

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, November 22, 2016

Phil Lococo and Leslie Rule were present; Howard Bronstein was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Leslie was elected Temporary Chair for the meeting. The minutes of November 8, 2016 were accepted as amended; The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of November 17, 2016 were accepted as submitted.

Franklin Land Trust and Conservation Commission: Swift River Addiction Campus Land Conservation

Alain Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust Director of Land Conservation and Plainfield Conservation Commission members Judy Williams, Jack Nelson, and Erik Burcroff met with the Board concerning the purchase of the back land currently owned by the Swift River Addiction Campus. Brian Hawthorne, Planning Board member and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) employee, was also present. The Franklin Land Trust (FLT) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) are seeking to enter into the Proposed Swift River Landscape Partnership Project (map attached). The DFG and FLT plan to apply for a grant to fund 50% of the purchase of approximately 611 acres with the FLT to finance the remainder. The 32 acres of land currently owned by Jack Nelson and Jeanne Sargent are included in the partnership proposal. If approved, the 611 +/- acres will be placed under conservation restriction for perpetuity with public access for passive recreation. The Nelson-Sargent acreage is required to be co-held by the FLT and the Town of Plainfield Conservation Commission. Alain Peteroy noted the FLT would never ask the Town of Plainfield for funds and a statement to that effect will be included in the memorandum of understanding. Estimates of the tax implications were provided by Brian Hawthorne (attached). FY'16 Real Estate taxes for Swift River are \$105,363.00. If the land was placed in Chapter 61 the Real Estate tax revenue is estimated at \$96,970.00; If the land was placed under conservation restriction, as proposed, the Town would have received \$102,966 under State Owned Land on the FY'16 Cherry Sheet. The state recalculates the value of State Owned Land every four years. With respect to Brian's estimates Paula King noted Plainfield currently receives less than \$30,000.00 per year for State Owned Land.

Leslie suggested pros and cons from those present. Jack Nelson stated the

preservation of land. Brian Hawthorne noted the land received the “highest score” in the DCR analysis.

The former Guyette property owned by the FLT abuts the Swift River acreage and is included in the 611 acres. Winton Pitcoff questioned whether agriculture will be allowed. Agriculture is currently and is to remain allowed on the former Guyette property along Gloyd Street where the former barn was located.

Erik Burcroff asked if a public vote is required. Alain stated all that is required is a approval of the Select Board and the Conservation Commission.

Conservation Commission Chair Judy Williams said this is “a wonderful idea”.

A possible easement for trail maintenance on the property can be addressed either by a licensing agreement or “unofficial maintenance”. Erik Burcroff asked what happens when the property is sold in the future. Brian stated the land will be protected under Article 97 of the state constitution for perpetuity.

Swift River is keeping 57.5 acres in Plainfield and 30 acres in Cummington.

The FLT will be presenting the partnership proposal to both Cummington and Ashfield.

The grant application deadline is December 6, 2016.

Phil moved to support the Proposed Swift River Landscape Partnership Project program and to support the Plainfield Conservation Commission and FLT co-holding of a conservation easement on the property currently owned by Jack Nelson and Jeanne Sargent. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was approved by the two members present.

Resignation

Jim Markham’s resignation from the Energy Committee was accepted with regret and appreciation.

Other Business

Brian Hawthorne informed the Board under the new Public Records Law municipalities are not required to post meetings and minutes on their websites as of January 1, 2017. However, the Town needs to post guidelines for public records access. Howard Bronstein was designated to draft the guidelines. Brian has also found a way to set up as many e-mails as needed for public officials at \$.03 per day.

Mik Muller, Montague Webworks, is in the process of creating an open government module for websites at a cost of \$300.00. Phil moved to purchase the open government module. The motion was seconded by Leslie and approved by the two members present.

Correspondence

A demand for payment for damage to an underground cable on Prospect Street in

April of 2015 was received from Verizon Attorney Randall S. Fudge. The letter has been forwarded to MIIA Claims Specialist Stacy Baker. Stacy has sent the same denial letter to Attorney Fudge that was sent to Verizon.

An e-mail from HCDC asking if Plainfield has an ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan was received. Bill Adams will be asked if he recalls such a plan.

Notice of PVPC's no-cost Technical Assistance for Municipal Sustainability Strategies was forwarded to the Planning Board.

The Green Communities Designation Application has been submitted by the Energy Committee.

MassDOT District One has submitted Chapter 90 reimbursement requests of \$243,954.23 and \$4,038.09 to the state aid office in Boston for final processing.

MBI has launched the "RFP for Last Mile Grants to Provide Broadband Service to Unserved Towns in Western Massachusetts".

Miscellaneous mail and meeting notices were reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary