



The Selectboard
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
TOWN HALL
1 SOUTH ROAD
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027

MINUTES of the MEETING
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Dempsey, Bronstein, Johndrow

Also present: Douglas Finn, others as noted.

Presentations / Discussions

1 - Discussion: ADA Access to Library back yard – Friends of the Westhampton Public Library

Present: Ms. Andrea Pichette, Friends of the Westhampton Public Library

Ms. Pichette noted a recent survey that raised the question about how to make the backyard more accessible for later evening events. Recent donations have made it possible to make some improvements, such as outdoor lighting and railings on the outdoor stairs. These improvements are likely to be completed by Spring.

The Friends have applied to Conway School of Landscape Design, who have agreed to explore and propose additional ways to allow for more ADA adjustments to the outdoor space to the east of the back yard.

No firm and fixed plans have been set in stone at this time, as questions of timeline, costs, and sources of funding are being considered.

There was some discussion relative to how “Friends” funds can be used.

2 - Discussion / Update - Library Roof repairs

Present: Mr. Wally Marek, Ms. Meaghan Schwelm, Ms. Anne Marie O'Reilly

Mr. Marek noted that several roofers had looked at the project.

Valley Solar and Northeast Solar had both agreed to work on the array if needed.

Stone Mountain Roofing proposed to repair flashing on the bottom row of the solar to stop the existing leaks, at a cost of about \$3,500.

Mr. Marek noted that the work as proposed could result in further water leak issues.

Initial estimates for removal of the array, replacement of the rails and reconnection, were roughly \$18,500 to about \$27,000, and would also require (for warranty purposes) replacement of that roof.

There was some discussion as to how the repairs could be made, and whether short-term fixes could or should be followed by a long-term solution.

Ms. O'Reilly suggested that the project is a larger conversation, with many different options for short- and long-term repairs. Ms. O'Reilly suggested that the Trustees would be meeting next week, and would provide a recommendation.

Funding sources were considered.

There was discussion relative to possible options for solutions for the problem, warranty on any work completed, and how the town could leverage a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to its best advantage.

The age of the panels was discussed, and the best option for warranty of work was discussed.
Ms. Dempsey asked for a motion.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To commit \$3,500 of ARPA funding for the purpose of stabilization of the Library roof as proposed by Stone Mountain Roofing.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:41 PM)

The Trustees will meet to discuss the proposal, and if they agree, they will contact Stone Mountain Roofing to schedule the work. Ms. Dempsey will be available to sign the contract.

3 - Appointment: Cultural Council

Mr. Finn noted a recent letter from Ms. Jean Stawarz to be appointed to the Cultural Council.

It was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

To appoint Ms. Stawarz to the Cultural Council for a three year appointment.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:52 PM)

4 - SMRP-RDP Contract - for Review and Endorsement

The RDP contract was reviewed.

It was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

To approve the contract and authorize Ms. Dempsey to sign the Contract.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:54 PM)

5 – Corrections to adopted Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Finn noted several corrections to the Town Meeting Warrant that were necessary due to advice from counsel, and also due to errors on the original warrant.

After discussion, it was MOVED by Johndrow SECONDED by Bronstein

To approve the warrant with changes and presented, and to sign.

VOTE: 3, 0, 0 (8:01 PM)

Department Reports

Highway

No report. Mr. Finn noted that Highway Department was operating as per norm.

Health

Mr. Finn noted that a Covid / Flu vaccination clinic was scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2023, at the Town Hall, and that the Town would be hosting the STAM quarterly meeting on October 26.

Others

A Principal's Report from Lauren Hotz is included in "Other Correspondence")

There were no updates from other committees.

New Business¹

There was discussion about reviving the property and maintenance committee to consider potential improvements and maintenance projects. No action taken.

¹ New Business may include items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting.

Administrative

Review Other Correspondence

Other correspondence was reviewed (see meeting file).

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W24-08, WP24-08

After review, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To approve the warrants and to sign.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:14 PM)

Review and Sign: Minutes from Previous Meetings

The minutes of September 25, 2023, were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

To approve the minutes as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:19) PM

Other

There was some discussion relative to the scheduling and strategy related to the special town meeting, and follow-up actions for the Library Roof.

Set Date for Next Meetings

The board agreed to meet again on Monday, October 23, and Monday, November 6.

Adjourn

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

To adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:24 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on October 23, 2023.


Maureen Dempsey


Scott Johndrow


Susan Bronstein