**Select Board Meeting Minutes May 9, 2022 Zoom Teleconference 5:30 pm**

**Call to Order**: Bob Manners called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Margaret Payne, Andrew Baker, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** A motion was put forth by Margaret to approve the minutes of April 25. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Village Task Force** – Andrew reported that the Task Force has had its first meeting and plans to meet once a month. The group is at full strength except for a Town of Buckland representative. The group worked on ideas or communicating with both the local public and the visiting public.

**Energy Committee** – Andrew met with the Mohawk Building Committee to start exploring the idea of installing solar panels on the Mohawk roof.

**Highway Department** – Bids for the Little Mohawk Road project will be opened next Tuesday. Land owners along the road are being contacted regarding temporary storage space for materials during constriction.

**Senior Center** – Margaret said that four people had been interviewed for the Outreach Coordinator position and that three of them had been invited for a tour of the Center.

**Appointments:**

**6:00 Ancient Glacier, LLC RE: Draft Lease of 19-23 Bridge Street** (Josh Simpson, Jon Stark) – Josh said that the owners of the property feel it makes sense to turn the area into a park. Josiah Simpson had made a tentative landscape plan which would include space for up to nine picnic tables, a stage area, and seating along a retaining wall. It was agreed that the area would need shade of some sort, either trees, or perhaps a pavilion. The town has received a grant for outdoor furniture that can be used at the site. Andrew asked for clarification on what would happen if either party were to end the agreement and also on the expected payment to the owners. Terry said that Town Meeting would only be approving the negotiation of a lease, not the details, but the rental amount will be needed to that funds can be appropriated. Ancient Glacier LLC wants all taxes and insurance to be covered by the town. They will work on coming up with an annual rent payment in time for the next Selectboard meeting. Profit sharing was discussed. The town does not expect to profit from the area. The only profit sharing might come about oi there was a windfall, such as a movie company paying a large sum to use the site. It was suggested that the area be called the Salmon Falls Park.

**Old Business:**

**Pre-Town Meeting Forum, May 26 at 6:30 pm Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School Cafeteria** – Terry said that the Planning Board will have someone at the forum to answer questions about the proposed bylaw changes. The town now has the technology to conduct hybrid meetings. The forum will be hybrid, people may attend in person or by Zoom. Andrew plans to put out an extra edition of the town newsletter to explain the hybrid format. Warrant articles will also be in the newsletter.

**Senior Center Outreach Coordinator Position –** Four people had been interviewed for the Outreach Coordinator position and three of them had been invited for a tour of the Center. The recommendation of the Senior Center staff was to offer the position to Theodore Doucette of Greenfield at a rate of $23/hour. Margaret, who had participated in the interview process, supported the hiring of “Teddy” Doucette. A motion was made by Andrew to approve the hiring of Theodore “Teddy” Doucette as Senior Center Outreach Coordinator at a rate of $23 per hour. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Ancient Glacier, LLC RE: Draft Lease of 19-23 Bridge Street** – See 6 pm appointment.

**New Business:**

**Paula Morse RE: Resignation as Assistant Assessor – Effective May 12 –** A motion was put forth by Andrew to accept the letter of resignation from Paula Morse as Assistant Assessor. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0. Advertising to fill the position has already started since the notice was short. Paula has offered to come in on weekends to help out. Mayflower has offered to come in one day per week to help. Mayflower also offers transitional assistance including help with interviewing and on-site training of a new employee. They have not given a quote as yet. Two new assessors will be elected in June and the third assessor has only been on for a year. The Board felt hiring Mayflower might be the best idea but the decision was tabled until a price quote is received.

**Margaret Payne RE: Disclosure of Conflict of Interest** – Margaret has been approached by someone who felt her role as a Selectboard member might be in conflict with her position on the Senior Center Foundation Board. Margaret has discussed this with the state Ethics Commission. Bob and Andrew said it was a good idea to make the disclosure but felt there was no conflict. The disclosure form will be filed with the Town Clerk with a note that it has been reviewed by the Selectboard.

**FY’20 CDBG Contract Amendment for Grant Administration Services** – Improvements to the Village Information Center will be made with ARPA funds and some unused CDBG funds. Linda Overing is seeking a contract extension and an additional $2,000 to oversee the project. A motion was made by Margaret to grant the contract amendment for grant administration services for the FY’20 CDBG. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Les Chadwick RE: Relocation of Veteran’s Memorial –** Years ago a Veteran’s Memorial was given to BSE by the American Legion and the veteran’s club. Les felt that the memorial has been forgotten and few even know it is there. Even school officials were unaware of the monument. Les asked if the town would be open to moving the monument to a more obvious location. Several, more visible, locations were mentioned. BSE, the American Legion and the veteran’s club will all be consulted about a possible move. The Board was supportive.

**Energy Committee RE: Request to Add Informational Insert to Tax Bills** – Unofficial comments seemed to indicate that people seemed happy to receive information along with their tax bills. It is a good way to reach a lot of people and the Board felt the **proposed** inert was appropriate.

**FY’23 Budget and Warrant Articles**– Two articles are still waiting to be added to the warrant. The article about the Community Preservation Fund is waiting for the final wording by the CPA Committee, and the article about the Ancient Glacier lease is waiting for Town Counsel approval. The article on the land exchange with Residences @ Mill Falls is still being worked on as well. Andrew had a question on a proposed bylaw change. Bylaw change questions will be answered by Planning Board members at the May 26 Pre-town Meeting Forum.

**ARPA Funds** – Terry has compiled a list of 10 possible uses for ARPA funds. Bob would prefer to wait until after Town Meeting to discuss this. ARPA funds total $549,092. Two projects, totaling $85,000 have already had ARPA funds committed. The projects are the Bridge Street sewer work and the renovations to the Village Information Center bathrooms.

Terry notified the Board that the town has taken custody of the condemned structure on upper Main Street, through the tax title process. She has been talking with the FRCOG bidding agent about the process of demolition. The town has to insure properties taken by tax title. The town could auction off several buildings as is, or demolish them. Demolition would require a hazardous materials study. Funds are available in several accounts.

**Memorial Day Parade Permit** – The VFW has applied for a parade permit for Memorial Day, May 30. Police approval is pending. The parade would start at McCusker’s Market, cross the Iron Bridge, proceed down Bridge, Main, and Hope Streets, to the Arms Cemetery. The Memorial Day Committee has been working hard to revitalize the town’s observance. A motion was made by Margaret to grant the parade permit to the VFW for the Memorial Day Parade on May 30, pending Police Department approval. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Any Other Business:** None

**Correspondence:**

**MassDOT RE: Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) - $162,446.12** – This money is similar to Chapter 90 funds in that it must be used for road maintenance or infrastructure repairs. The Highway Department has no specific plans for the funds. The plan is to wait until the bids come in for the Little Mohawk Road project. Some of the WRAP funds may be needed for that project. Otherwise there are several streets that need work where the funds could be used. It was noted that the town did not exceed the Snow & Ice budget this year.

**Public Comment:**

Julia Peters of Local Power spoke about the treatment of municipal solid waste and wastewater sewage. Local Power has been reaching alternatives to landfills and incineration and has come up with a process that converts waste into usable energy. It was suggested that Local Power meet with the Shelburne Falls Sewer Commissioners and the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

**Adjournment**: At 7:05 pm a motion was made by Andrew to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary