

SELECTBOARD- TOWN OF BRADFORD
Regular Selectboard Meeting
Bradford Academy Building Room 26 and via Zoom Web Conferencing
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 6:30p.m.

In Attendance:

Board Members Present: Daniel A. Perry III, Carole P. Taylor, Meroa S. Benjamin, Jennifer Whitney, Ryan Lockwood (via zoom)

Others Present: Michael Wright, Bruce Murry, Vanetta Darby (via zoom), Marcey Carver, Jared Pendak, Jennifer Grossi, Mary Dan Pomeroy (via zoom),

Dan Perry called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Additions & Changes:

Number six on the agenda should read "Discharge of Mortgage from Community Center Grant" and number 16 on the agenda is a duplicate.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Grossi made the Selectboard aware that the black voices matter event was cancelled due to acts of racism within our community. She suggested a policy be put in place.

The recreation director, Mary Dan Pomeroy, made the Selectboard aware that there is an opportunity for her to teach swim lessons at treasurer island in Thetford. It would be a three-week program with 15 students per program- 5 students from Thetford, 5 from Bradford and the last 5 would be on a first come first serve basis. The Selectboard will discuss more under "Other Business".

Marcey Carver asked when the Selectboard would be discussing more cannabis info.

The Selectboard asked that a representative from the State give an informational meeting regarding the sales of cannabis, and she suggested the end of June or in July.

Bob Holly Property- Treasurer/Listers:

In 1995 the Town of Bradford took possession of 4.5 acres of Robert Holly's property (leaving 1.07 acres for the Holly house site located at 46 Apple Ridge Road- original parcel #05-79-0024). The 4.5 acres was taken for a value of \$7,453.27 plus tax sales fees for a total of \$8,426.80. This portion of land now owned by the Town is considered to be 4.6 as of 2018- new parcel #05-20-0050. It is understood that the property was divided in 1995, records did not get adjusted to make the two pieces of the property separate so Robert Holly was still getting taxed for all of the acreage. Credits were then issued to him to correct this through the year 2004. This land has a deeded well on it that belongs to an adjacent property owner and the land wouldn't perc, therefore a house would not be able to be built on the property.

Total cost for acreage retained by the Town (delinquent tax & legal fees) \$8,851.80

Loss to tax revenue- (Town owned property is tax exempt) \$4,615.57

Total amount that can be reclaimed by sale of property \$13,467.37

Meroa Shepard made a motion to send a letter to all abutters of this property outlining the property and its condition and the town would be willing to sell for \$13,467.37 or best offer. The property would not be able to have a house on it or any running water.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Junk Ordinance Complaint:

There was a junk ordinance complaint made against the property at 342 North Main Street. The owner has been working on cleaning up the construction trash bags on the property and currently the property is not in violation of the Towns junk ordinance.

Meroa Benjamin mentioned to the property owner that she would also like to see his property cleaned up 414 Lower Plain and he said he has also been working on it.

Skate Park Build at Elizabeth Park- Vote

Meroa Benjamin made a motion to table voting the skate park at Elizabeth's Park until first meeting in July and revisit the proposal then.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

The task force committee is being eliminated.

Discharge of Mortgage of Community Service Grant:

Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (Cassie Bell) made the Selectboard aware that this mortgage can be discharged as the benefit has been met.

Carole Taylor made a motion to approve signing the discharge of mortgage for the community service grant.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

VLCT Committee- Marcey Carver:

Meroa Benjamin made a motion for Marcey Carver to represent the town for the VLCT advocacy group for municipalities on economic development (volunteer position).

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Lower Plain Bike/Ped Scoping Grant- Marcey Carver:

The Planning Commission would like to apply for a bike/pedestrian scoping study that would connect the designated village with the lower plain. The grant estimate is \$60,000 with a grant match of an estimated \$12,000. This would be a two-year scoping project.

It was brought to the Selectboards attention that there is already a biking/walking lane on the lower plain. The proposal of this project would be to propose a sidewalk on the lower plain.

There is hope that when the State of Vermont redesigns the route 5 bridge that they will also redo the sidewalk area and biking bath for pedestrians, such that they did on the 25B bridge.

Ryan Lockwood made a motion to move forward with the bike/ped scoping grant.

MOTION DID NOT PASS, 2 VOTES (RYAN LOCKWOOD AND DAN PERRY) APPROVED, THREE VOTES (CAROLE TAYLOR, JENNIFER WHITNEY, MEROA BENJAMIN) OPPOSED.

RFP Website Redesign:

Meroa Benjamin presented the Selectboard with a draft RFP for the website redesign and would like for the board to review for next meeting.

Walter Lee Committee Applications:

Meroa Benjamin made a motion to approve the recommendations from Walter Lee Committee as submitted (below).

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

"The first was submitted by the Parks and Rec department. As there are 7 separate items in this request the board decided to view each request individually as follows:

1. *Sign and Plaque.* The board determined that while a noble pursuit to recognize Walter Lee for what he and his bequest has done for Elizabeth's Park, the sign does not fit the mission in accordance of the last will and testament of Walter Lee.

Board does not recommend approval.

2. *Grow Fruit Campaign.* The board determined that this does not fit the mission in accordance of the last will and testament of Walter Lee.

Board does not recommend approval.

3. *New Liner.* The board discussed this request and as the Walter Lee Committee has replaced the liner for the ice rink a number of times in the past several years, declined approve this request.

Board does not recommend approval.

4. *Leather and associates formal assessment.* The board feels this qualifies for funding based on the mission of the committee.

Board recommends approval of this request.

5. *Picnic Tables.* The board feels this qualifies for funding based on the mission of the committee.

Board recommends approval of this request.

6. *Permanent lighting.* The board feels this qualifies for funding based on the mission of the committee.

Board recommends approval of this request.

7. *Improvements and repairs.* While this would likely qualify for funding under the mission of the Walter Lee committee, there is no detail of the scope of the work. It is our understanding that this will be determined by the formal assessment that was also applied for. We would recommend this be resubmitted with more detail next year for reconsideration.

Board does not recommend approval.

The second request was submitted by Bradford Youth Sports.

1. *Soccer goals.* The board determined this fits the mission.

Board recommends approval."

Energy Coordinator Agreement:

Ryan Lockwood made a motion to authorize Danielle Kingsbury to sign the IREC Service Agreement 23.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Liquor Licenses:

Jennifer Whitney made a motion to approve the second-class liquor license for Rae's Corner Café (restaurant that took over where subway used to be).
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Zoning Permit Applications:

Meroa Shepard made a motion to approve the zoning applications for Jeffrey Thurston to replace a shed on Fairground Road and Daniel and Susan Danis to build a shed on Mink Hill Road.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Development Review Board Hearing:

Carole Taylor made a motion to hold an informational hearing on creating a development review board on June 9, 2022, starting at 6:15 p.m.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Emergency Management Plan 2022:

Meroa Benjamin made a motion to approve the 2022 emergency management plan.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Purchase Orders:

Jennifer Whitney made a motion to approve heavy duty laptop purchase order for the police department in the amount of \$3,734.37.

MOTION PASSED, 4 VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATE, 1 VOTE (CAROLE TAYLOR) RECUSED HERSELF.

Minutes:

Carole Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Orders:

Carole Taylor made a motion to approve the orders dated 5/27/22 in the amount of \$16,249.17.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business:

Gears grant system- Meroa Shepard is the sign off person.

Marcey Carver made a comment about the amount of traffic on the weekends on main street.

The town has \$3,000 budget for the swim program. The recreation director is asking permission to use 10-12 hours of her recreation time to teach the swim program at treasurer island and use the \$3,000 to offset the price for Bradford children to attend the program. The program would be a maximum of three weeks.

Meroa Benjamin made a motion to proceed with the recreation director teaching the swim program and making the cost for a Bradford child \$20.00 (subsidized \$30.00).

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Litigation- Executive Session:

Meroa Benjamin made a motion that the Selectboard has determined that a litigation issue needs to be discussed in executive session because the premature public knowledge would place both the Town at substantial disadvantage.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Carole Taylor made a motion to go into executive session a 9:00 p.m. to discuss a litigation issue as allowed by 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1). and invite Danielle Kingsbury and Charlie Merriman.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Personnel- Executive Session:

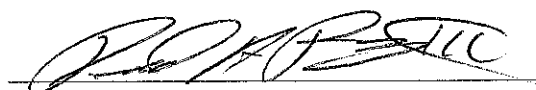
Meroa Benjamin made a motion that the Selectboard has determined that a personnel issue needs to be discussed in executive session because the premature public knowledge would place both the Town and the employee at substantial disadvantage.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Meroa Benjamin made a motion to go into executive session a 9:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue as allowed by 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1). and invite Danielle Kingsbury=.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

The Selectboard came out of executive session at 9:37 p.m. and adjourned.



Daniel A. Perry III, Chair

Meroa Benjamin

Meroa S. Benjamin, Vice Chair

Carole P. Taylor

Carole P. Taylor

Ryan Lockwood

Ryan Lockwood

Jennifer Whitney

Jennifer Whitney