

**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes**  
**10/2/2019 6pm Ramsdell Room, Pelham Library**

**Present:** Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Agoglia, Linda Hanscom, Karl Martini, Chief Thomann, Chief Murphy, John Trickey, Rusty Rowell, Tilman Lukas, Tony Rogers, Dana MacDonald, Fred Vanderbeck, Alisa Pearson, Bruce Klotz, Jacques Graton, and Susannah Carey.

**Open:** Selectman Ribeiro opened at 6:00pm.

**Broken Sign in Front of the Community Building along Amherst Road**

Library Trustee Jacques Graton stated Trustees were willing to contribute funds for a new sign along Amherst Road. The Trustees will meet to discuss the sign and funding possibilities. The new sign must conform with the new Village Center zoning bylaw requirements. The Board of Selectmen hope for uniformity amongst all town signs that are replaced going forward. Library Trustees will report back with more information.

**Lighting on the Outside of the Community Building**

The current lighting outside the building violates Pelham's bylaws. The Selectmen have received several complaints from residents about the brightness and necessity to keep all the lights on from dawn to dusk. Chief Thomann stated that Public Safety buildings are exempt from the bylaw requirements and will gather more information to share. Chief Thomann would like at least the lobby light and outdoor walkway lighting on for safety issues. Chief Murphy would like the light to remain on over the door into the Fire Station where a combination is required for access. The Board of Selectmen will request that the lighting over the Fire bays be removed immediately. Buildings and Grounds supervisor, Rick Adamcek, will be consulted for solutions to control the lighting.

**Roundtable with Board/Committee Chairpersons and Department Heads**

Each Chair/Department Head began with stating how long they have been on their respective board/committee. There were no representatives from the Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Board of Health, or Planning Board. Alisa Pearson was scribe for roundtable.

**Board/Committee News & Updates**

Cultural Council (no members present)- grant application period until October 15, need for 3-4 members, interest in hosting upcycling sale and possible grant coverage if art/craft/cultural component with suggestion for proceeds to benefit sustainability/climate change.

Energy Committee; Tony Rogers; Project to update/change out heating cooling system in Community Building and currently EC looking at VRF systems and designs, Green Communities grant awarded for \$170k to put towards the system but additional funding will be sought through the MVP grant cycle, no engineering study has been completed yet for the Pelham School

Finance Committee; John Trickey; Education funding from State for \$1.5 billion is actually spread out over a seven year period and Pelham will get virtually nothing, Regional School assessment method is under review again and looks like Pelham is short 20 school choice kids (roughly ~\$100K), current tree trimming work on Amherst Road is very expensive and the town will need to identify future funding in order to proceed with the work on remaining roads in town, There are only two new houses built in town.

Fire Department; Chief Murphy; Calls are increasing and Chief will focus on increasing membership, Chief Murphy's retirement date is set for July 1, 2021, majority of calls received are medical followed by automobile accidents.

Housing Committee; Tilman Lukas; First time homebuyer program has not done much yet as trainings have been scheduled in Amherst, other communities have increased FTHB amount to around \$50k, Town will use CPC funds for the purchase of 8 Amherst Road and is continuing to talk with Habitat for Humanity about the site, 18-22 Amherst Road is in the early development phase of plans for affordable housing units and next meeting with developers will be October 22, which was posted on NextDoorPelham website. The estimated timeline before any

construction begins is about 24-36 months. HC will be examining the overall zoning for Pelham to see if any changes/edits to make Pelham more 'buildable.'

Historical Commission; Karl Martini; Historical assessment of Pelham is about 85% complete, need for new members of any age, looks after the Old Town Hall Complex (Museum and Old Town Hall).

Board of Assessors; Rusty Rowell; Pelham will be losing assessing services provided by Amherst beginning 1/1/20 including the GIS mapping and Lori Turati's position. Question if the mapping is highly used by residents. Is it possible to retain Lori and her position as our part-time assessor after her retirement in December. Community Compact grant discussed briefly if could fund GIS program.

Police Department; Chief Thomann; Full-time Officer Connor Parnell will attend Police Academy on February 10<sup>th</sup>, Pelham's population is aging and medical calls are increasing, motor vehicle stops have been added to the PD website, speed signs are moving around town according to the calls the PD receives from residents, our signs were not using the analytics but Chief will be looking into getting that feature, Selectmen would still like to see a permanent sign placed at intersection of N.Valley, S.Valley, and Amherst Road (Village Center) and funding could be asked for at Spring Town Meeting.

Community Preservation Committee; Dana MacDonald; proposal from 18-20 Amherst road, discussion of considerable CPC funding to support affordable housing project and possible municipal bonding with input from Town Accountant, Gail Weiss, warrant article to use CPA funding for Old Town Hall painting will be brought to Annual Town Meeting in the Spring.

Conservation Commission; Dana MacDonald; new member Richard Seelig and possibly two additional interested members, site review at 22 Amherst Rd completed with late November/December reviewing RDA for building and site.

Community Hall; Linda Hanscom; after being closed since December 2017 due to lack of accessibility CH is open and ready to be used, building has hosted events, meetings, and soon the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school field trip, October 15 is reserved for a showing of the Connect Pelham film, a town-wide holiday buffet will be held in December, sign-up sheet to use CH and the key will be at the Library with key return in the library book drop, the Historical Society will join the Community Hall Committee for an upcoming open house.

Board of Selectmen; Alisa Pearson has resigned leaving a vacancy. Motion to call a special election to fill vacancy on Board of Selectmen, unanimously approved. MVP taskforce created for new grant funding application period, Fall TM will include enforcement bylaw and Moderator vote when 2/3rds vote is required, Rhodes Building and Community Hall ready to be used as assessable meeting spaces, Rhodes had new windows and outside paint job completed, 59 Meeting House Road has been an ongoing public safety issue with involvement from the Board of Health and Quabbin Health District, the Town acquired 200 Daniel Shays Highway with further discussion of solar farm possibility and protecting Pelham through its bylaws regarding solar aggregations, Slate and Town Meeting warrant will be sent out soon.

## MEMBERS

Ideas for recruitment: 'meet & greet' event to drum interest, 101 guide for Board/Committees with narratives, google forms for all; training, agendas, minute taking; continued communication with Board of Selectmen if more/less members needed to operate

Community Hall-1 active, 2 inactive, looking for 2-4 members, possible invitation to open house to recruit new members, suggestion to review mission statement

Historical Commission-4 active members, 1 inactive, 1 associate, challenge recruiting new and even younger members with aging population

Finance Committee-full with 5 members, new chair/appointees voted on after fiscal year ends, a handbook is in the works, recruiting should be ongoing.

Assessors; 2.5 members due to school needing to attend, Assessor's manual handbook is in the works, person with computer takes minutes.

Housing Committee- 6/7 member slots full, 1 vacancy, person with computer skills takes minutes.

Energy Committee-5/7 member slots full, 2 vacancies, Committee has Co-Chairs to share responsibilities  
Community Preservation Committee-full with 7 members, one at-large elected position included  
Conservation Commission-4/5 members, possible recruitment of additional member, have Conservation Agent for posting meetings, writing permits, notice of intents, etc.  
Board of Selectmen-2/3 members, move for a special election to fill vacancy

### **VACANCIES & RECRUITMENT**

-Outreach to parents/community at meeting/events through Pelham Press; potluck & social events.  
-Citizen's Academy concept successful in other towns across Commonwealth, stress on Boards/Committees to be their own recruiters and market to new members on an ongoing basis.

### **SLACK PROGRAM**

Chairs encouraged to be sure to adjust settings in order to receive notification alerts and post to share information.  
Program appears to be working ok, but postings are quiet at this time, could be effective if used regularly.

### **Old Business**

Motion for special election to fill vacancy on the Board of Selectmen and to be scheduled with Town Clerk, unanimously approved.

5G small cell network- discussion of Statewide reporting and impact reports on the network.

Agenda for 10/16/19-proposed opt out health insurance policy

Meeting with Kestrel Land Trust-Dana MacDonald will be reviewing a possible easement solution for 31 Boyden Road

McClung Property, Buffam Road-Town Counsel preparing agreement with the McClung family

Motion to adjourn at 8:17pm, unanimously approved.

**Documents Examined**-None.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey