

SELECTBOARD- TOWN OF BRADFORD
REGULAR MEETING
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2023
6:00 p.m. at BA Building Rm 26

In Attendance:

Board Members Present: Meroa S. Benjamin, Dan A. Perry III, Michael Wright

Board Members Absent: Ryan Lockwood, Nikki Stevens

Others Present: Marcey Carver, Andrea Wilkins, Elizabeth Friend, Jean Carlan, Paul Hunt, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Ed Wendell (via zoom), Denee Woods, Matt Woods, Jean Carlan, Nancy Jones, Colin Kennedy, Donna Wing (via zoom)

Meroa Benjamin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Additions & Changes to the Agenda:

Public Comment:

Denee Woods commented that she is excited about the skatepark and for the hire of the new recreation director.

Marcey Carver commented that she likes walking and handed out flyer about the importance of walking.

Paul Hunt commented that a friend complained that he never identified who he is at the meetings, and he will try to do so.

Recreation Director- Andrea Wilkins:

The recreation director, Andrea Wilkins asked what the public would like to see from the recreation department moving forward.

Elizabeth Friend stated that she is excited about skatepark and sing a long event. She would like to see musical and cultural events as a priority.

Denee Woods stated that she loves the skatepark and sing a long events and hopes to see more opportunities for families to be outside and be active, and not have to buy in to a sport and pay a fee every time.

Marcey Carver asked Andrea what her plans are moving forward?

Andrea Wilkins stated that she would like to do bigger events, seasonal events, one per season for entire community, such as a harvest festival, easter event, cooking programs, intergenerational programs. She is still gathering information from the community at this point.

Nancy Jones would like the conservation commission and parks and recreation to collaborate.

Paul Hunt feels there isn't much as collaboration between groups such as The Old Church Theater and Bradford Business Association and would like to see more of it.

Grant- VT Community Foundation (parks and rec/skate park):

No refund policy in place currently.

The Vermont Community foundation is giving \$5,000 to the Town but by cashing the check, the Town is guaranteeing that if not used for the skate park, then we have to return the money.

Dan Perry made a motion to accept the Vermont Community Foundation grant in the amount of \$5,000.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Jean Carlan suggested that we ask the treasurer to put the \$5,000 in a separate line in the budget, so we don't lose track of it.

Energy Committee- Rules of Procedure:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the memorandum agreement with Vermont Department of General Services and Town of Bradford for energy grant. The agreement allows for the Town to apply for future grants up to \$500,000. The energy committee is responsible for getting all the necessary items in order for this grant.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Planning Commission- Rules of Procedure:

Mike Wright made a motion to revoke the motion to approve the Planning Commission's rules of procedure that were approved on May 11, 2023 by the Selectboard.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Changes the Selectboard would like to review in the Planning Commissions rules of procedure are:

1. Does not coincide with town personnel policy handbook.
2. Page 1, #7 hiring staff and consultants, only the Selectboard can hire, not the PC.
3. Page 2, #5 about members attending 60% of meetings.
4. Page 5, #6 regarding the planning commission approving trainings.
5. Page 2, #3

The Selectboard will review and modify the document and make changes, until then the document is void. Subcommittees appointed by the PC are revoked until the Selectboard discusses at future meetings.

Planning- Resolution for MPG2024:

Dan Perry made a motion to apply for the planning grant MPG2024 that will focus on lodging and residential housing. The grant is for \$30,000 with a match from the Town of \$3,000. The Planning Commission will budget for the grant in 2024.

MOTION NOT PASSED, 2 VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, 1 VOTE (MEROA BENJAMIN) OPPOSED.

The Selectboard found that the application was missing the letters of support and missing information.

Planning- Requisition Submission (40% of MPG2023):

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the requisition in the grant system for grant MPG2023 in the amount of \$8,280.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Plan- Ratify Motion:

Dan Perry made a motion to adopt the town plan as submitted on 10-12-23.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Marcey Carver is sending all the documents to Two Rivers and the Agency of Commerce.

Enhanced Energy Plan- Ratify Motion:

Mike Wright made a motion to adopt the enhanced energy plan as submitted on 10-12-23.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

OESU Trails Agreement:

Mike Wright made a motion to accept the agreement with OESU for the river trails on Memorial Field.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

The project will hopefully start in the summer of 2024.

Race to the Top & Devils Den Ultra:

Dan Perry made a motion to approve the public assembly permit for the June 1, 2024, Devils Den Ultra event and October 11th through 13th 2024 Race to the Top event.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

VLCT's Human Resources Consultation Program (Nikki S.):

Tabled.

ARPA Funds:

The Selectboard feels it is not appropriate to accept any new requests without putting it out there to the public and asked Danielle to notify the organizations that applied for funds that they will not be accepting applications at this time.

The Selectboard will not be approving \$4,000 of ARPA funds to be used for the extra cost of the Wrights Mountain, Devils Den Forrest costs, the additional cost needs to come out of the conservation funds as stated at last meeting.

Special Liquor Licenses:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve Montview Winery, LLC event at Farmway on November 4, 2023.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Training Requests:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the training requests for Andrea Wilkins to attend the Professional Development for the NNERPC at a cost of 155.00 and the Lake Morey Recreation Conference on November 2nd and 3rd in the amount of \$125.00.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

All training needs to come to the Selectboard before registering.

Purchase Orders:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the quote from Reynolds to purchase axe and Hallinan set, plus irons lock kit, in amount of \$1,58.25 for the fire department.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the quote from Pikcomm to purchase pagers, batteries, portables, etc. for the fire department in the amount of \$4,536.05.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the quote from Tunstall Corporation to purchase electric zone controls for the BA in the amount of \$836.40.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the quote from Swish to purchase batteries for the floor scrubber for the BA in the amount of \$790.00.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the purchase from Oakes Brothers for a snowblower from the Walter Lee funds in the amount of \$1,799 for the parks and recreation committee.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

BA Use Applications:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the BYS application to use the gymnasium for the 2023/2024 basketball season, with scheduling to be worked out with Oxbow.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Employee Health Insurance 2024:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve up to \$1,800 toward employee health insurance for 2024 and offer the dental vision self-paid for by employees only.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes:

Mike Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from the hearing on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Dan Perry made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 12, 2023, to say “adopt” instead of “accept” plan.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Orders:

Dan Perry made a motion to approve the orders dated October 27, 2023 in the amount of \$69,064.55.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business:

Dan Perry made a motion to send a junk ordinance letter to the property owners at 13 Maple Street.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to amend the motion regarding the MPG2024 grant for the planning commission and authorize Dan Perry as Vice Chair to approve a final draft of the grant application on Monday, October 30, 2023, and sign off on final application.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Marcey Carver made the Selectboard aware that the consultant hired for the MPG2023 grant would like to send out a survey that would put the mailing budget over.

The Selectboard is not in favor of sending out a postcard to everyone in town for the survey.

Mike Wright made a motion to allow Danielle Kingsbury to post the Bradford Academy building will be closed to the public and locked on Fridays, access to the food shelf will be available at the north side of the building.

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Mike Wright made a motion to pay for the Planning Commissions two training requests

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Personnel- Executive Session:

Dan Perry 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.

Dan Perry made a motion to go into executive session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue as allowed by 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1).

MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

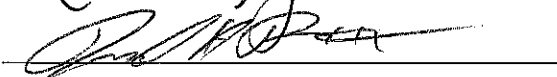
The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:33 p.m.

Dan Perry made a motion to accept Tyler Gillies's resignation and advertise for the fulltime highway position.
MOTION PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY.

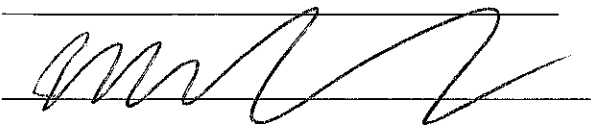
The selectboard adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Meroa S. Benjamin, Chair



Daniel A. Perry III, Vice Chair



Ryan Lockwood



Michael Wright

Nikki Stevens