

**Board of Selectmen
June 18, 2018
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimás, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator
Rebekah DeCoursey, Temporary Assistant

Open Session

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Announcements

- M. Suprenant - Sturbridge will celebrate the American Revolutionary War with Music and Muskets on the Town Common on Saturday June 23.
- M. Dowling - Rick Hoyt run is September 9th, and they are looking for runners and sponsors for the event.
- M. Blanchard - the water ban is in effect between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

It was announced that the meeting was recorded by the Telegram and Gazette News.

6:35 p.m. Public Hearing: Right of First Refusal to Purchase two house lots at 236 Podunk Road. Two small house lots on Podunk Road that were formerly Chapter Land are being sold. The Planning Board has recommended not to act on the land.

The Board had no comments. The Public had no comments.

Motion: To close the public hearing. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

Motion: I move to waive the Town's right of first refusal for the building lots located as part of 236 Podunk Road. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Department Head Reports

Greg Morse - DPW Director

- April and May involved stump grinding, beginning plow damage repair.
- A chain link fence had rusted and fallen over at the dam at Big Alum. The original fence was installed in 1993. The fence has been repaired.
- The trails parking lot on Old Sturbridge Village Road start to finish came out beautiful.

- DPW has begun the street sweeping, but is a little behind schedule due to working on the new parking lot.
- There was a water main break on Hall Road that was repaired.
- With help with the Fire Department, pulleys on flag poles were replaced as needed throughout town.
- Annual bids were due May 29. Some items on the list did not come back with bids.

Motion: To approve the bids as presented. By P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

- McGilpin Road water study from Tighe & Bond presented three options:
 1. Fee from existing Sturbridge water system (cost of 8.1 million). This would use same chemicals that our system currently uses, which is better for overall water and waste water treatment in Town. The boost system upgrade would not need to be altered in this situation. For the highest water quality, the best option for water would come from Sturbridge.
 2. Fee from Southbridge water system (cost of 8.2 million) – Southbridge may not be up to this point of connection in their water lines, there could be a delay to go with this method of installation until they are connected to Sturbridge.
 3. In house treatment system with charcoal filters to appropriately filter out the contaminants common in this area. The systems would be installed and then would need to be fine-tuned with additional tests (quarterly, monthly, etc. – at this point exact timing is unknown) to be sure the charcoal filter is working correctly. Also, some minerals found in Sturbridge water clog the charcoal filters. Proper maintenance is essential. There are quite a few variables in this situation, particularly in regards to cost and maintenance.
- The next phase would be to find out how much this will actually cost the town.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the proposal from Tighe & Bond Geotechnical Services using \$36,000 of state funds. By P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 5-0

Shane Moody – Water and Sewer

- There was a water main break of a 12" water line on Hall Road that was dug up and repaired. There was a large rock under the pipe that caused the break.
- It appears the water ban will be through September.
- Fire hydrants were painted and repaired. All fire hydrants are functioning, but some will be replaced due to age.
- There was general clean up through pump stations and buildings throughout town
- There was a problem at waste water plant due to a glitch in software. One of the plants got wiped out and needed to be reseeded. It was offline for a week – bugs were brought in from other plants to help remediate the situation. The pH was very high, but there was no fish kill. All appropriate parties were notified. No citations were issued.

Annie Roscioli – Recreation Director

- The ice rink was out for about a month this winter, next year they will work to get it out earlier and hope for colder weather for longer.
- The Annual Ham Toss went very well. Thank you to Micknucks for donating the Hams.

- NYC April bus trip was a success, the weather was great and bus was full.
- End of April, volleyball and indoor basketball ended, will begin again in the fall. There was a high turnout overall. Exploring scheduled pickup games to use the courts.
- June brings the concert series. The first concert had a great turn out.
- Next Monday the summer recreation program begins. Current enrollment is 20.
- Mini-camp will run again this year for 2 weeks in July, starting the 16th.
- Tennis court and basketball court rehabilitation at the Recreation Area are complete. A huge thank you to Mark and Greg at DPW who made sure the project was done well.
- Senior Center will now offer pickle ball on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 and Tuesday 3-5 on the basketball courts. Pickle ball is up and rising in the community.
- Cedar Lake was treated on June 12, and is ready for swimming.
- Thank you for the Betterment Committee for helping Rec purchas a new ping pong table and handicap accessible picnic table.
- Recreation Committee is regrouping after the Annual Town Meeting. The Rec offered babysitting in conjunction with the High School National Honor Society and over 30 kids signed up. This will be offered at all Town Meetings in the future.
- Recreation Committee has one meeting since the ATM, very brief. The Committee wants to move forward with the Town Barn Project at the very least because they still very firmly believe in the plans that were presented at the ATM. There will be some exploration the Shepard Parcel (currently with deed restrictions) and at the Plimpton Community Forest (7 Allen Road – possible endangered species), and there are plans for the Recreation Area also. M. Suprenant stated that some work needs to be done on the Town Barn field plans before they go before the town again. M. Suprenant stated the estimates on ledge and ledge removable in the current plans seem to be vague and a more concise exploration of this may make the project more feasible. The estimates seem to be very high, and a peer review would be a good way to be sure all the constraints of the site are accurate. If the cost of the project can be brought down, it would be more likely to come to fruition.

Motion: To ask the Town Administrator to investigate and report back to the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Committee regarding legal feasibility of modifying the use of Shepard parcel with the intent of placing an article on the next Special Town Meeting Warrant. By M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

Motion: To ask the Town Administer to prepare a budget estimate for the cost of soil boring and peer review of the design of the Town Barn and Shepard parcel field project and report back to the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Committee regarding legal feasibility of modifying the use of Shepard parcel with the intent of placing an article on the next Special Town Meeting Warrant. By M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

- Logically, if the first motion was not feasible, the second motion on the Shepard Parcel would not need to proceed.
- The Recreation Department is still looking for a head lifeguard for the summer project. The previous life guard stepped down this season.

Tom Chamberland – Tree Warden

- There are estimated to be 1,000 street trees that are dead or need pruning along the roads in Sturbridge. This is due to the last three years of significant gypsy moth infestation as well as the drought conditions over previous years as well.
- To get a count and better handle on this natural disaster – the US Forest services offers mutual aid for such situations. T. Chamberland has worked with them before. The Urban Forest Strike Team, a group of arborists, tree wardens, and other specialists have been trained to provide inventory assistance after a natural disaster. The strike team will respond to Sturbridge the week of July 9th.
- Depending on the outcome of the inventory results, there may be additional funds beyond the Tree Warden's budget to deal with the trees. It may approach six figures to take care of all these trees around town. Streets with higher traffic will be addressed first.
- The Town has roughly a three year window to address the problem before the trees become hazardous – meaning dead limbs that may fall into the street.
- The Town Administrator recommended the Tree Warden draft an op-ed piece to address the gypsy moth situation.
- A driveway was installed on Route 15. Based on our Bylaws and the number of trees removed leads to a numerical value is placed on the tree values to be deposited into the Town's Tree Planting Gift Fund.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Jean Bubon, Town Planner and Carol Goodwin, Open Space Committee chair

- The Open Space Committee is looking for a letter of support for the draft of the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to include in the submission to the state.
- The current OSRP expired in May. Work updating the plan has been going on steadily since the fall.
- Open Space is more than just fields or park; it includes water quality and habitat protection.
- The public forum went well; there was great feedback from the survey, great conversations at the forum, and wonderful submissions to the photo contest.
- Some goals are very similar to the previous plan – ground water protection, for example, because it is an ongoing goal throughout Town.
- One notable goal is the Street Point Recreation Area. It is currently abandoned, will not be reopened by DCR or the US Army Corp, and perhaps the Town could arrange a lease to re-open the beach in the near future.
- Also things came up in survey results: a dog park and/or dog trails, a playground open during the day (not on school or rec grounds), pickle ball, fitness trails, and more.
- The plan will be valid for seven years once approved by the state and the Town.
- C. Goodwin stated this plan maps where we have been and what possibilities we have planning for the future. The benefits we received from having an OSRP and the hard work from the Town leads to grant money and overall a higher quality of life in this wonderful town.

Motion: that the Board of Selectmen sign a letter of support to the state for the update of the Open Space Plan. By P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote 5-0

Authorization for Emergency Repairs to 8 Brookfield Road building.

- The building cannot be insured until exterior repairs can be done.

Motion: To approve Emergency Repairs to 8 Brookfield Road by Bill's Home Improvement of Webster . By P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote 5-0

Request to fund five hours of the Conservation Department salary from Wetlands Protections Fund in the amount of \$4,433.

- This vote is conducted annually.
- 260 hours, 5 hours per week.

Motion: Vote to fund five hours of the Conservation Department administrative assistant salary from Wetlands Protections Fund in the amount of \$4,433. By P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote 5-0

Accept the resignation of Jaime Rice, Health Inspector in the Board of Health Department

- Ms. Rice is relocating with her family to the south.

Motion: Accept the resignation of Jaime Rice. By P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote 5-0

Accept the resignation of Colleen King, Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen office

- Ms. King is leaving her position before her six month probationary period is over for other employment.

Motion: Accept the resignation of Colleen King . By M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote 5-0

The Board of Selectmen is asked to approve the Chief of Police FY 19 contract.

- Already voted Yes in Executive session, and must be voted in public session as well.

Motion: Approve the contract between the Town and Tom Ford, Police Chief as written. By. P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote 4-0-1 (C. Kaitbenski)

The Board of Selectmen signed the approved Police Chief FY 19 Contract.

Town Council has forwarded the Acorn Lane easements. They are all set and the signed easements are in the agenda package. M. Suprenant stated that at least one of the house lots on Acorn land had not reserved (3 Acorn) the rights to the street and thus not proper for the Board to sign this without all property owners on the agreement. The Board will wait until all proper signatures are obtained and then will sign the easments.

Sturbridge Farmer's Market begins Sunday, June 24th 10-2 on the Town Common. The Board is invited to sit at the community table that will be set up at every market to be available to the town residents. If this coming Sunday doesn't appeal to them, they could man the table later in the season. The consensus was that people are there to purchase items rather than talk to Board members, so the Board is currently passing up on this opportunity but will keep it in mind if something specific arises.

Annual Appointments/Re-Appointments of Town Employees and Boards/Committee Members.

M. Blanchard read the appointments as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Motion: to approve all appointments as recommended by the Town Administrator not held by the Selectmen. By P. Gimas

2nd: M. Dowling

Vote: 5-0

Motion: to accept the resignation of Doreen Burbine as a Registrar. P. Gimas

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Discussion on the hold on Sturbridge Tourist Association placed by P. Gimas.

- P. Gimas asked if any other residents had submitted their names for consideration for appointment.
- No names were submitted by residents for this appointment in this round. L. Gaumond stated that Nicholas Salvadore was appointed near the beginning of the year, which was before the considerations for this appointment began.

Motion: to approve the appointment of Thomas Chamberland and Nicholas Salvadore to the Sturbridge Tourist Association. By M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Release the hold on Planning Board placed by P. Gimas.

- P. Gimas clarified she was releasing the hold on Frank McNeil.

Motion: to appoint Frank McNeil to the Planning Board. By P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Discussion on the hold for Penny Dumas for the Planning Board placed by P. Gimas.

- The Board members each explained their opinion on the re-appointment of Ms. Dumas.

Motion: to appoint Penny Dumas to the Planning Board as recommended to the Town Administrator. By M. Dowling.

2nd: M. Blanchard

Vote: 2-3 (M. Suprenant, C. Kaitbenski, P. Gimas)

Motion: to not approve the recommendation by the Town Administrator to appoint Penny Dumas to the Planning Board. By P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 3-2

L. Gaumond presented an alternate recommendation to serve on the Planning Board. He suggested M. Chisholm to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board.

Motion: to appointment Michael Chisholm to the Planning Board. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: 3-0-1 (Abstain - M. Blanchard)

Motion: to accept the IOD Claim from the Police Department. By P.Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant.

Vote: 5-0

Motion: to authorize the Town Administrator to carry over 40.5 hours of vacation time to the next fiscal year. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: 5-0

Old Business

- The Board recognized Nelson Burlingame, Building Inspector, on his work towards getting a hazardous building removed at the end of Fiske Hill.
- P. Gimas asked to consider for next year doing the Finance Book layout differently for a more clear and concise understanding of the departmental salaries.

New Business

- Rebekah DeCoursey was recognized for assisting in doing minutes for the meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
- Town Administrator asked the Board to accept a check for \$1,500 to the Tree Planting Gift Account from 30 Swift LLC. Motion.

Motion: to accept a check for \$1,500 to the Tree Planting Gift Account. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: 4-0-1 (C. Kaitbenski)

Correspondence

Mary Dowling read into the record the list of correspondence received.

Approval of minutes.

Motion: to approve the minutes from May 21, 2018 as amended by P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 5-0

Motion: to approve the minutes from June 4, 2018 by P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 5-0

Citizen's Forum

- Jay Patel spoke of his opinion regarding Penny Dumas's opinion while she was on the Planning Board in respect to the project at 21 New Boston Road.
- Paul Rosenbloom spoke in favor of Jay Patel's projects, while expressing his concern regarding the time line of the project.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. by P. Gimas

2nd: M. Suprenant

Vote: 5-0


Mary Dowling, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen

Dated: 

June 17 '18