



Town of Pelham

Spring Special Town Meeting Minutes

Monday June 20, 2106 7:00 PM

Historic Old Town Hall

Hanpshire,ss

To one of the Constables of the Town of Pelham, in said County

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, Massachusetts, qualified to vote in the Town affairs to meet in the Pelham Historic Old Town Hall, located at the intersection of Route 202 and Amherst Road in said Pelham on Monday, the 20th day of June, in the year A.D. 2016 at 7:00 PM for the reading of the Town Warrant and to proceed with the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Constable Donald G. Clark.

Town Moderator Daniel E. Robb presided. Town Officials present at the meeting were: Kathleen Martell Town Clerk, , James Doubleday Chairman of the Board of Selectman, William Martell Board of Selectmen and Alisa Pearson Board of Selectman. Registrar Sharrie Reydak checked voters. There were 75 voters present. Two articles are on the Warrant. Joseph Larson spoke about an interesting piece of the history of the Pelham: "In 1786, the Selectmen wrote a letter to Amherst and other towns about the new legislature replacing the British

because those in Boston were not paying attention to the Western part of the State which lit a fuse”.

Moderator Daniel Robb said he would be using “Town Meeting Time” rules to moderate the meeting. Notable rules of the meeting included:

Voters need to raise their hands and wait to be recognized by the moderator. Then, the voters must stand (if able) and state their Name and Street Address. All comments must be addressed to the moderator. “Point of order” is a phrase used to ask how to phrase or to ask a question about process so everybody understands. “Move the question” is the phrase to call for a vote to end debate on an article or amendment.

A moment of silence was held for the Orlando incident in the news and any others wished for by voters.

Article 1

A motion was made and Seconded that the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Balance the sum of \$3,500 to remove trees to protect the Community Hall roof and building envelope. Discussion included the number of trees answered by Linda Hanscom of the Community Hall Committee which was two trees. Also discussion included routine maintenance of the building. Article 1 **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Article 2

A motion was made and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain, all or a portion of the parcels of land located at Boyden Road, Buffam Road and North Valley Road containing approximately 145 acres, shown on Assessor Map 10 as Parcel 16 and on Assessor Map 9 as parcels 10, 28 and 8 and described more particularly in deeds recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 6798, page 134; Book 11519, Page 327; Book 12147, Page 261; and Book 11554, Page 132, said land to be acquired and designated for conservation, forestry, and for

recreation purposes, to be held under the care, custody, and control of the Conservation Commission under the provisions of G.L. c.40, SS 8C; and to appropriate the sum of up to \$100,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund to fund this acquisition and costs related thereto, the total costs being funded as follows:

- **\$100,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund,**
- \$252,000.00 to be granted to the Town by the US Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Grant Program

Said appropriation to be used for costs related to the acquisition, including, without limitation, recording fees, closing costs, survey, appraisal, legal fees, and forestry plan;

And, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Conservation Commission or its designees, on behalf of the Town, to file any and all applications for, and to accept the grants and/or reimbursements that have been awarded to the Town by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Services under the Community Forest and Open Space Grant Program and/or any other federal and/or state programs, including those in aid of the acquisition of conservation and/or recreation land;

And to grant or otherwise provide for a perpetual Conservation Restriction on said land, meeting the provisions of G.L.c. 184 SS 31-33 as required under G.L. c.44B, SS 12(a) to Kestral Land Trust or any qualified organization to protect said property for the foregoing purposes, and to monitor compliance with the terms of the restriction;

And, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments to effectuate such Grant applications and this acquisition.

Discussion of Article 2 included the following:

Dana MacDonald stated that originally Article 2 stated: "said land to be acquired and designed for conservation, forestry and for PASSIVE recreation purposes." He

made the following motion: “ By the recommendation of Town Counsel and the Select Board, I make a motion to acknowledge the removal of the phrase and for “PASSIVE “ recreation after the warrant was approved by Town Counsel.”

Town Clerk entry note: the article was posted in the official warrant without the word passive.

A question was asked, Could the land be used for snowmobiling and horseback riding? Dana MacDonald answered that any allowed use of the land would be defined in the forestry plan including horseback riding. Another question was about land access from Buffam Road including any parking in the area. Dana MacDonald answered that those issues were discussed in two public meetings that due to significant wetlands and stream and that no one likes to hike in a swamp, access would be limited. A point of Order question was asked about Amendment of Notice of Change in Language, since the warrant was posted without passive in the phrase. There was a second on the amendment to acknowledge the change in language. Amendment **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

A comment was made about town statistics state that in 1996, 77.6% of the land in Pelham was protected which about 12,130 acres of the 16,896 acres. Would rather see the \$100,000.00 spent on a park for people with a handicap could use.

Another comment was about Community Preservation funds, Answered that there is approximately \$400,000.00 in The Community Preservation Fund right now. CPA is a partnership with the State and town and tax money from the town is collected and the state matches all or part of the money, and so far we have received 100% matches. A question on perpetual conservation trust was explained that the Kestral Trust is a Conservation Trust group that for land protection. They handle negotiations and write grants for projects. Because we are using CPA money a third party management t is required to ensure it will always be conservation. A comment was made by Judy Eiseman of the Planning Board about the question of land protected in Pelham. The Planning Board is looking at a village center plan that will include a park. Another question was about the Land Study /Use project for the Housing Committee. Abigail Jenks Planning Board Chair answered, nothing has been accomplished with that study

to decide what areas could be developed as an environmental program and sustainable forestry. With this project sustainable forestry is the main reason and could provide wood for construction and heat to be grown and produced in town. The comprehensive forestry plan would be overseen by the Conservation Commission. The community forest is a demonstration of small scale forestry and acts as an educational plan to teach better forestry. There could even be stewardship with Hitchcock Center or UMASS .

Another question was: why not do this project with other land/ why purchase of this land and would this be the only place in town to do this? Answered All conservation areas were to protect hab

itat or wetlands. Active forestry is a new way to think of conservation of land including a broader view. Comment about money from timber which could /may be a source of revenue for the town. Another comment was that this land is a part of a wildlife corridor. Kristin Deboer of the Kestral Land Trust stated this give a larger core of habitat. A comment was made that the land is being provided at cost which is a bargain sale and the project started about 4-5 years ago by landowners and then encouraged by Congressman Olver, then included the Kestral Trust. Another comment was that the Town is only funding approximately 25% of the project and other contributors are funding the bulk of it. Another comment was: There are restrictions on spending CPA money. The CPA money can fund Affordable Housing, Historic Preservation and Land conservation and can actually fund purchase of land but can also fund care and upkeep of conservation land. Nora Maroulis made a motion to call the question, which requires a 2/3 vote. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vote on Article 2 PASSED WITH 4 NAY VOTES.

The moderator thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Motion to adjourn Seconded PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Town Clerk

