**Select Board Meeting Minutes**

**5/1/19, Ramsdell Room, 6pm**

**Present:** Select Board members Alisa Pearson, Karen Ribeiro and Bob Agoglia; DPW Superintendent Rick Adamcek

**Open:** Select Board Chair Pearson opened at 6:01pm.

Select Board members agreed to rearrange the agenda order because Rick was expected to be a bit late.

**MVP Postcards from Summer 2018 Not Mailed Yet**

There are a sufficient number of postcards from the summer 2018 mailing for every household in Pelham. Whether and when to use them will be referred to the Connect Pelham Task Force. No matter what is sent to households the Task Force needs to be prepared to follow-up on all responses like they did with the summer 2018 mailing.

**Old Business**

The Energy Committee expressed concerns at their meeting last night about whether Pelham needs support to create and submit timely the monthly reports required by the grants it has applied for. Pelham should explore having the administrative consultant funded by the MVP grant take on these responsibilities. Bob mentioned that he thought one of his young neighbors who is studying environmental science will be home from college this summer and might be interested in working on the new MVP grant if we get it. He will follow up. Alisa will review the financial reports for the current MVP grant.

The Energy Committee also discussed in their meeting last night that the HVAC system for the Community Center is ready to be installed if grant funding is awarded. The solar photovoltaic canopy over the Community Center parking lot will also be studied with MVP Round Two grant funding, so as to be shovel ready, should MVP Three permit construction. The Energy Committee expressed interest in having a group focus on reducing the school’s carbon footprint. Three parents with children in the school, Aaron Becker, Darcy Palmquist and Brad Arndt were mentioned as people to approach. Improvements for the school could be in the FY 21 grant proposal.

**Roadside Brush Mowing-Rick Adamcek, Highway Superintendent**

Select Board members shared the concerns expressed by citizens regarding the roadside brush mowing: cutting of brush on what was thought to be their private property, cutting mountain laurel, and cutting brush on the inside of stone walls rather just the road side of the wall. Rick explained that Pelham has the brush mower in cooperation with six other towns. Pelham pays an annual fee of $700 to use the machine that covers routine maintenance and administration by the lead town, which currently is Whately. The machine is purchased by Eversource and its purpose is to cut growth under their wires. The town also uses it to cut growth that extends over the road that interferes with visibility and snow plowing on both sides of the road. Eversource is going to discontinue the program within the next couple of years because they are now required to perform “enhanced” trimming under their wires on all roads starting in a couple of years. Under this program they will be clearing large swaths of trees and growth under and around their wires to protect against loss of power in the ever-increasing frequency and intensity of storms.

Rick also explained that many rights of ways for roads in Pelham were established early in the town’s history. The records are hard to find and many don’t correspond with the current roadways. He described the extensive efforts that had to be made to learn the right of way for Amherst Road and then to change it to conform with the current roadway. It was a process that required two years. It would be ideal if Pelham could survey and post boundary markers for all roadways but this is likely to be very expensive.

The Select Board suggested that we communicate with people in town about the roadside brush cutting program in advance of the work being performed. They requested that Rick create a message to post on the website and in the Slate describing when the work will be done and what it will entail. It should also request that people call the highway department before planting or doing any kind of work near the road.

Select Board members asked Rick about other issues he is focused on right now. He mentioned the buckling on the new Community Center roof. Alisa asked him to contact Bill Rock, clerk of the works, when the roof was repaired to follow up further on this. Rick mentioned that work on the Community Hall has been slowed by the weather but he hopes work will be completed within the next few weeks. When he mentioned repainting the Old Town Hall, the Select Board told him that the CPC would propose funding a more extensive project at Town Meeting. Finally, Rick described that overlay paving will be done Cadwell Street and on South Valley Road from Amherst Road to Jones Road by August. In addition, chip sealing will be done on Butter Hill Road.

Select Board members thanked Rick for his work and for coming to the meeting.

**Time Reserved For Topics the Chair Did Not Reasonably Anticipate**

The Select Board reviewed a letter regarding the Fisheries and Wildlife Department’s purchase of a conservation restriction on 205 acres in Pelham. The Select Board will request that the Conservation Commission chair or designee attend its next meeting to discuss this.

The Select Board reviewed a letter from the Department of Agricultural Resources notifying the town that it had issued a license to Quabbin Hills Farm to grow hemp. The Select Board asked Susannah to learn more about this program and report at the next meeting.

The Select Board gratefully acknowledged the letter in the *Pelham Press* from Lisa Desjarlais, Pelham School principal, about the Select Board meeting with fifth graders at the school.

Motion to sign the Insurance renewal with MIAA, seconded, passed unanimously.

Motion to sign the contract with the Department of Elder Affairs, seconded, passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

The Select Board discussed preparations for Town Meeting, including its own presentations on warrant articles.

**Liaison Reports**

Nothing urgent to report

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:01pm, seconded, unanimously approved.

**Documents Examined**

MIAA Insurance Renewal letter, Department of Elder Affairs contract, letter in *Pelham Press* from Lisa Desjarlais, Pelham School Principal, letter from Fisheries and Wildlife, letter from Department of Agricultural Resources, 2018 MVP postcard

Respectfully submitted, Bob Agoglia