

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on October 10, 2017, at the Bolton Town Hall, with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrison, and Sandra Pierog. Several members of the public attended.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

Ron Beaudoin, 2 Cook Dr., asked about plans for the land returned from the state to the town. He said Paul Toomey once told him that the land would never be built up, but now that the land has changed hands to the state and then the town, he heard there are plans and found maps for a parking lot. He said he opposed the lot plans on grounds of safety and privacy. Using the map, he demonstrated concern that cars would not have enough room to pull out and maneuver according to common parking lot standards. Parking lot standards commonly range between 19 and 25 feet, but the map shows only 15 feet before a car would be driving into a person's yard. The area has also been historically a private residential neighborhood, and he said the increased traffic for the public use of the lot, as well as headlights at night, would be invasive. There is already parking at Freja Park, the commuter lot, and other trail lots, so he did not see that this one was necessary. He suggested near the blue bridge as an alternative location if the parking was indeed needed. He asked if there was a PZC hearing on the lot. G. Marrison answered no, the BOS has to give its recommendation first.

R. Morra said the idea was to create an area that was useful to the neighborhood, rather than passers through. It also would aid snow plowing activities by providing a place to pile snow and potentially turn around at the end of the road.

John Mancini, 11 Cook Dr., said there are already delivery and UPS route issues on the road.

Irene Zdrojowy, 5 Notch Road Extension, said there are issues with the garbage route. Stephanie Berry, 7 Cook Rd., said snowplowing was very tight on the road and could both affect and be complicated by parking.

R. Beaudoin added that the house closest to the lot in question is rented so the town should be sure to notify its residents if the plan goes through.

Linda Lavigne, 10 Cook Dr, said she walks the trail all the time. She said it is only a 30 minute walk to the Steeles Crossing lot and a 15 minute walk to the other lot, so she felt one their neighborhood was unnecessary.

Kim Welch, 51 Vernon Road, said she appreciated the comments made by the residents and asked the BOS to remember the path has been in use by the community for years while also being a connectivity opportunity. She said maybe they could compromise and look into another connector piece at some point, and leave out the parking lot so the residents aren't negatively affected.

Milan Faulker, 12 Notch Road Extension, asked where cars would park beyond the lot, where it is already very narrow. She said a school bus currently drives on her lawn because it has difficulty turning around.

Richard Treat, 8 Lyman Road, invited everyone to the Bolton Land Trust's 2017 Walk of Thanksgiving, Saturday, November 25th, in the early afternoon around 1pm. It will be at the lands recently returned to the town by the state. Jonathan Gorley, a professor at Trinity, will explain the geographic history. Parking will be provided nearby. The walk will start and end at the same spot. The trail is well marked with orange tape.

3. Approval of Minutes:

September 5, 2017 Meeting: M. Eremita moved to approve. R. Neil seconded. With the correction of "Nowak" to "Nowek" in item 4, the minutes were approved 5:0:0.

4. Correspondence: None.

5. Unfinished Business: None.

G. Marrion moved to move item 10, Appointments, to precede item 6, New Business. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

10. Appointments: Andrew Macomber, 60 Notch Road, spoke about his professional and personal interest in the energy efficiency field, as well as his experience with heat calculations and sustainability. M. Eremita moved to appoint A. Macomber to the Energy Commission for a term ending 7/1/19. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

S. Pierog moved to appoint Susan Depold as Land Record Auditor, filling the vacancy left by Nancy Silverstein when she passed away. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the Municipal Representative and Alternate to the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service and setting terms for the positions. This will be discussed at the August meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. **Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:** G. Marrion reported a response was received to the recent request for amenities for the trail. The Trails Committee recommended that a split rail fence not be put up in some areas for maintenance and safety reasons. The sign will not fit the additional wording requested. Black vinyl fencing will cost double the amount for regular silver fencing so that option was removed. The request for bike lockers and port-a-potties was that it become a DOT project so the town does not carry maintenance responsibility.

- b. **Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:** A letter from the state was received approving the drawdown for 2017. K. Welch, 51 Vernon Road, Lake Commissioner, reported the lake is looking good. It is green but that is okay for this time of year. There is some algae. Clarity is at 2 meters. The Friends of Bolton Lake are meeting October 19 at 7:00pm, at Newhoca Lodge in Vernon. Robert Thorson will be speaking.
 - c. **FY 18 Budget:** The town is 24.37% expensed compared to 24.90% in FY17 and 23.57% in FY16. The tax collection summary through August 31st was distributed showing 98.97% collection of the budgeted amount.
 - d. **Consider and Act on Joint Community Application Cooperation Agreement CT Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program:** M. Eremita moved to join Coventry, Ashford, Columbia, Tolland, Union, and Willington in applying for the grant program and approve the resolution presented in attachment A. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0. A public hearing will be held in the Coventry Town Hall Annex on October 16 at 7:00pm.
 - e. **Discussion on Temporary Health Care Structures:** Robert Morra shared that a new law that went into effect on October 1st approves temporary health care structures in Towns. Towns automatically allow them unless the Town takes action to opt out which some communities have done. The legislation is fairly detailed. The Planning and Zoning Commission will also be discussing the temporary health care structures. The BOS agreed to wait for the Planning and Zoning Commission's discussion on the topic.
 - f. **State Plan of Conservation and Development:** The BOS reviewed the updated plan and supported comments made by staff on potential changes to the plan.
 - g. **Consider and Act on Budget Transfers and/or Appropriation Requests:** None.
7. **Ongoing Business:**
- a. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - Finance and Administration: The Committee raised a Tax Deferral Program for discussion. The plan was to help prevent senior citizens from having to leave their homes due to tax increases. Instead there would be a tax lien due with 2% interest upon the house changing hands. It would not apply to motor vehicles. There was discussion on adjustment to the age criteria, language, and the need for additional information on the impact to the town budget. S. Pierog advised against the town being the primary lien holder.
 - Robert DePietro, 32 Bayberry Road, asked if there was a timeline for the proposal to get through discussion to a decision. It would take several months and require a public hearing since it would be a new ordinance. S. Pierog recommended the hearing be combined with action to implement the tax deferral for Gold Star Families, which the

state passed recently.

Mary Terhune, 40 School Road, recommended that assets be considered in addition to income for qualifying criteria.

- b. Properties and Facilities:** Four proposals were submitted for the Notch Road Municipal Center Engineer. The BOS agreed all four firms are to be interviewed.

All STEAP grants are on hold through the governor's office due the budget.

- c. Revenue Sources:** The mil rate on motor vehicles is still dependent on the state budget, which should be known around the end of the month.

8. First Selectman's Report:

- a. 2+2+2 Meeting:** R. Morra reported that general agreement has been reached about sharing personnel on both town and school sides, and discussion is beginning to move towards planning for changes. S. Pierog asked who was keeping records for the group. R. Morra said the meetings have been informal brainstorming and not public, minutes have not been taken, but Joyce would have most of the relevant data and notes. S. Pierog thought notes should be taken as the meetings became more substantive, to have a record of details. The BOS was in agreement that the discussion now merited more recordkeeping.
- b. Natural Gas Line:** R. Morra shared that the library, town hall, and trooper's house conversion will soon be completed. CNG is still working on the line on Route 44 and individual connections.
- c. Hebron Road:** Residents were concerned about traffic speed and asked that the town look into signs. R. Morra stated that staff is gathering information and suggested perhaps some traffic calming measures could be implemented in the area. The Public Safety subcommittee will discuss after receipt of information from staff.
- d. 300th Anniversary Committee:** R. Morra reported that Eileen Stanley has agreed to be a co-chair with Pam Sawyer for the Town's 300th Anniversary Committee.

9. Administrative Officer's Report:

- a. CRCOG:** No update.
- b. COST:** A summary of new laws affecting municipalities was sent out for 2017.
- c. CCM:** No update.

10. Adjournment: M. Eremita moved to adjourn. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0. Meeting adjourned

at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.