

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

Minutes of September 17, 2018

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Art Pichette and Maureen Dempsey. Others present were Steve Holt, Fred Morrison, John Bridgman, Shirl Morrigan, Ginny Curtis, Sally Loomis from Hilltown Land Trust, Inc. and Mark Wamsley from Kestrel Land Trust. Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$77,289.64
 Vendor: \$395,441.82
 Special Town Election

Minutes of September 4, 2018 were approved.

- No Highway Department updates
- Brewer Brook Forest Conservation Project:
Sally Loomis from Hilltown Land Trust, Inc. and Mark Wamsley from Kestrel Land Trust presented the project and submitted a map and general project information (attached). The project was first presented on November 14, 2016. Updates were reported. S. Loomis reported that Hilltown Land Trust just secured the Lewis Conservation Restriction through a grant; co-holding of the CR is required by the state. Hilltown Land Trust will act as the primary grantee and will assume monitoring and enforcement responsibilities. Westhampton Conservation Commission will be secondary grantee upon their acceptance of the grant and by approval of the Selectboard and will be involved when they chose. Fred Morrison reported the Conservation Commission unanimously approved to accept the grant. Hilltown Land Trust and Kestrel Land Trust will be acquiring more conservation restrictions under this project in the future which will also require approval by the town. S. Loomis submitted a copy of the Grant of Conservation Restriction for property owned by Patricia Lee Lewis, located at 292 Chesterfield Road for review. The board will consider approval of the conservation restriction at their next meeting, October 1.
- Public Safety Complex:
Town Meeting approved borrowing authorization of \$4.4 million for construction of a public safety complex, contingent on affirmative vote on a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion ballot question. On a motion and second, voted to hold a Special Town Election from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 27. The warrant was approved and signed. Notice was given to the Town Clerk.
- Vocational Tuition update:
Enrollment figures for vocational education were reviewed. The final tuition for FY19 is

\$358,002.33. The current appropriation is \$380,000.00, an excess of \$21,997.67. The Finance Committee received the update.

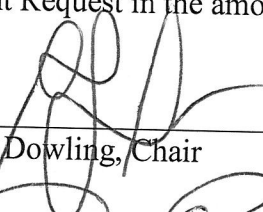
- **Special Town Meeting:**
With the vocational tuition updated, the FY19 budget is \$5,677.00 over the levy limit. When the New Growth figure is final it may balance the budget. An article is needed only if the budget is not balanced or if the board chooses to recommend reducing the tax rate with a transfer or by reducing vocational tuition. Voted to present an article to reduce the tax rate and seek recommendation on a motion from the Finance Committee. Another article is needed for the solar tax agreement. Two options are available, either seek to authorize the Selectboard to approve the agreement or present the agreement at town meeting for approval. It's unknown when the agreement will be completed. Phil made a recommendation to present the agreement at town meeting for approval since it's the first one, then seek authorization for the board to approve any thereafter. Without knowing if the agreement will be completed before town meeting the board may need to seek authorization to approve it. Voted to present an article or articles to present a tax agreement and to seek authorization for the Selectboard to approve a tax agreement. To qualify for the Green Communities Grant Program the town is required to adopt the stretch code by vote of town meeting. The deadline to submit applications for the program is the end of October. If the application is not submitted it may wait until the next grant cycle. The current funding, qualifications, and terms of the program are known. It's unknown if there'll be any changes in the next cycle. Voted to present an article to voters to adopt the stretch code. Jim Barry, Green Communities Regional Coordinator, will meet with Selectboards and will often attend town meetings to provide information and help with the process. Voted to hold an informational meeting at a Selectboard meeting with Jim Barry, prior to town meeting. Previous discussion was held regarding a bylaw for marijuana public use restriction. A draft bylaw previously submitted by John Shaw will need to be formatted in conjunction with Chief White to fit the town. Discussion ensued regarding town meeting schedule. On a motion and second voted to hold a Special Town Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 27. Ginny Curtis requested the Zoning Bylaw Committee be allowed to "piggy-back" the Green Communities informational meeting to present the concept of a marijuana bylaw. It was agreed that can be scheduled.
- **Waste Management tipping fees-update, Phil reported:**
He and David Blakesley attended the meeting held by the DEP. Officials from other towns also attended to speak against Waste Management charging tipping fees before the current contract expires (June 2010); there are only trucking fees on current contract. The DEP held discussions with Waste Management and they ultimately decided to not apply the fees until a new contract is negotiated. Discussion ensued regarding single-stream vs traditional recycling and future plans for the towns recycling program.
- **Barbara Pelisier is interested in restricting pesticide application on farms by amending the Right To Farm Bylaw.** Discussion ensued regarding the bylaw and its purpose. Further discussion was held regarding the difficulty in timing applications to crops. It was agreed that it's a courtesy to notify neighbors with known effects from the applications of when they'll occur. The Agricultural Committee was established to handle these grievances if the Selectboard, Board of Health, or Zoning Enforcement forwards it to them. The Board of Health recommended Barbara to the committee and the Selectboard agreed with that decision. Maureen will provide information on pesticide application to be forwarded to B. Pelisier.


- The Annual Fall Festival is Sunday, October 14. On a motion and second voted to close Stage Road from Southampton Road to the center and North Road from Perry Hill/Southampton Road intersection to the center for the Fall Festival from 11a.m. to 6p.m. on October 14.
- Halloween is on Wednesday, October 31. On a motion and second, voted to close South Road from the parking lot south of the Town Hall Annex to the North Road/Stage Road intersection and Stage Road from the North Road intersection to Southampton Road from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31.
- A resignation had been submitted by Steven St. Marie as Associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Shirl Morrigan confirmed receipt and emphasized S. St. Marie's concerns of not having received written confirmation that the town will provide liability coverage against a personal lawsuit. So noted.
- Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost reported:
 - unavailable to have office hours Friday, September 28; will use a vacation day
 - a quote was received for the replacement of the side office door. Voted to seek at least one more quote.
- Patty Cotton, Treasurer inquired about seeking funds to convert payroll process to Harper's Payroll. The Finance Committee is meeting on October 9 and have preliminary information, Patty should present the request to them. Discussion ensued regarding alternative funds should the Finance Committee not approve a transfer from Reserve Fund. Voted to add an article to the Special Town Meeting to fund the conversion should there be a need for alternate funding. Patty Cotton and Susan Bronstein, Town Clerk, explained that the town meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on October 27 is too much pressure to complete the election count in time and recommended a later time. On a motion and second, voted to change the time of town meeting to 2:00 p.m.
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 8:30p.m., as the Chair to review of Executive Session minutes of the Selectboard meeting of August 13, 2018; potential approval of minutes. Will return to open session.
- Returned to open session and adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.
- Correspondence reviewed:
 - campground Title v inspection deadline extended until September 15 by DEP
 - Tom Jenkins sworn in as Tree Warden
 - Division of Local Services "What's new In Municipal Law" is at the Log Cabin, Oct. 4. Cheryl attending
 - designer thresholds for design services contracts adjusted as of June 15, 2018
- The next Selectboard meetings will be 7:00 p.m. October 1 & October 15.
- Documents submitted:
 - Brewer Brook Forest Conversation Project: General information and context
 - Grant of Conservation Restriction from Patricia Lee Lewis to Hilltown Land Trust, Inc. and

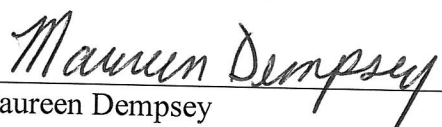
Westhampton Conservation Commission for property located at 292 Chesterfield Road
-Vocational Education FY19 enrollment/tuition update
-resignation of Steven St. Marie
-quote to replace side office door

- Documents signed:
-Payment Request in the amount of \$33,517.30 for various roads.

Approve: _____


Philip Dowling, Chair


Arthur Pichette


Maureen Dempsey