

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
6:00 PM, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024  
BOLTON TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD  
In-Person and Virtual (Hybrid Format)**

**MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Members Present In-Person:** First Selectman Rodney Fournier, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra, Mather Clarke, Gwen Marrion, Amanda Gordon

**Board of Selectmen Members Absent:** Tim Sadler, Pamela Sawyer

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

**Staff Present In-Person:** Town Administrator James Rupert

**Others Present Via Zoom:** James Loersch

**1. Call to Order:** R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. Discussion on Retreat Results:**

A. Gordon shared a strategic planning work plan she created from discussion and facilitator comments at the retreat to help the members figure out what they want to do. She said what the group needs to establish are:

- what is the general goal,
- what are the next steps,
- who are they assigned to,
- what is the deadline,
- and what additional resources or groups/entities does the group need to accomplish.

R. Morra noted some of the projects can be considered extremely long-term, for example, improvement of the Rt 66 and 44 intersection for safety. After discussion, the members decided to have the Town Administrator work with the town's representatives from the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to get a meeting with the new BOS and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) in September to see what DOT's plan is and what the town of Bolton's vision is.

The selectmen discussed having R. Fournier invite the Chairs of the land use boards to a joint meeting with the BOS for late May or early June. They discussed scheduling a separate meeting with the Board of Education and the Finance Committee prior to the start of the next budget season, possibly late September or early October. The consensus of the board was to have R. Fournier reach out to the BOE Chair to find out his board's availability to participate in a joint meeting with the BOS and Finance Committee to set up a meeting to discuss the future of the schools.

The selectmen discussed getting live streaming of town meetings. The Town Administrator will check with the Community Voice Channel to find out if they live stream through their Youtube channel in addition to broadcasting the meetings.

G. Marrion listed topics she would like to tackle at this meeting:

- Establish Town Hall and community space task force:

J. Rupert said a few years ago, students from UCONN did a design plan for a free-standing town hall, including a 3D computer model that could be built anywhere in the town. He said they had a good start on the space necessary for the employees. J. Rupert believes this design plan would be good for a committee as a starting point. A. Gordon commented that the town does not want to put itself on a track to build a new town hall and then make the decision that having a high school is not sustainable and the town is going to go regional and not use the high school building. She said that would be irresponsible and believes the board needs to make these big decisions together rather than sequentially. A. Gordon said the two boards need to come together to lay out all the options. The members selected a committee comprised of R. Fournier, M. Clarke and G. Marrion and possibly other staff and community members to look at the UCONN design plan and produce a list of what the board would want to include for community space. G. Marrion will ask James Loersch if he would like to serve on this committee as well. J. Rupert will provide the committee with the UCONN plan, when located.

- Route 6 and 44 intersection (already discussed)

- Identify staff person whose job it is to bring economic development and business to Bolton: G. Marrion said she would like to have a discussion about the contract of the town's Director of Community Development. J. Rupert said her contract is pretty broad in its scope and will go for a few more years. A. Gordon suggested the board needs to have a better understanding of how she is currently spending her hours allotted and then the board needs to assess if her time is best spent there or elsewhere or if she is willing to take on more hours. J. Rupert noted, in some ways, the zoning regulations continue to be an obstacle to businesses moving to town. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission is currently working with Patrice Carson and Michael D'Amato on simplifying the zoning and subdivision regulations. The selectmen asked if P. Carson could track interest in town properties including how many businesses were interested in what property and a bulleted list of these were the barriers and report back to the board quarterly. J. Rupert also said property development is going to be limited without city water. Discussion followed on the difficulties associated with bringing multi-unit housing to town.

- Meet with area town police departments on the possibility of having a combined police force:

J. Rupert suggested having one or two Resident State Troopers and contract with another town, like Coventry or Vernon, to provide in-town coverage during those times when the State Troopers are not on duty. He said there is no mutual aid for the police department unless the situation is severe. Consensus of the board was to have the Town Administrator reach out to various town leadership to see if there is the opportunity to share services, starting with Vernon and Tolland and report back to the board by the end of the year.

The board discussed the issue of extending public water up Route 44. R. Fournier said he has spoken with Manchester Town Manager Steve Stephanou and he would be happy to have a sit-down at some point. J. Rupert explained, under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, (CWSRF), the U.S. EPA provides grants to capitalize state CWSRF programs. Communities apply for CWSRF assistance to plan, design, and construct water quality projects. The program aims to protect public health, preserve aquatic resources, and meet environmental standards. The states contribute an additional 20% to match the federal grants. J. Rupert said a Manchester Water Company engineer (Bolton resident) worked with the

UCONN School of Engineering to design a water system coming into Bolton from Manchester to Bolton Notch. That project had a price tag of \$3-\$5 million dollars. A subcommittee was formed including R. Fournier, J. Rupert, R. Morra (representing the BLRWPCA) and P. Carson (to help develop public/private partnerships to possibly cover part of the town's 20% of the grant) to continue the conversation with Manchester.

J. Rupert said the board needs to keep talking about the solid waste issue and how to keep organics out of the waste stream. He said he asked Rod Parlee, Chair of the Conservation Commission and Bentley Memorial Library Director Elizabeth Thornton to help develop a new educational program to include composting but the initiative fizzled after an initial meeting with the educator who is part of the town's contract with All American Waste. Discussion followed on the complexities of setting up a composting program. A subcommittee was formed including R. Parlee, E. Thornton, and A. Gordon.

A. Gordon said she will distribute her spreadsheets to the selectmen with the notes included from tonight's meeting.

**3. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

*Linda H. McDonald*

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