



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022
MEETING MINUTES
FRANCIS HALL BUILDING, FRANCIS FARM
27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD**

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman George Solas, Selectmen Michael Deignan, and Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen Marisa Medeiros.

Absent: Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

Call to Order at 7:08 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for May 9, 2022:

G. Solas motion to approve the Warrant for the week of May 9, 2022: 22-46B Payroll \$121,190.00; 22-45A Withholdings \$34,812.19; 22-45 Warrant \$49,556.47. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 3-0.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: none.

Regular Minutes: 4/28/22

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 3-0.

Announcements:

Next BOS meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 7pm at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th and will begin at 1PM at Francis Farm.

On May 16th, we are scheduled to hold a Public Hearing Notice for a Pole Hearing at 7:15pm

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Linda McHugh, Garden Club, thanked George Solas for all his help. Many people donated plants from their gardens, and the profits made were a success. Linda asked to book a plant sale for 2023, and Skip advised her to come before the Board as the date gets closer. George commented on how committed the club members are.

Rose Amaral, Vice Chair of the Recreation Committee, is asking the public to join the committee and submit a talent bank form if they're interested. The next Recreation Committee Meeting is May 10th, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Arcade Building.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Review May 14, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant with Town Moderator & Town Clerk

Review of the Warrant with Mr. Bill Cute and Laura Schwall. Mr. Cute would like to get the Town Meeting done in one day. (Timestamp 9:15)

1. The votes will be cast by using electronic clickers for the first time. Everyone will be able to test their clickers and practice them at the beginning of the meeting.
2. Article 9 will be pulled from the consent agenda and will be treated as an article that will be amended to add the report of the water and housing commission to the BOH report.
3. Advised the public to read the comments and educate themselves on the Articles.
4. If there isn't a unanimous vote on the consent agenda, Article 2 will need to be pulled from the consent agenda.
5. Article 36 might need to be tabled due to public hearing dates. Skip addressed this issue clarifying it has technical problems because the hearing was not advertised or posted on time. The warrant was already printed, so the public hearing that was held had no meaning behind it.

Action Item (2): Discussion with AgCom Representative Re: COA Kitchen Garden, with possible action

Per the request of Tish Vadnais, she would like to discuss the COA Kitchen Garden with the BOS. Tish Vadnais stated Ag-Com would like to sponsor a COA Kitchen Garden. Tish spoke to the Garden Club and Recreation Committee. Blueprints were included in the proposal, and an Eagle scout could possibly take on the project when the time comes.

M. Deignan asked Rachel about the Conservation Restrictions. Rachel stated anything can go in the unrestricted areas, but irrigation and water filtration systems should be considered in this proposal. Tish mentioned using Buffalos with rainwater.

M. Deignan motion to authorize Ag-Com to proceed with drafting a plan for placement and installation of the COA Kitchen Garden at Francis Farm, and return back with a finalized plan. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Action Item (3): Vote SRPEDD JTPG Designees for the Board of Selectmen

Every year the BOS nominates 2 representatives to the division of JTPG at SRPEDD, one will be the main contact and the second will be the alternate. The term begins on June 1, 2022, so the nominations need to be in before the end of May.

M. Deignan motion to table the vote to nominate 2 representatives as the SRPEDD JTPG contact and alternative until after the June 11, 2022 election; effective 6/1/22-6/1/23. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve Reserve Fund Transfer-BOS/Contracted Services for \$9890.00

Due to all of the upgrades to our Town Buildings and the additions to services for the additional properties, we are falling short on the original budget set for FY22 in the Contracted Services line. To finish off the year we estimate an additional \$9890 will be needed. Some vendors have not returned our calls, so Carol used past information to accommodate our needs.

M. Deignan motion to approve the request to transfer the amount of \$9,890.00 from the Reserve Fund, and forward to the Finance Committee for approval. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Action Item (5): Review Draft of Land Restrictions for Francis Farm Conservation Restriction, with possible action

Skip stated a bid was awarded to Otis Dyer's company and asked Rachel Smith to walk the Board through the layout.

Rachel Smith discussed the areas of restriction for Francis Farm (Timestamp 49:45).

M. Deignan asked about walking trails. Rachel stated that Town Counsel needs to review the restrictions beforehand. There can't be asphalt.

Skip asked about companies and money regarding this issue. Rachel suggested "Wild Lands Trust."

G. Solas asked a question about the gazebo and pond. Rachel said that has nothing to do with the restrictions on the plan. That area is on a different lot.

M. Deignan motion to accept the plan as submitted and further to ask the CPC to engage Wildlands Trust to present us with a proposal. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

M. Deignan motion to accept the invoice in the amount of \$3,950 for the surveying services at 27 Francis Farm Road and to authorize the Town Accountant to pay forth with. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Action Item (6): Review of Scrap Disposal, with possible action

S. Vadnais discussed the Highway Department being shorthanded. The Town could either take two personnel and two trucks to load the scrap and transport it, or a bin could be dropped off and loaded by one personnel. G. Solas suggests taking one personnel to load the scrap. M. Deignan doesn't think any Highway Department employee should be used due to street repairs that need to be done. M. Deignan suggested soliciting bids to remove the scrap to get the most for the money. S. Vadnais gave an overview of the estimated costs.

M. Deignan motion to authorize the chair to proceed with the plan as presented to the Board pertaining to the disposal of scrap, including the stove that was recently replaced at the COA. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Action Item (7): Discussion of Building and Land Use at 2 South Old Anawan St. (Castle Building), with possible action

S. Vadnais said the Fire Chief proposed finishing a room off and using it for training and truck storage. Funding could come from Federal money. Skip had a discussion with Gerry and is now asking Mike to look into that possibility. Some outdated fire department items will be donated to 3rd world countries. A proposal will be coming regarding some underground space at the castle.

M. Deignan stated he has never been in the Castle Building, and the intent was not for public use. M. Deignan has no issue with the fire or police chief utilizing the garage and room above for training. The only concern is about the well since the building will be used by town employees, since there should be bathrooms.

S. Vadnais is looking for permission to allow the Fire Department to develop the training facility and come up with costs.

M. Deignan motion to allow the Rehoboth Fire and Police Department to co-share the garage area at 2 South Old Anawan St. for vehicles and associated equipment. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

M. Deignan motion to instruct the Fire Chief to develop a plan for designing a training facility, and present the Board with a plan and cost for development of the space. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Action Item (8): Request from Rehoboth Fire Department for use of 2 South Old Anawan St. (Castle Building, with possible action

Fire Department is asking to use the grounds for training.

S. Vadnais suggested that M. Deignan should visit the castle building. M. Deignan trusts the Fire Chief to know what he's talking about and to give a low-down on everything needed plus costs.

S. Vadnais said the Highway Department should write a written proposal regarding their piles of blacktop and other materials. Area needs to be designated for the items they have stored there.

G. Solas clarified that the piles used to be built up and removed once it was large enough. S. Vadnais said there still needs to be a plan to where everything will be stored.

M. Deignan motion to allow the Rehoboth Fire Department to use 2 South Old Anawan St-the Castle property-for training purposes. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: Discussions with Mr. Panofsky regarding the Public Health Nurse and who's in charge of this department. We need to get a better handle on what they are doing and who's supervising this department. Skip asked George and Mr. Panofsky to help in this matter.

Deignan: Thinks there needs to be oversight regarding who's going to be in charge of supervising the Public Health Nurse's positions.

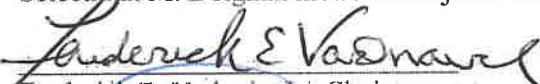
1. Contacted by a member of the media asking about the Town Meeting regarding masks and social distancing. M. Deignan replied that there was no discussion of this matter, and people are responsible for themselves. The Town cannot legally require residents to wear masks.
2. Asked if George called Herb about a question he had.

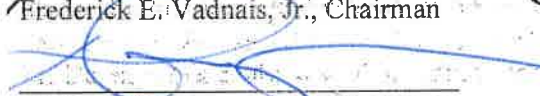
Solas:

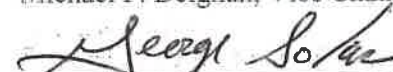
1. The Garden Club was a success and he commended the seniors.
2. Was at Little League with Steve Howitt and thought the leagues did a fantastic job! The Police Department, Fire Department, Dighton Rehoboth marching band, and others were there.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session. At 9:06PM. Second by G. Solas. Vote 3-0.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


Michael P. Deignan, Vice Chairman


George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk


Robert Johnson, II, Member

Leonard Mills, Jr., Member

Respectfully Submitted,
Logan Shaker

Approved: 11/28/2022