a member and the gates were open, you went in and used the beach but if you were not a member, you didn't use it. He said we now have a situation where the gates don't exist so there is a fuzzy understanding but nothing official, that when the official hours of the Grove are over, anybody can use it. **Brendan** said that is just because it's happening, not by any decision that was made. He said when the Grove was created, the town said we don't want to spend taxpayer money on this, so we are going to fund it via membership fees

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and we are going to ask the Recreation Commission to manage the Grove, so we need to respect their management of the Grove. **Eddie** said the emails refer to other instances when the beach is rented out, either a section where there are not other people removed from the beach or other events that took place early morning. He said is the yoga studio only available to do it at night or could they compromise and do a sunrise class, so we still rent it out but appease the residents wanting to use it after hours on a hot summer day. **Yvonne** said that is definitely an idea that can be presented to the yoga instructor but currently she has young children, and this schedule works for the care of them. **Chief Stewart** said if you restrict a business utilizing a town property for a fee, how does that impact the Safety Complex community room and the rest of the buildings in town that we rent out. **Tom** said we manage the beach so well that the town doesn't have to give us any money. He said we have done so many improvements to the whole area it's incredible, we have filled in ruts and expanded spaces in the parking lot, we have brought in good sand. **Tom** said **Yvonne** does an extremely good job, but if you don't want us to manage it then alright. He said it's one hour a week, after we close, with signs posted, it shouldn't be a problem. **Dana** asked if the gates could be put back up. **Yvonne** said the gates are there, they just have to be repaired. **Yvonne** said in the past we have closed the beach from 8am – 11am for swimming lessons 4 days a week for 6 weeks during the summer and only the kids taking the lessons were allowed in the water, and the people were from everywhere. **Eddie** said he certainly doesn't want to alienate **Tom** or **Yvonne** or the Recreation Commission, because he would not want to see either of them walk away from it, but it has come to the Selectboard, and we owe it to the resident to comment. He said he would like to see the beach remain open during that hour block, but the people on the beach need to respect the fact that someone is renting that space and be quiet, respectful, and keep a distance from the class. If they can't then they should be removed from the beach property, but we should still ask if the yoga class could be moved to early morning. **Jay** said there were comments made earlier that the beach closes at 6pm and that is not true. He said he ran the beach many years ago and the beach never closed when the staff left. He said the town land was given to the residents from the Cohen Group and it should remain the resident's land. **Jay** said the two dollars per yoga studio student is very small for the amount of yoga people he has seen over there that is usually 4 or 5 for an hour and a half of time that residents aren't allowed to use the beach. He said everyone should be neighborly on the beach. **Yvonne** said why did **Jay** say it was an hour and a half. **Jay** said that's the time people start getting kicked off the beach. **Yvonne** said we don't have the police go down every Sunday and say people have to clear the beach for the yoga class. She said she calls the non-urgent line to the police when there is someone on the beach giving the yoga instructor a hard time and asks if they are not busy could they go down and help her out. She said the police cannot tell the people on the beach to leave because it is not a rule. They just ask that people start thinking about leaving and keep the noise down for the class. **Yvonne** said she can't speak for the yoga lady herself and what she does. She said we could close the gates but then someone ran their truck into them. **Ed** said if we fix the gates, is there somewhere we could put a camera to catch someone if they do that. **Yvonne** said she put a camera on the green shed and the next day it was smashed. **Ed** said he realizes these things happen every once in a while and he

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personally happens to like the way Recreation runs the Grove, so he hopes they are not getting communication that this is an attack from the Board on them. He said when issues come to us we have to do this and in these particular situations we technically represent both parties. **Ed** suggested some signage stating “this is quiet time class in session” during the yoga class, and if people don’t follow that and still want to get rowdy, then call the police to calm the situation. **Yvonne** said she is more than happy to make these suggestions to the yoga instructor. **Buddy Dougherty** said he’s been listening to this for a while and asked, how do we make our volunteers feel less like volunteering. He said there is no way he would ever want to be on the Recreation Commission, it’s a no-win situation. **Buddy** said you’re getting scalded by the neighbors and the Selectboard tonight, then you go to a little league game and you’re getting blasted by the parents because something isn’t right there. He said it all comes down to a lack of respect for the Recreation Commission, a lack of respect by the people who want to use the beach when someone is using it before them, and they have to call a police officer because they’re being disrespectful. **Buddy** said here’s one for the Selectboard, the Town Hall is a public meeting place, why is there never karate on a Monday night. He said we all know the answer is because the plaster is coming down on the tables when they are upstairs having class, but it doesn’t matter if you’re on the Conservation Commission, the Board of Adjustment, the Planning Board or anyone else, the lights are swinging in the breeze from karate classes because the Selectboard decides who goes and when. **Buddy** said next Sunday this yoga class will be finishing in the dark and he thinks **Jay** and the other neighbors have to be respectful of the fact that someone else is trying to have a tranquil evening to do their thing. He said he respects that the Recreation Commission is in charge and the Selectboard needs to back them up. **Buddy** said he doesn’t think the Selectboard wants to act as the Recreation Commission and that is what will happen if you show a lack of support. **Eddie** said he hopes neither **Yvonne** or **Tom** is thinking about quitting he understands it is a tough job and thanked them for doing a great job at the Grove. He said if there is a way that quiet respectful people can be on the beach at the same time as yoga that would be great, but he still believes that is the Recreation Commission’s decision. **Brendan** noted that there is an open seat on the Recreation Commission for anyone interested.

Review 2022-2023 Calendar of Events

Moved to next agenda

Discuss Energy Committee’s Town Hall HVAC Recommendation

Brendan said the committee is not ready to recommend since people are on vacation, but he is hoping to get the information about the different systems that the Board requested asap and, if needed, ask for an off cycle meeting. **Dana** said she would like **Kevin Gorgoglione’s** thoughts on the VRF system. **Kevin** said the Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) system is a high end heat pump. He said you won’t find many people who want to work on it, and it is not mainstream yet, but it is heading in that direction and may be the way you want to go since you’ve already got the duct work in place. It would have a payback of 3 or 4 years, where staying with a boiler and AC

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there is no pay back. **Brendan** said he came in and said the Energy Committee wasn't ready and now it is being discussed. He said we have not been able to come back with a recommendation, we have not been able to talk to Keith at EEI and had we had a chance to do that we might have gotten the information that **Kevin** just shared. **Brendan** said he would have liked to be able to have gone through that process. He said he does appreciate Kevin's input but one of the things the Energy Committee discussed was being careful not to over-use his input with respect that it is free. Scott discussed issues with the alarm system downstairs after the power outage last week. He said he called BK Systems, and they said the system is toast. **Dana** said was it caused by the outage. **Scott** said they said it is probably a combination of birds, bees and bats, nesting in the equipment outside way up on the building and the outage. Scott said they will be giving us a quote for a whole new panel since he can't get parts for this one because it is so old. Scott will call Primex to see if it is covered by insurance.

Review Charter for Open Government Implementation Group

Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to accept the Open Government Implementation Group charter; Voted Yes 5-0.

Review and Comment on Lot Line and Subdivision Applications

The Board reviewed the Planning Board's request for comments for the subdivision of Lot C-001 into three lots creating Lot C-001-1 and C-001-2. The Board also reviewed the Lot Line Adjustment request between Lot E-090 and E-090-1. After a brief discussion, **Eddie** said the Selectboard has no comments to offer on either request.

Board and Committee Updates

Steve informed the Board that the Economic Development Committee would be meeting later in the week.

Review Mail Folder

The Board reviewed the mail folder.

Review Next Agenda

It was agreed the following topics will be discussed at the next meeting:

2022-2023 Selectboard calendar of events

Energy Committee input on Town Hall HVAC replacement


8:41pm Eddie moved, seconded by Ed, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c)reputation and (d)legal and potentially others; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

9:58pm Eddie moved, second by Steve, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

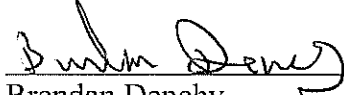
9:59pm meeting adjourned.

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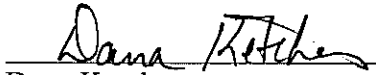
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.



Eddie Arnold



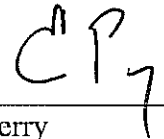
Brendan Denehy



Dana Ketchen



Steve Russo



Ed Perry