

**BOLTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FACILITIES & PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE  
Special Meeting  
6:20 p.m. TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 (following the BOS Special A/P meeting)  
BOLTON TOWN HALL, 222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD  
In-Person and Virtual (Hybrid Format)**

**MINUTES**

**Facilities & Safety Subcommittee Members Present In-Person:** First Selectman Rodney Fournier, Selectmen Gwen Marrion, Tim Sadler and Pamela Sawyer

**Staff Present In-Person:** Grounds Supervisor John Butrymovich

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Town Administrator James Rupert, Recording Secretary Linda H. McDonald

**Others Present In-Person:** Selectman Mather Clarke, Selectman Tim Sadler, Selectman Gwen Marrion, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra, Bolton Historical Society President John Toomey, Recreation Director Stephanie Crane, Bolton Veterans Commission Vice Chair Barry Stearns

**1. Call to Order:** R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**2. Discussion on Cubles Drive:**

R. Morra reported he had a chance to go back and research what the town did or did not do regarding this topic, by talking with two former Highway Foremen for the town. He learned that this piece of Cubles Drive was never considered a town road and the same ownership issues existed then as now. He said, back in the 1980's, the town did put a site surface on the road, which was dirt at that time for public safety emergency vehicle access. R. Morra noted the town did maintenance on Cubles Drive for the specific reason of public safety. He noted that road also has school buses. His suggestion is that the town does not have to own the road but should maintain it to a level that would provide safe passages for emergency vehicles and buses.

R. Morra said, when the sewer authority re-did the road, they put in a decent base underneath and did a normal paving job.

T. Sadler said he wants to be sure there are not any liabilities for the town.

P. Sawyer suggested having the town attorney look into eminent domain of the 192 feet of Cubles Drive and make it stand up appropriately and legally because the former ownership is an association that is defunct. The town assumes it on the ground the town needs to maintain it for public safety.

G. Marrion said she supports the idea of eminent domain and there should be something in the town records. She does not think this would set a precedence because Cubles Drive is a through street and not a little road servicing a few houses.

Discussion followed on pursuing eminent domain and the possible requirement of an easement on the road.

P. Sawyer recommended the subcommittee ask the town attorney to review the state statues regarding eminent domain. She said the premise of eminent domain is for the public good. She recommended the subcommittee ask the Town Administrator to go back to the town's legal counsel and bring forward the steps for what is required.

G. Marion added to the recommendation by asking whether eminent domain would result in the Town of Bolton taking legal title in a fee interest in the section of the road.

J. Rupert commented town hall staff found a deed where ownership is clear and it belongs to an association that no longer exists. To be done properly, a title search would be needed to ensure this is the last recorded deed. The association would have to be re-formed. Discussion followed on the possibility that the association could be re-formed.

P. Sawyer MOVED that the subcommittee ask the Town Attorney what it would take for eminent domain and a document that would address the width of Cubles Drive. R. Fournier SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

P. Sawyer MOVED that the subcommittee ask the Town Attorney to look into what would be necessary for the re-establishment of the original association with the current landowners. G. Marrion SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

- 3. Discussion on Veterans Commission Request for Monument:** B. Stearns and J. Toomey were invited to the table for this discussion. He explained that the Bolton Veterans Commission was asked to research the placing a monument on the town green to honor the Bolton men and women who served during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the American Civil War, as there is no monument. B. Stearns said his preference is to have one granite plaque on one monument for all three wars. Any monument would need approval from the Board of Selectmen.

P. Sawyer said types of funds, as the Founders Day fund, could be used if there is an event and believes the placing of a monument with a dedication ceremony is eventful. She thought the town could justify using money from the Founders Day fund for the permanent memorial and dedication ceremony.

J. Butrymovich described a location on the site he thought would be suitable for a bronze boulder monument. Discussion followed on the placement of and type of monument. The plaque would cost about \$3,000 and there would be no individual names on it.

J. Toomey stressed to the committee that nothing should be planted around any of the monuments to avoid encroachment on the monuments. He asked that the board consider putting the names of those who fought on the back of the existing monument at the site.

P. Sawyer recommended that the subcommittee send back to the Veterans Commission consideration of the two ideas, 1) J. Butrymovich's idea to place a bronze boulder in the back of the site and 2) J. Toomey's suggestion of possibly back carving on the existing stone on the site and then have them come back to the committee with their recommendation of whether to do an open thank you to all who served the town of Bolton or individual recognition.

**4. Discussion on Indian Notch Park:**

**4.a Once a vehicle has exited the Park, they lose their parking spot and must pay again to re-enter the same day:**

**4.b Allowing additional cars into the Park one another vehicle has exited the Park:**

J. Butrymovich explained that when Notch Park fills up, the gates are closed for the day and no more cars are let in. Buying a season pass does not guarantee entrance into the park. The number of people let in on a given day is dictated by the number of lifeguards on duty. He noted the most times the park was closed in the recent past was four times in the 2018 and 2019 seasons. He said most people who get in spend the entire day at the park.

Discussion followed on the feasibility and effort required to keep track of cars leaving the park, the number of people in that car and how to let in an equal number of people waiting per car.

S. Crane said her personal opinion is to go with what works best for the grounds personnel who staff the gate and collect the fees.

After a recommendation from P. Sawyer, the consensus was that the subcommittee would not forward this issue to the board and the town would continue with the existing policy.

T. Sadler added that J. Butrymovich and S. Crane have given this issue thought and have a balance on how important it is and is it an issue that it is worth changing rules for and how changing one policy impacts how everybody else sees it.

Regarding agenda item 4.a, J. Butrymovich said the current system of keeping track of cars by ticket leaving and re-entering the park on a given day is working.

**5. Adjournment:** T. Sadler MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. P. Sawyer SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

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.*