

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on May 11, 2017, at the Town Hall with the First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. In attendance were: Selectmen Michael Eremita, Robert Neil, Gwen Marrion, and Sandra Pierog. Administrative Officer Joyce Stille was not present. A few members of the public attended.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:**  
None.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - a. **March 28, 2017 Meeting:** R. Neil moved to approve the minutes. M. Eremita seconded. The motion was withdrawn. G. Marrion moved to table both sets of minutes until the June 6 meeting. S. Pierog seconded. Vote 5:0:0.
  - b. **April 11, 2017 Special Meeting:** Tabled.
4. **Correspondence:**
  - a. **Letter received from Sharon Preuss regarding the Memorial Day Parade:** The Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10 a.m. at BCS. The ceremony will be at approximately 10:30 a.m. on the town green, or at the firehouse in case of rain.
5. **Unfinished Business:** None.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path and Path Extension:** M. Eremita reported that the next phase of the project would begin the next day. Everything will be made in the United States. Measures will be in place to protect area turtles. R. Morra reported the DOT is looking to hold a public meeting on the greenway project, final report on the "missing link" and a possible Notch Road realignment project. Coventry advertised the RFP for the former Route 6 properties (DEEP Grant) the end of last week, full copy of RFP is in readfile.  
  
A letter was received from Barbara Amodio and Sylvia Ounpuu with Bike Walk Bolton updates. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bike Trails Day, there will be a Hop River Ride from Bolton to Andover. They asked if it was possible to have a Port-a-Pot on site for the event. G. Marrion noted that the Bolton Land Trust is holding a bike and hike event on the same day, to begin at 3 p.m. at Notch pond, adding more numbers to the area. The BOS will plan to have a Port-a-Pot at the Notch trail that day and recommended using tick spray as ticks are bad this year.
  - b. **Lower Bolton Lake Status Report:** Shelly Jewell, 20 Lakeside Lane, appeared on behalf of the Friends of Bolton Lakes to request that the BOS send a letter to DEEP in

opposition to the catfish restocking. The BOS was in agreement that the town should pursue a multiyear plan regarding the stocking of catfish in the lake in order to ensure the lake recovers and retains stability long-term. S. Pierog moved to write to the DEEP requesting that they not stock in 2017 and, further, that they develop a 3 year plan on stocking or not stocking Lower Bolton Lake. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

Our consultant George Knoecklein is looking for public informational meeting for mid to end of June. He is finishing the report now. Recent visit to lake showed several areas of curly-leaf pondweed, he is looking at potential treatment.

- c. **FY 17 Budget Report:** The town is expensed at 72.77%. The state government may hold back grant and aid funds that have not yet been disbursed. Bolton has received most of its aid already and would only be looking at about a \$12,000-\$15,000 loss.
- d. **FY 18 Budget:** The referendum is May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The BOS advocates that the public turn out and vote.
- e. **Consider and Act on Budget Transfer and/or Appropriation Requests:** The BOS reviewed the following transfers: in the Fire Commission Budget, \$900.00 from Other Contracts to Repairs, \$4,500.00 from Purchased Services to Equipment, and \$4,800.00 from Purchased Services to Uniforms. In Waste Collection, \$3,000 was transferred from Contract to Purchasing Professional & Technical Services.
- f. **Consider and Act on 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Bolton Road Race:** M. Eremita moved to hold the Bolton Road Race on Sunday, March 11, 2018. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.
- g. **Consider and Act on Fund Revisions to Fund Balance Policy:** The BOS reviewed the BOF fund policy revision. For next fiscal year, the BOF allowed for \$226,000 to be put aside in reserve to buffer financial hardship. Previously, all surplus would flow into next years' reserve; this would cap the amount to flow into the next years' reserve at \$25,000, which is the traditional contingency amount. Any funds beyond that \$25,000 would move into cash surplus based on the revision to the policy. G. Marrion asked why BOS action was required on a BOF policy. R. Morra said the original policy was approved by both boards. M. Eremita moved to approve the revised policy. R. Neil seconded. Discussion followed. M. Eremita would like to see a provision noting that the change is to be temporary, for one year. S. Pierog agreed. Vote 4:1:0, S. Pierog against.
- h. **Consider and Act on Public Hearing for Storage, Disposal and Use of Hydraulic Fracturing Waste Ordinance:** R. Morra suggested that the BOS wait to set the public hearing until the state's restrictions were finalized, in case the state's restrictions went further than Bolton's. G. Marrion preferred to proceed as the final result of the state restrictions is unknown. S. Pierog agreed, preferring to have something in place and be sure of the state's direction before changing the town's. M. Eremita thought there was

no harm in moving forward with the hearing. S. Pierog moved to hold the public hearing at 7:00 p.m., June 6, 2017, and to add that item to the June 6<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting agenda.

- i. **Consider and Act on Refinancing of the Bolton High School Project Bonds:** The BOS discussed pursuing a refinancing of the BHS project bonds, which was advised by Independent Bond & Investment Consultants, LLC. A brief overview presentation had been distributed to the BOS as to the potential savings from the refinancing. S. Pierog asked for more details on exactly how refinancing would achieve the lower total expense promised. No action taken.

The BOS took a recess at 7:54 p.m. and resumed at 7:56 p.m.

## 7. Ongoing Business:

### a. Subcommittee Reports:

**Finance and Administration:** The F&A subcommittee recommended a bidding process for full revaluation be waived. They recommended authorizing the First Selectman and Administrative Officer to negotiate a contract with Vision for revaluation. Process to be used would be data mailers which would go out to each property for verification. If the form is not returned, the revaluation company would do an inspection. M. Eremita moved to authorize the First Selectman and Administrative Officer to waive the bidding process and to negotiate a contract with Vision for revaluation. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

### b. Properties and Facilities:

**High School Project:** R. Morra reported that a packet of information from the town has been given to the administrative contact at the state Department of Education, who will be going through both the town and state documents. The state contact has found that they are missing 2 out of their 3 boxes on the project. R. Morra said he and Joyce Stille have also met with legislators to attach change order approvals to an upcoming bill, which allows them to be approved without the complete materials. The legislators said it was a common procedure.

**Heritage Farm:** S. Pierog reported that the repair for the milk room roof support has been determined. We are still waiting for the contractor to finalize the painting as well.

- c. **Revenue Sources:** The STEAP grant was applied for, but the town will not hear back for a while. Given the state fiscal situation, the STEAP grant direction is unknown.

## 8. First Selectman's Report:

- a. **Board of Selectmen Special Meeting May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** M. Eremita moved to hold a BOS Special Meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:05 p.m., to set a second referendum date if needed, address the bonding resolution, and address budget transfers. R. Neil seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

- b. **Cistern:** M. Eremita said two alternate recommendations were made for a cistern location- the first, would be the Fire Department training area, and the second, would be the town green. Facilities and Public Safety Subcommittee meeting will be on Monday at 9:30 a.m. to discuss location.
- c. **Shared Services Meeting to be held May 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m., BHS Commons:** No action.

**9. Administrative Officer's Report:**

- a. **CRCOG:** Crumbling Foundations - Little has been done regarding foundations because of the state budget discussions.  
Electronic Document Management System – as previously reported Bolton one of 7 pilot towns for project through state grant funds, after months of work, contractor selected and actual Town meetings will be started for project implementation
- b. **COST:** Very busy monitoring legislative action and impacts on small towns, one proposal raised was to eliminate Town Aid Road (Bolton receives just over \$200,000 per year) and let towns charge \$25 to \$50 per vehicle instead, Bolton would lose some funding at \$25 per vehicle but would gain revenue at \$50 per vehicle. For right now the issue is dead. Many budget items are being discussed but the negative change in state revenue for current year has made this bad situation only worse.

Administrative Officer's goals have been distributed. Comments are needed by May 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions may be directed to M. Eremita, G. Marrion, or R. Morra.

**10. Appointments:** None.

**11. Executive Session: Land Acquisition:**

M. Eremita moved to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition at 8:21 p.m. G. Marrion seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

Executive session ended at 8:30 p.m. A motion was made by M. Eremita, seconded by S. Pierog, to authorize the First Selectman Robert Morra and Administrative Officer Joyce Stille to proceed with a contract on the land adjacent to current Town property for open space purposes that will include a deed restriction for open space as defined by CT General Statute 12- 107b. Vote 5:0:0.

**12. Adjournment:** B. Neil moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. M. Eremita seconded. Vote 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benitez, Recording Secretary

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

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