

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Dave Nault, Chair
Mike Kaminski, Selectman
Bob Martel, Selectman

Town Officials and others present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Clem Madden, School Board Chair
Ted Hood
Venessa Hood
Nora LaMarque (Garden Club)
Don Larsen

Lee Martel recorded the meeting for the benefit of citizens that were unable to attend (Linda Nickerson uploads the videos to YouTube).

Mike Kaminski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, to approve the (7:00 p.m.) regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2021 as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

Motion: by Bob Martel, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the (8:13 p.m.) nonpublic meeting minutes of October 21, 2021 as written.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Larsen updated the BoS that the phone company will be putting up 58 flags on various telephone poles throughout town. These flags were paid for with donations from local residents. He would like at least one Selectman to attend the November 11th ceremony for Veterans' Day to accept the flags on behalf of Dunbarton residents. The value of the flags will be accepted at the next meeting, and Dave Nault will attend the ceremony to accept the flags. **Don Larsen** said that he did send an invitation to the ceremony to the Governor's office. Discussion occurred regarding how long to leave the

flags up. The original intention was to put them up for two weeks for Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

Don Larsen also gave an update on the cemetery projects. The cement pads are in at the Pages Corner cemetery for the benches in the cremains garden. They have just enough cobble stone to line the driveway. The benches will be in soon. This will complete their warrant article projects for the year.

TOWN BUSINESS

School Board Update

Clem Madden said that they have been happy with the work of the property maintenance company they hired for the year. He is attempting to get in touch with Jeff Crosby to talk about some doing some striping and adding some more parking spaces at the school.

Clem Madden said that there are two major things on their warrant for the upcoming year: the teacher's contract renewal (those negotiations are going well); and their area agreement with Bow (negotiations are wrapping up).

Bob Martel asked about how they negotiate salaries for the teachers' contracts, and if they use the resources from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Mr. Madden** explained that Dunbarton teacher salaries are low compared to surrounding towns, and so they are doing their best to remain competitive in order to attract and retain teachers.

Mr. Madden mentioned that a group of students are going to have a bonfire in place of the Veterans' breakfast this year.

Line Comeau if they would post their agreement with Bow on the town website once they have things finalized.

Mike Kaminski asked if Goffstown had expressed any interest in an area agreement. **Mr. Madden** said not directly. Dunbarton is really in a good place where they are in the SAU, and their current arrangement has been very beneficial to them. **Mike Kaminski** said that Mr. Madden's opinion on this arrangement would be beneficial to people in town and encouraged him to speak up about it.

Garden Club Update

Discussion occurred regarding updated plans for the town Halloween event. Tables will be well-spaced out, and candy will also be handed out from the bandstand. **Bob Martel** said that he still does not feel comfortable with having a planned event where people would linger. **Nora LaMarque** said that they are planning a low-key event and not are not advertising or planning on having people stay around once they have their candy. There are really no other attractions to gather at.

Ted and Venessa Hood approached the BoS to ask them to reconsider their decision to not allow the Robotics Club to have a display at the event. Mr. Hood explained that the Bow School District will not allow a robotics club to form through the school, so a group

has formed outside of the school. Events like this are one of the few places they are able to make themselves visible to kids to try and attract some interest. They were at Old Home Day and would be planning on using the same tent they had there. Their goal was to keep people out of the tent, using it as a visual aid and for their equipment and everyone in their group would be wearing masks. The kids also developed a robotic candy delivery system, which would be part of the display and would help in adhering to social distancing requirements.

- *The BoS was in consensus to allow the Robotics Club to proceed in their plan so long as social distancing protocols are in place and kids are not allowed to congregate in one area. The BoS also noted that pop-up canopies for candy displays are ok, but larger tents under which crowds could gather was something they were trying to avoid.*

Lee Martel noted that it is supposed to be a rather breezy day on Halloween which may also help with mitigation.

Nora LaMarque gave the BoS some more detail regarding how they would like to decorate the common. They would like to wrap the trees with lights as soon as possible before the weather cools too much. Then on December 4th, they would like to decorate the gazebo with icicle lights and garland and put up the Christmas tree. They would like to leave the lights up until February. **Bob Martel** does not like the idea of leaving them up that long. He would rather see them taken down shortly after the first of the year. Nora said that she did speak with the neighbors about the lights and received their support. **Mike Kaminski** suggested they leave the lights up until January 15th. **All members of the Board were in consensus to allow the lights to remain lit until January 15th.**

Lee Martel expressed concern regarding damage being done to the roof of the portico when the lights are put up. **Dave Nault** said that he would check the roof to assess the risk of them accessing it to hang the lights.

Line Comeau supports the lights because she thinks that it brightens things up and can be cheering to people during a dark time of the year.

Lee Martel suggested that each member of the Garden Club decorate their own homes instead of the common and turn it into a contest of sorts so that people could drive all around the town to see the different displays.

2022 Budget Discussion

Tabled until a future meeting.

Policy Signing

The BoS signed off on the final version on the time clock policy. **Mike Kaminski** asked that this policy be distributed to and signed off on by the affected employees, and then be inserted into the personnel plan.

MS-535

The BoS signed off on the MS-535 (financial statement) to allow them to set the tax rate. Their auditor has addressed all areas of the statement that may be questioned by the DRA and has explanations in place for them. **Line Comeau** detailed these areas and the explanations provided. She also noted an error that was brought to her attention in the way they handled their overlay last year. It was suggested that they go back to setting the overlay back to \$50,000 from \$30,000.

Mailbox Items

Dave Nault reviewed the following pieces of correspondence received since the last meeting:

- Note from Don Larsen that he received his permit to put flags on the utility poles.
- Transfer Station Update. Transfer Station Manager Woody Bowne gave a report on the results of the recently held Hazardous Household Waste Day: they had 8 more cars than last year, for a total of 78. Bow had 54 fewer cars than last year. Roof panels are in, will be installed on 10/29/21. Woody asked the BoS to again consider increasing the boot allowance for the employees from \$150 to \$175. He does have the money in his budget.

The BoS decided to leave the boot allowance at \$150.

The BoS considered a request for Shannon Luby to work as a temporary (one-day) employee to assist with packaging up the remaining items from Hazardous Household Waste Day. **Mike Kaminski** wants to ensure that those are the only duties she is doing and will not be doing any other work. She is not to be using the compactor or working in other areas other than the hazardous waste areas. **Bob Martel** wants to make sure that her working there doesn't impact their regular employees' hours.

Discussion occurred regarding shelving/storage for election items.

- *The BoS was in consensus to have the Town Administrator obtain the necessary shelving or a rolling rack to store town election items. Expenditure of up to \$500 approved.*

Woody requested a letter from the Town Administrator to NH DES letting them know that Matt will not be attending their training class.

Woody let them know that there is a little OT in his department for this week.

- Notice of Veterans' Day ceremony Thursday November 11th at 10:45 a.m.
- The BoS signed the reconciliations for April and May 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Line Comeau said that she would be setting the tax rate the next day at 1 p.m.

Mike Kaminski asked Line to keep an eye out for an email from Volunteers Across America on or around November 11th.

Dave Nault said that he spoke with Enid Larsen. They have raised nearly \$700 from the concerts they had to raise money for the Town Hall 2nd Floor. Plans are 85-90% complete. When they are back, they will develop the RFP. **Line Comeau** added that the RFP was finished and ready to go out. She has already heard back from 4 contractors.

Mike Kaminski feels that the Library is restricting services entirely too much in light of Covid, especially where many people are immunized and wearing masks. He feels that it is untenable to restrict services by only allowing 5 people in the library at a time, and they are not receiving the services they should be as a result. **Dave Nault** suggested an area by the entryway along the back side that has been previously used as storage that could be used as a meeting place.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Bob Martel, to adjourn the meeting

Vote: (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Signed:

Dave Nault, Chair

Michael Kaminski, Selectman

Robert Martel, Selectman