



**SELECTBOARD
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
TOWN HALL
1 SOUTH ROAD
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027**

Minutes of September 13, 2021
Meeting held via ZOOM

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling (Chair), Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson. Others present were Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent), Kristin DeBoer (Kestrel Trust), Candice Currie and Judith Lorei (Green Burial Massachusetts), Robby Armenti (Board of Health), Susan Bronstein (Planning Board/Covid Coordinator),
Meeting recorded for minutes.

- Kestrel Land Trust & Green Burial Massachusetts. Kristin DeBoer provided an overview of the functions of Kestrel Land Trust. They are working together with Candice Currie and Judith from Green Burial Massachusetts on a proposal for a private “conservation” cemetery. C Currie provided information on Green Burial Massachusetts. K DeBoer described the proposed location as 220 acres of open fields, forest, walking trails, and wildlife habitat near land conserved in partnership with Kestrel Land Trust, Hilltown Land Trust, Westhampton, Northampton, and MA Wildlife. A large portion of the conservation is forest and woodlands with a smaller portion sited for the cemetery, located in Northampton and Westhampton. Fieldwork is required for suitability as a conservation cemetery. Hydrological analysis also needed for potential impacts of waterways. Kristin, Candice, and Judith answered questions. Kristin provided a website address for additional information: conservationcemeteryma.org. She reported they are also meeting with other boards and committees.
- Department updates
 - Highway Department, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - have shared mower from Montgomery, mowing sides of road
 - tropical storm dropped 3 inches of rain, cleaning pipes and basins
 - Dept. of Environmental Protection conducted inspection of transfer station, went well
 - beams set on bridge at King’s Highway on Thursday. Anticipated completion is November
 - helping as needed with Public Safety Complex construction project

Phil reported the Highway Crew Search Committee interviewed two candidates and selected one for recommendation to the Selectboard. One candidate dropped out afterwards. Phil recommended that the Selectboard hire Austin Norris as crewmember of the highway department. He provided an overview of Austin’s background. Phil motioned to hire Austin Norris as crewmember of the Westhampton Highway Department. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Teri-yes

Maureen-yes

Phil-yes

- Board of Health, Robbie Armenti reported:
 - The board recommends continued mask wearing in town buildings, not adding other public buildings.
 - The board accepts Selectboard recommendations for town hall use of masks and distancing
 - working with kestrel for Green Burial

Robbie provided update from Westhampton Connects of an art event on September 25.

- Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil reported:
 - project is moving ahead
 - foundation is in
 - most of the underground tanks are installed
 - working on space for elevator shaft
 - building is under ongoing structural and engineering review, pieces will begin to arrive to begin construction
- Administrative Assistant Search Committee, Maureen reported:
 - committee reviewed 11 applications and selected four for interviews
 - two are scheduled for Thursday, September 16, trying to schedule two more
- Municipal Vulnerability Plan, Teri reported:
 - Westhampton awarded a municipal vulnerability grant for a period of two years for \$237,516.00.
 - Community Master Plan
 - Update Open Space Plan
 - Work with Human in Common; diversity and inclusion workshops for town staff and community conversations
 - Working with Grinspoon Foundation, “Cooler Communities Program” for a Hampshire Regional High School program to include climate change, sustainability, resilience curriculum to engage youth
 - beginning community engagement in the fall
 - lead consultant is Weston and Samson Engineers, assisted by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Conservation Works, and Human in Common.
- Reviewed key elements of draft policies for Remote Work & Telecommuting and Electronic Communications.
- American Recovery Act, Phil reported:

He is working with Susan Bronstein on a proposed letter of intent with details about using the funds for emergency management and public health space in the public safety complex. Susan agrees the plans qualify for funding. Phil explained the plans include building out the second floor of the building. Getting numbers from the General Contractor as first step.

Susan reported she submitted another report for the CARES funding. Originally received \$144,000.00; reported \$72,000.00 spent; out of \$72,000.00 not reported there is \$68,000.00 remaining.

- Phil motioned that the \$3.70 of Westhampton's share of the 2020 Transportation Network Disbursement be held for future use. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
Teri-yes
Maureen-yes
Phil-yes
- Inspector of Animals search was reviewed
- Correspondence reviewed:
-Maureen read a letter from Margot Cleary regarding speeding traffic. Discussion ensued regarding traffic control and use of speed sign by police department. The Board will ask Police Department to look into speeding traffic on Rt. 66 and Southampton Road. Also, asked to purchase five more electronic speed signs to place in key locations around town to notify people of their speed. Asked Susan Bronstein to investigate use of CARES Act funds to purchase since speeding has increased significantly during the COVID crisis.
- Public Hearing opened at 8:03 pm to consider first right to purchase land held under Chapter 61A at 188 North Road, owned by Leo and Anita Aloisi. Discussion opened to public. Hearing none, discussion opened to board. Teri reported a written statement that remaining land will continue in Chapter 61A was not yet received. Phil motioned to table hearing and continue September 27 at 8:00 p.m. Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:
Maureen-ye
Teri-yes
Phil-yes
- Reviewed pickle ball proposal. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-noon, maximum 6 players, vaccinations required. Phil motioned to approve the use of town hall for pickle ball Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9a.m.-noon with the following requirements:
 - ✓ maximum 6 players
 - ✓ vaccinations required
 - ✓ facial masks
 - ✓ social distancing
 - ✓ doors and windows be open during use when possible
 - ✓ wiping down doorknobs
 Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
Teri-yes
Maureen-yes
Phil-yes
- Phil provided an update on town hall floor refinishing and paint

Reviewed minutes of:

August 30, 2021. Phil motioned to approve minutes as written. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Teri-yes

Maureen-yes

Phil-yes

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Payroll: \$88,051.27

Vendor: \$229,737.68

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m., September 27, 2021

Adjourned meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held September 27, 2021.

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson