

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022**  
**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
**MINUTES**

The Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> with First Selectman Pam Sawyer presiding. Also, in attendance were selectmen: Robert Morra, Adam Teller, Mike Eremita and Robert DePietro; Interim Administrative Office Jim Rupert and Kathy McCavanagh.

Members of the public present were: CVC channel, John Mancini, Ron and Deb Beaudoin, Linda Lavigne, Stephanie Berry, Irene Striobe, Leslie Alexander, Dave Beauchamp, Barry Stearns, Dave McNerney and Gerry Varney.

**1. Call to Order.**

P. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

**2. Public Comment.**

J. Mancini (11 Cook Drive): Looking for the town to create a noise ordinance. Noise levels are being created unintentionally in the neighborhood. Grandkids are deathly scared of the noise when they are outside. Noise level is much less when you are up on Notch Road driving by.

Ron Beaudoin (2 Cook Drive): Firearm discharge happening at all times of day/night. Over 200 shots in 2 hours last Friday. We are in a residential area. RST has confirmed that the resident is acting within the safety guidelines provided and there is nothing they can do about this. The noise level from the gunshots in our neighborhood is 10x over the decibel level of what it is should be per the state. DEEP approval is no longer needed for a noise ordinance as of 7/1/2022. Over 60 towns in the state currently have municipal noise ordinances. The Board of Selectman needs to come up with a noise ordinance for our town. We want a quick solution to this. Everyone is suffering. Waiting a month for some type of solution is unacceptable.

Deb Beaudoin (2 Cook Drive): shared a video from her phone showing the noise level of the gun shots while sitting on her deck. Her dog is petrified when the noise starts happening.

Linda Lavigne (10 Cook Drive): This is extreme pet cruelty. Vet has had to prescribe sedatives for her dog to keep him calm when the shooting happens.

Irene Striobi (5 Notch Ext.): Her two dogs are petrified of the noise. This is too close to home.

Leslie Alexander (186 Bolton Center Rd): Here to support the Beaudoin's. I have been on their property when shooting has happened and agree we need to look at how to handle this.

Dave Beauchamp (48 Notch Road): He is the person shooting on his own property. Wanted to come and let everyone in the neighborhood know he is open to talking and find ways to be reasonable about this. Open to talking to with anyone after the meeting. RST has come out and viewed his property and has said it is safe. Just so everyone is aware as well – he is shooting towards his own house.

Barry Stearns (21 Cook Drive): Lived at this address over 41 years. His property is 200 feet from the property line. He is very concerned about what is happening and everyone's safety. Called Troop K and dispatcher asked if any bullets had hit his home? He answered no, and she told him there is nothing they can do. July 3, 2022 came home from fireworks to hear shooting start at 10 p.m. According to the homeowner's property card they own 7.5 acres but where he's shooting is the town right of way.

Dave McNerney (10 Cook Drive): Wants everyone here to know he has been invited on to D. Beauchamp's property and observed that he is at a safe range with the shooting. RST Diaz also confirmed it was safe and that he's shooting towards his own house. McNerney felt it was his moral obligation to share this information with everyone. He has observed Beauchamp shooting safely and at a safe range and he himself does not have a problem with it. (Former National Guardsman).

Jerry Vernie (20 Cook Drive): Does not see a safety issue. Does not think the shooting is loud. His wife, kids and dog think nothing of the noise.

Barry Stearns (21 Cook Drive): Wants to discuss the Notch Road/384 Intersection. There was a plan from the DOT to go through the quarry and fix this but there was no money. It is a non-compliant intersection. Now there is all this infrastructure money being offered. Where is Bolton's piece of this infrastructure money to fix this. We need to approach DOT and get this done.

John Mancini (11 Cook Drive): it's a very dangerous intersection and I almost had a 4 car collision the other day.

**3. Approval of Minutes.**

- A. June 7, 2022 – Special Meeting w/BHF.
- B. June 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting.
- C. June 21, 2022 – Special Meeting A/P.
- D. June 24, 2022 – Special Meeting.
- E. June 30, 2022 – Special Meeting A/P.

**Motion:** I move, we move the approval of all the minutes to the next meeting.

By: R. Morra                                      2<sup>nd</sup> R. DePietro

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

**4. Appointments and Resignations.**

**A. Resignation – B. Johnson (Buildings and Grounds)**

B.Johnson has accepted a position with the Town of Columbia DPW where he can use his CDL. This is a loss for Bolton but we thank him for his service and wish him well.

**B. Veterans Commission – term dates and appointments.**

- a) Kathy Walsh.
- b) Berry Stearns.
- c) Paul Toomey.

**Motion:** I move we accept Kathy Walsh and Barry Stearns as full members and Paul Toomey as an alternate member to the Veteran's Commission.

By: R. Morra                                      2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

**5. Reports & Updates.**

**A. Properties and Facilities Report.**

- a) Consider and Act on 15 Vernon Road, Blind Driveway and Possible Speed Limit Sign.  
J. Rupert visited the location and does not feel it's a blind driveway and the homeowner agrees since mowing has been done. J. Rupert feels we need to post a speed limit sign since there is none on Vernon Road coming from 44.

**b) Cemetery Maintenance.**

Jim and Kathy have been out to look at both cemeteries a couple times in the past couple of months. Mowing and trimming appear to be better. G&G Property Services has

started charging us a fuel surcharge due to the increase in cost of materials (fuel). The increase is 10% which is equaling out to \$500/month for fuel. Mowing is to occur 2x/month. They are using a 40 HP mower. J. Rupert has asked for a spreadsheet showing the amount of fuel being used to justify the cost. This is an insane amount for fuel when they are not even mowing every week; which they claimed to have been doing. Jim and Kathy disagree with this.

M. Eremita does not think they are doing a great job and can't be using more than 10-15 gallons of fuel per month.

It has been discussed that we will only be paying the original negotiated bill at this time until we see the spreadsheet and info asked for.

P. Sawyer reported that the new flagpole has been put up at Quarryville and would like to have a small dedication for that and the new signs on Veteran's Day.

## **B. FY 21 Budget Report.**

### **a) Current Budget**

**Motion:** I move we accept the A/P report to tonight's agenda as 5B b).

By: A.Teller 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

### **b) A/P Report**

**Motion:** I move we accept the A/P report as presented.

By: A.Teller 2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

## **C. Budget Transfers.**

These budget transfers have already been put through. This is just for informational purposes for the BOS.

Fire Commission	\$90.00	from Travel to Dues	(for DMV fees)
Fire Commission	\$2,250	Fire Security to Equipment (lights for alarm system-Dodge Ram)	
Fire Commission	\$450	Travel to Other Supplies	(annual banquet)
Fire Commission	\$250	Communication to Professional Svcs	(member physicals)
Elections	\$800	Prof/Educ Training to Office Operating Supplies	( 2 referendums)
Library	\$200	Technical to Library Materials	(Newspapers, books, audio/vis)
Town Clerk	\$260	Office Supplies to Advertising	(referendum legal notices)
Admn to BOF	\$17.10	From Other Payroll to Other Payroll	(BOF clerk payroll- extra meetings)
Fire Commission	\$450	Payroll to Other supplies	
Fire Commission	\$250	Payroll to Other Professional Svcs	

## **6. Ongoing Business:**

### **A. Review Cannabis Ordinance with changes made.**

Per J. Rupert we have already completed the other part of the Cannabis Ordinance. Statute requires us to have a hearing officer for any citations issued and the document that was in the agenda packet was

forwarded to us from our attorney. This is what the Town of Woodbridge has come up with. We have just gone through and revised this copy to reflect Town of Bolton's name.

Question: Do other town's having hearing officers? R. DePietro offered to do some more research on this if needed. This is to be moved to the next BOS meeting.

A.Teller said he would not back this cannabis ordinance or any other for that matter.

## **B. Discuss Veteran's Commission.**

### **a) Number of People on Commission (2R, 2D, 2U)?**

R. DePietro stated that party affiliation has nothing to do with this cause.

M. Eremita recommended a commission consisting of five (5) people – affiliation should not matter.

**Motion:** I move we establish a Veteran's Commission with 5 regular and 2 alternates and no more than 4 are to be of the same party affiliation.

By: A.Teller

2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Morra

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

### **b) Term length – half should be 4 year term and the other half should be 2 year?**

**Motion:** I move the Veteran's Commission members have a 4 year staggered term. 3 regular members will start with a 4 year term, 2 regular members will start with a 2 year term and alternates will serve 4 year.

By: A.Teller

2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Morra

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

### **c) Mission Statement.**

**Motion:** I move the newly formed Veteran's Commission create a mission statement and the Board of Selectman will the advisory committee to this commission.

By: R. DePietro

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

## **7. New Business.**

### **A. Consider and Act on Re-Appointing C. Concatelli as Municipal Agent for the Elderly and Term (2 year term starting 7/1/2022).**

**Motion:** I move we reappoint Carrie Concatelli as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly for a two (2) year term beginning July 1, 2022.

By: R. Morra

2<sup>nd</sup>: R.DePietro

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

## **B. Discussion and Possible Action on Heritage Farm Master Site Plan.**

The BHF Commission has been asked to provide the BOS with a written Master Plan for review before the August BOS meeting.

M. Eremita asked if we could get some type of estimate for payback on this site after the town has invested in it.

## **C. Consider and Act on Being Able to Vote Via Zoom.**

It's hard to validate voter's voting electronically. It takes a lot of time to validate people during a zoom meeting. There does not appear to be an easy solution to this.

R. Morra – for a Town meeting we have a set motion. Can we submit an absentee ballot?

R. DePietro will research this through and A.Teller suggested we look at other meeting platforms such as MS Teams which might make this easier for us.

It was suggested that we register people at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so we can pre-verify their account via their email address and them signing up.

It's very time consuming to verify many people online and then sending info out to all these people. Maybe every 2 years we pre-verify email addresses for all residents and email them about the meetings.

More research is needed on this – maybe we can ask those interested in vote via zoom to research this.

## **8. First Selectman's Report.**

### **A. COVID-19.**

2 new milder forms of COVID now spreading.

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

### **A. Monthly Report.**

- AARP Grant was issued to the Senior Center for Pickleball Courts (funds have been received)
- Lower Bolton Lake was treated for algae and INP is currently open. Thank you to our RST's for working July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend at the park and making sure everything ran smoothly.
- Thank you Kathy and BOS for getting the VOTE TODAY signs and putting them out on each referendum date; and thank you to Amanda Gordon who stood out and waved at traffic off exit 5 to get people to vote!

### **B. STEAP Grant - Application due by 8/15/2022 with 20% match.**

Bolton is eligible for this grant but we do not have to opt in.

R. Morra had two ideas where we might be able to use this grant:

1. Community septic system to service town hall, library, trooper's office and BHF. Septic is close to being ready, we just need an updated cost. (\$300-\$350K). This is more of a priority than athletic fields/track which have been brought up previously.

A.Teller brought up that pricing for soccer fields/track are around \$2 million

R. DePietro will NOT support athletic fields or a track.

P. Sawyer – the septic project is shovel ready – we can look at the YWCA rooms and apply for that next year if we were still interested.

2. Behind the Sr. Center where the YWCA was taking up space. Make these two classrooms and hallway into one large meeting area with a divider. This area would need to be ADA compliant then we could use it for meeting space and a polling place. Would we be able to get an architect concept before August 15<sup>th</sup> for this?

**Motion:** I move we apply for the STEAP Grant for a community septic system that will service the town municipal buildings at the town center.

By: R. Morra

2<sup>nd</sup>: R. DePietro

P. Sawyer just received info today about prevailing wage threshold change from 2017. Currently it remains at \$100,000 for renovations and repair but it has been increased to 1 million dollars for new construction. This septic project would fall under new construction and would fall under the million dollar threshold.

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

**C. TRIP Grant.**

J. Rupert just wanted to make everyone aware of this grant. It is VERY COMPETITIVE. 50% of eligible towns are given money for culvert/bridge replacement. We'd be looking at Hebron or Lyman Road for this. This grant does not require it to be a "feeder road". Hebron and Lyman Roads are shovel ready projects. Funds spent already on these for review will be considered a match.

**D. Other.**

J. Rupert very excited the grant application from the Hartford Public Foundation of Giving is now open (\$10,000).

- a) **Resolution for Student Activity Fund** – this is a corrective action from an audit finding on the account balance and the given language has already been agreed upon.

**Motion:** I move adopt the Resolution for the Student Activity Fund.

By: R. Morra

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: A. Teller

- b) **Resolution to Honor Bruce N. Amundsen On His Retirement.**

**Motion:** I move we adopt the Resolution to Honor Bruce N. Amundsen upon his retirement from the Town of Bolton.

By: R. DePietro

2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Morra

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None  
Abstain: None

Bruce was known as the McGyver of our town. He could figure out how to put anything together. Good guy, great worker and friend.

10. **Executive Session: Discussion on Personnel Evaluation-Interim Administrative Officer.**

**Motion:** I move the BOS now go into executive session and include Jim Rupert and Kathy McCavanagh in the executive session. Executive Session began at 9:17 p.m.

By: R Morra

2<sup>nd</sup>: R. DePietro

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

**Motion:** I move the executive session end and we go back to the regular BOS meeting as of 9:44 p.m.

By: R Morra

2<sup>nd</sup>: R. DePietro

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

Personnel subcommittee to meet to discuss the review process for the Interim Administrative Officer.

11. **Adjournment.**

**Motion:** I move we adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:45 p.m.

By: R Morra

2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Eremita

Vote:

Yes: R. Morra, M. Eremita, A. Teller, R. DePietro, Pam Sawyer

No: None

Abstain: None

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Kathy McCavanagh*

*PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO*