

Readfield Select Board

Regular Meeting Minutes – Monday, July 18, 2022 – *Approved*

Select Board Members Present: Dennis Price, Sean Keegan, Steve DeAngelis

Excused Absent: Kathryn Woodsum, Carol Doorenbos (Zoom)

Others Attending: Eric Dyer (Town Manager), Anjelica Pittman (Board Secretary), Hannah Flannery (Recreation Board), Greg Leimbach, Eric Johnson, Michelle Fiori, Joel & Virginia Parker, Aaron Neily, Bob Bittar, Lee Sandler, Greg Durgin, Corey Wilson

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Regular Meeting Items - 5 min.
 - 23-001 - Minutes: Select Board meeting minutes of June 27, 2022.
 - Sean **motioned** to approve, pending minor edits, **seconded** by Steve, **3-0 vote** in favor
 - 22-002 - Warrants: #55 (FY22) and #1-2 (FY23)
 - Warrant 55 & 56 – Steve **motioned** to approve, **seconded** by Sean, **4-0 vote**
 - Warrant 1 & 2 – Steve **motioned** to approve, **seconded** by Sean, **4-0 vote**
- Communications - 15 min.
 - Select Board communications. - 5 min.
 - none
 - Staff Reports - 5 min
 - Town Manager Report
 - New maintenance/beach personnel hired, welcome Seth and Ethan
 - Household Hazardous Waste Day was a success
 - Summer residents meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2022 at 5PM
 - Brush is being accepted again at the Transfer Station
 - RFP coming soon for long line painting in town
 - Treasurer’s Report – June
 - Delayed/tabled until the next meeting
- Boards, Committees, Commissions & Departments
 - Board and Committee Minutes
 - Cemetery Committee minutes of April 25 and May 16, 2022
 - Road Committee minutes of July 8, 2021
- Public Communication - Members of the public may address the Select Board - 5 min.
 - Bob Bittar inquired about the boards meeting in person, specifically the Planning Board and expressed his belief that the Select Board is responsible for enforcing in person participation. He also was concerned to how his late wife was being portrayed on the town website. The Board responded that while the Town Manager can encourage boards to meet in person, with the hybrid meetings that have been established since the Covid Pandemic began, that board members on all boards may meet either in person or via Zoom, and it is not the Select Boards place to enforce

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either option over the other. It was not made clear where on the town website Bob felt that his late wife's reputation was challenged.

- Aaron Neily of Moonglow Cannabis presented his concern that parking would be eliminated in front of his retail shop; Eric assured him that the parking to be eliminated will not affect his business as it is only being eliminated in front of the Post Office.
- Lee Sandler attended to express his concern regarding boat mooring ordinances on Maranacook, which is run and maintained by the state. Title 38 allows a municipality certain rights to pass certain ordinances. Before the town passes any kind of boat mooring ordinances, Lee cautioned the board at how complicated and expensive that could be.
- Virginia and Joel Parker discussed the sidewalk on Church road construction, inquired about the timeline. Asked about safety concerns on Church road as well as what side the sidewalk will be installed on. Their concern is if a sidewalk is installed on Church road on the side their home is on, with having an already short driveway, their vehicles may impact that pedestrian sidewalk, and they are concerned about their liability. Another concern Virginia raised was due to the softball field that was voted down at the June election, but has become a topic of discussion again since. She feels it is inappropriate that it has been added back to the meeting agenda so soon after it was voted against and is concerned at what it could cost taxpayers.
- Appointments, Reappointments, & Resignations - 5 min
 - 23-003 - Consider the appointment of Michelle Fiori to the Library Board
 - Dennis **motioned** to approve for a term beginning July 18, 2022 through June 30, 2025, Sean **seconded, vote 4-0** in favor
 - 23-004 - Consider the appointment of Eric Johnson to the Age Friendly Committee
 - Carol **motioned** to approve for a term beginning July 18, 2022 through June 30, 2025, Sean **seconded, vote 4-0** in favor
 - 23-005 - Consider the resignation of Ed Sims from the Age Friendly Committee
 - Sean **motioned** to approve for a term beginning July 18, 2022 through June 30, 2025, Steve **seconded, vote 4-0** in favor
- Old Business 5 min.
 - 22-119 - Discuss the upcoming Heritage Days celebration August 12-13 - 5 min.
 - Dennis briefed the Board and town on all of the happenings planned for Heritage Days 2022 – There will be a wine and cheese social, Mason's breakfast, kickball tournament, Book sale at the Fire Department, History walk, Maker's market at the beach, Spirit of America Award, and many other activities. The beach will close at 5PM for the pyro technicians to set up for the Fireworks show Saturday night.
- New Business - 60 min.

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- 23-006 - Discuss the 2022 Tax Commitment and various tax relief programs - 15 min.
 - The board of assessors set taxes based on the Town Meeting. There was an increase in valuation of homes by about 1% (less than anticipated) and the Mil Rate was lowered from 15.79 to 14.8. There was a marginal increase in taxes, on average about \$80/year. There are many assistance programs available at the Town Office for those in need. Two new programs this year are the Tax Deferral for seniors 65 and older and the Property Tax Stabilization Program. The latter allows home owners 65 years and older who have owned their home for at least 10 years to be billed the same tax amount as the year prior. This application must be submitted yearly before December 1.
- 23-007 - Consider an abatement for the 2020/2021 Tax Year - 5 min
 - In 2019, the assessing agent was combining two lots, the lots had to be activated and then re-deleted and in the process the properties were accidentally double assessed. Eric requested that the Select Board approve abatement in the amount of \$518.38.
 - Steve **motioned** to approve, **seconded** by Sean, **vote 4-0** in favor
- 23-008 - Consider funding sources and next steps for the Fairgrounds Community Park - 10 min.
 - Hannah Flannery attended and discussed the need for a softball field and a basketball court; she would like to find funding and or fundraise to meet that goal. The board discussed the sensitivity of proceeding so quickly after the project was voted down, and agreed to discuss it during the Select Board Retreat in August.
- 23-009 - Develop a process to consider potential mooring regulation in the Town of Readfield - 10 min.
 - It is too late in the season to accomplish a mooring ordinance, the board would like to do more homework, discuss at the SB Retreat and wait until spring before making any moves.
 - Dennis **moved** to tentatively approve for a public hearing to be had about moorings in Readfield on Friday August 26th 2022 at 5pm, **seconded** by Steve, **vote 4-0** in favor.
- 23-010 - Consider revisions to the Public Ways, Traffic, and Parking Ordinance - 10 min.
 - Following up on a Select Board goal from last August to have time limits on certain parking stalls, not being proposed at the moment but possibly in the future
 - Adjustments to have crosswalks installed perpendicular to sidewalks, center line signage, curbing, speed humps
 - Temporary road closures to through traffic, for example, Luce Road during mud season
 - Increasing penalties from \$25 and \$50 to \$100 for the first, \$200 for the second, \$500 for the 3rd and \$1000 for the 4th offense.
- Sean **motioned** to extend the meeting 15 minutes, Dennis **seconded**, **4-0 vote** in favor

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- 23-011 - Assign and direct voting for the Maine Municipal Association Executive Committee - 5 min.
 - Dennis **motioned** to allow Eric to vote on Select Board behalf, Sean and Steve **seconded**, **vote 5-0** in favor
- 22-012 - Consider a draft agenda for the Select Board Retreat - 5 min.
 - Scheduled for August 22, 2022 at 5:30PM with Bruce Burgoin as moderator
- Other Business, Upcoming Meetings, and Future Agenda Items
- Adjournment
 - **Motion** made by Sean to adjourn at 8:05PM, **seconded** by Steve, **4-0 vote**

Minutes submitted by Anjelica Pittman, Board Secretary