

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JULY 27, 2021

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: These are not official minutes -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site following Board approval at the next meeting. If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted as a Zoom hybrid. SelectBoard members Rich Donaldson and Jon Collins plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present at the Town Office. Bronwen Tudor attended remotely on Zoom. There were a total of 11 members of the public in attendance on Zoom.

The minutes of the meetings of July 13th and 14th, 2021 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- **Public Comment – Emergency Notification:** Aria EEE noted the recent incident of violence that ended in Beaver Valley. There currently is no way to notify residents when this kind of situation exists. She asked the Board if the Town Office or Fire Department could notify an area point person who would then notify other local residents through a phone tree. Later in the meeting, Rich re-raised this proposal noting that the Town Office might be able to do it during normal working hours. County EMA or Dispatch might be able to notify someone, but who? Rich noted that the Board is supportive. Jerry Gamache is the local Emergency Management Director for Georgetown. Amanda will follow up with Jerry and report back at a later meeting.
- **Remote Meeting Policy:** A draft Remote Meeting Policy was circulated ahead of the meeting along with the agenda. It lays out the policy for in-person, hybrid and remote (Zoom) meetings and applies to all Town committees and boards. The Board conducted a formal hearing inviting comments from Board members and/or the public. A couple of people noted that it looked good. The Board voted unanimously to approve this policy.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update:** John McIlvain and Theo Holtwijk attended to request Selectboard approval of an update to the draft Comprehensive Plan so it can be re-submitted to the State for their comment and/or concurrence. John provided a brief overview of the process since June. Theo has been working the specific draft details. The draft was reviewed by Rich, Bronwen, Jon and members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee and updated to reflect their input. Theo then summarized his approach. His objective was to keep it as close to the original as possible while acknowledging and addressing State review comments. The biggest change is adding a map for future growth areas and addressing how funding will be used in support. Bronwen made a motion to approve the plan and submit it to the State for review. The Board approved the motion. Theo will cleanup, remove the colored change marks. Amanda will fill out the necessary forms. John and Rich will sign for the Town.
- **First Church Walkthrough:** The walkthrough was conducted July 14th. It led to new thoughts. It was noted that Senator King's office recommended the project funding to the Appropriations Committee. Rich noted that he and Dave Polito had checked out the church attic and found it to be in good shape. Bronwen noted that the foundation still leaks and she proposed 3 steps to dry out the basement; (1) remove the paper covering the cement floor, (2) redirect the downspout away from the foundation, and (3) install a humidifier designed to run constantly. The next step will be to establish and appoint a working group. Their first assignment will be to investigate engineering firms who can review and report on the feasibility and costs of using the church as a municipal space. Board members will submit potential appointees to Amanda.
- **Cannabis:** The Board approved Georgetown's first commercial Cannabis Application to grow and sell wholesale (but not retail). Rich offered to help with the Town's "paperwork".

CORRESPONDENCE:

Amanda reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Broadband:** Amanda noted that Counsel has not yet provided their input (7+ weeks). Terry Taylor noted that the start of construction is delayed as a result. Amanda will send a follow-up.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Committee Appointments:** The Board approved new volunteers as follows:
 - Michael Farina and David Teller were appointed as alternates to the Harbor Committee.
 - Jessica Weller was appointed as an associate to the Conservation Committee.
- **Private Road Transfer:** The Board turned down a proposal to transfer ownership of (private) Blueberry Hill Road to the Town.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 10. The public is welcome to attend on ZOOM. Contact Amanda Campbell or Alex Neese at the Town Office to get the Meeting ID and Password.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe