

Select Board Meeting Minutes 5/5/2021 7pm Virtual via ZOOM

Present: Select Board members Robert Agoglia and David Shanabrook, Conservation Commission Chair Dana MacDonald, Board of Health Chair William Pula, CPC Chair Richard Fanning, Garden Committee Chair Cydnie Reiman, Planning Board Chair Judith Eiseman, Board of Assessor's Chair Robert Rowell, Susannah Carey, Sophia Gergely, residents Jessica Ryan, Jane Porter, Stacy McCullough, Jodi Rodar, Alisa Pearson, Alexandra Dewey, and Michael Hussin.

Absent: Select Board member Tara Loomis.

Open: Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Remote script read aloud by Susannah Carey. Select Board members confirmed present and all public and town officials were recognized.

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of 4/14/2021 as amended, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes of 4/21/2021 as amended, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Town-wide Mosquito Spraying Opt-out & Recommendations from BOH and Conservation Commission

New law passed in July 2020 by Governor Baker for Mosquito Spraying which includes all cities and towns in the Commonwealth. There is a provision that allows cities/towns the ability to opt-out by submitting an alternative mosquito management plan. The plan, required by the State, at minimum must include education, outreach & public education. The opt-out must be sent to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) by May 15, 2021. There is no fee to opt-out.

At its meeting on April 7, 2021, the Select Board requested input from the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission about opting out and recommendations for a town specific mosquito management plan. In addition, the Select Board received over 20 emails from Pelham residents advocating for opting out of the state's program. Several residents attended this Select Board meeting along with the chairs of the Board of Health and Conservation Commission.

Motion that the Pelham Select Board held a meeting on May 5, 2021 about the Mosquito Control Spraying which included consultation with the Board of Health and allowed public comment, and that the Town of Pelham will opt out of all spraying activities if an alternative mosquito management plan is submitted and approved by the EEA, and implement a plan to educate residents about the dangers of mosquito borne illnesses and effective means of protection that includes an informational letter mailed to all Pelham households, prominently posting the same information on the town's website and at all Pelham Conservation trailheads. aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Appointment of New Part-Time Officer

Jeff Farnsworth is a retired Hampden Police Chief whom Chief Thomann recommends to fill one of the two part-time positions without benefits at the Police Department. Motion to appoint Jeff Farnsworth as part-time police officer, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Appointment of New Council on Aging Associate Member

Resident Jane Porter is a licensed mental health counselor who has been attending the CoA meetings and would like to join as an associate member. Chair Tracy Osbahr has recommended Jane be appointed to the CoA. Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia stated that Nancy Weeber may be resigning. Motion to appoint Jane Porter as an associate member on the Council on Aging, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Consideration of fines for Community Center HVAC Project Employees

Fines were to be considered for unmasked employees working on the HVAC project. Recent changes to provisions in Governor Baker's Order no longer includes enforcement of fines.

Request to Reduce Size of Anti-Racism Advisory Committee from Eleven to Nine Members

Committee originally had 15 members appointed and has been reduced once at the committee's request from 15 to 11 members. The Committee now requests that it be reduced to 9 members. Motion to reduce size of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee to nine members, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Inter-Municipal CCA Consultant Mass Power Choice, & Letter of Support

Pelham Select Board will send a letter of support for the Community Choice Aggregation consultant chosen, Mass Power Choice. Both Amherst and Northampton have already supported this selection. Motion to send letter of support for the CCA consultant chosen, Mass Power Choice, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Town Officials

Conservation Commission Chair Dana MacDonald- Conservation Agent Meredith Borenstein will be leaving her position. The Commission would like to hire a temporary agent until they are able to advertise and may have a potential candidate in mind who currently serves in adjacent towns. Several permits for the Commission to execute include for the affordable housing project, commercial solar development on Tower Rd, Centennial Water Treatment Plant, and residential permits. Question if there is a provision for hiring temporary help which the Select Board will look into.

Planning Board Chair Judith Eiseman- No applications have been received for the Tower Rd solar inquiry. If any additional news of solar comes up for Pelham, please inform the Planning Board. Judith will be out having surgery and Alexandra Dewey, PB Vice-Chair, will cover during her absence.

Public Comment

Sophia Gergerly was experiencing sound trouble and was invited to come back to the next meeting on 5/19 to address the Select Board.

Liaison Reports

Building Inspector; no report.

Fire Department; no report.

Highway Department; Superintendent Rick Adamcek continues his involvement with the HVAC project at the Community Building with May 31st as the projected completion date. The Select Board are grateful for Joanne Levine and Rosalba Baroni-Booth's patience as this project moves forward.

Police Department; Select Board member David Shanabrook; Chief Thomann is away this week.

Town Offices; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; Sandra has been inputting information into the MyTownGovernment platform. The new voting tabulator to be used for upcoming local Election with LHS staff member on hand during Elections. Town Meeting logistics were set up by Susannah Carey with copies of the Warrant sent out to all residents inside the Slate newsletter. A meeting with June Massee is being planned.

Tree Warden; no report.

Old Business-Susannah Carey will check on status of IT Assessment with Susan Noyes.

Time Reserved for Topics the Chair Did Not Reasonably Anticipate-none.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:59pm, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Documents Examined

Minutes 4/14/21, minutes 4/21/21, application for alternative mosquito management plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susannah Carey

I, David Shanabrook, as Clerk of the Pelham Select Board certify the Mosquito Opt-Out vote taken during the May 5, 2021 Select Board meeting.



David Shanabrook, Clerk of
Pelham Select Board

Signed: May 20, 2021