

Minutes

Bristol Select Board

Summer Town Meeting

August 11, 2018

Present: Select Board members: Rick Alpers, Don Milbrand, Wayne Anderson, and Town Administrator Nik Coates.

Absent: Les Dion and JP Morrison

Others Present: Department Heads and members of the public.

Mr. Alpers introduced the Select Board and Department Heads.

Ned Gordon updated the public on the town space needs concerns and the current project proposal to purchase and renovate the professional building on School Street. The current town office on Lake Street needs to be renovated for the Police Station and a plan will be proposed for Town Meeting in March.

Bill Dowey updated the public on economic goals for the town. The three main goals are infrastructure, recreation activities, and workforce development. The town was awarded a grant for a high speed fiber network that will bring cell service to Bristol. The town is working on fully extending the bike path from the lake to the Bristol Falls Park.

Department Updates:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Raymah Simpson informed the public that the town is still talking about accepting credit cards for payment but that the funds were cut from the budget this year. It will be budgeted for in 2019. Motor vehicle registrations can be done by mail.

Water/Sewer: Jeff Chartier informed the public about the following projects in progress. The dewatering unit was purchased and installed. 18,000 feet of sewer line was cleaned and was inspected and 90% of the system is in really good shape. The meter upgrade project was wrapped up and now it only takes 2-3 hours to read meters instead of 2-3 weeks. The oxidation ditch was washed out during a storm but FEMA will help offset the cost of repairs with reimbursements. The engineering for the Sewer to the Lake project will be updated.

Fire Department: Chief Ben LaRoche informed the public that last year was the busiest year for calls with 1142 calls for service. This year looks to be at a double digits percentage increase. Fire prevention, which includes code inspections and enforcement, is super active. This is an ambulance replacement year and the purchase was approved by the town. The EMS contract going forward will include the amortized cost of the ambulance which will help offset costs. The Fire Department received \$25,000

from Town Meeting to pay for engineering, geotechnical, and architectural work for the space needs issues at the fire station. The Hemp Hill communication town project has been completed.

Police Department: Chief James McIntire informed the public about the workings of the Police Department. The department is fully staffed with 9 full time and 2 part time officers. One officer will be graduating the Academy in August. The mission of the Police Department is to build community trust and relationships. The department has 7 vehicles including 4 marked and 3 unmarked vehicles, the speed trailer, and 3 bicycles. There are a few officers qualified to use the bikes and the hope is to extend that qualification to other officers. There have been several significant incidents and the town is busy. Adequate backup is needed for the midnight shift as the state police, Troop F, don't cover this area. The police station does have space and safety needs that will need to be addressed/

Assessing/Land Use: Christina Goodwin informed the public about the duties of the Assessing/Land Use office. The two departments were combined last year. The Assessing/Land Use office includes Planning Board, Zoning Board, Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, land use permits, health office, and event permitting. The Boards are extremely busy. The Planning Board is working on a Master Plan survey. The next revaluation of the town is 2021 with 1/3 of the town done in 2019, 1/3 done in 2020, and the remaining 1/3 done in 2021. Adopting building code will be a future discussion.

Library: Brittany Overton informed the public about the programs the library has offered this year. Programs include the summer reading program and a partnership with the high school for a community read. The library is in the early stages of a new strategic plan that includes collecting data about the library and the community. Some 2017 statistics include a continued rise in the use of eBooks and audiobooks, and a 70% increase in reference questions. The library has a new mission statement.

Town Updates: Mr. Alpers informed the public about the following events and projects in town.

The remaining town events in 2018 include a concert with Club Soda, Old Home Day and the Lobster/Chicken dinner, Run Your Buns Off fundraiser, Lakes Region Tri Festival, and the NH Marathon.

There was a \$370,000 cut in the proposed operating budget at Town Meeting in March. The Select Board worked with Department Heads to find the areas to be cut in the town operating budget.

The Board is working with Department Heads to update the wage scale and health insurance options that are fair to both taxpayers and employees.

The Fourth of July events were well attended and the town was very busy. The fireworks did not go off as planned for the third year and the company American Thunder has been asked to meet with the Select Board regarding the issues.

The future of the recycling program in town will be discussed at a public hearing in August. The recycling market has bottomed out and it now costs the town \$120/ton to have the recyclables hauled off. The cost of municipal solid waste is \$63/ton to haul away. So a decision needs to be made whether to stop recycling or to wait out the market and keep the recycling program.

There is a lot of new business growth in the town including Shackett's brewery in Central Square, Cielito is celebrating its one year anniversary, there will be a new winery on Lake Street, there are more 79-E projects, and the Bristol Falls/Pemi Trail is being built.

The Navy Seal Swim with a Mission event was a great event for the second year. The Board is in communication with the state and event organizers about the impact on public safety staff.

The improvements to the transfer station have begun using the money the town received from the regional cooperative. The improvements include better traffic flow and safety protections at the hoppers. An additional \$23,000 was just received for the project.

The town has applied for a grant from the USDA to refresh the engineering that was done almost 10 years ago for the Sewer to the Lake project.

The Board has worked with an engineer regarding the erosion issue at Cummings Beach. The Board approved work to be done to build a retaining wall on the south side of the beach.

Several Eagle Scouts have completed projects in town including the creation of Eagle Scout Park and signs and picnic tables being built for Millstream Park. The information booth is now located at Millstream Park and NLRA has built a kiosk explaining the history of the watershed.

The town will be submitting another grant to the DOT to complete the sidewalk network in the downtown and to add a sidewalk from the new housing complex to the Middle School.

Bristol's Bicentennial is in 2019! There is a committee working on lots of events for the Bicentennial year. The committee is looking for volunteers for the various events. Information can be found on Facebook and the town web site.

The Board thanked the public for attending summer town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Duggan