



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

MINUTES of the MEETING
Monday, September 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, September 25, 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: Bill Jablonski, Charles and Mary Lou Burgess, Douglas Finn, others as noted.

Old Business:

Appointment: Cemetery Commission

Two applications were received from Mr. Charles Burgess and Mr. John Shaw for the empty cemetery commission appointment.

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

To appoint John Shaw to the Cemetery Commission.

The board discussed the rationale for the appointment. The role and responsibilities of the commission were discussed. Ms. Dempsey noted Mr. Shaw's experience in other roles in town, and that the job was largely administrative. After deliberation, a vote was called.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:05 PM)

Discussion / Update - Library Roof repairs

Present were Ms. Anne Marie O'Reilly, other representatives of the Library Board of Trustees, Meghan Schwelm (Librarian) and Wally Marek (Building inspector).

Mr. Marek noted that he and Mr. Todd Alexander (Building Inspector) had inspected the library during a recent rainstorm.¹

Mr. Marek noted that cracks in the drywall are likely from the ice dams that had happened some years back.

Mr. Marek also noted that the ridge vent is unnecessary, due to the manner by which the building is insulated. Mr. Marek also noted that his research resulted in the conclusion that the rack fasteners used to hold the rack to the roof was not intended to be used on an asphalt roof. He noted that the bolts were 'sinking' into the shingles and were failing.

Ms. Dempsey asked for a recommendation to remediate the problem.

Mr. Marek did not have a solid solution to propose, as he had not consulted with roofers about the issue. However, he noted that the roof was at least halfway through the lifespan. He noted that a repair to the active leaks could be pursued now, but it might be a 'band-aid' solution.

Mr. Finn suggested that a long-term solution would likely involve significant repairs to the overall project, and significant cost.

Ms. Schwelm: is there evidence of damage to the existing roof?

¹ Ref: Letter From Mr. Wally Marek to Westhampton Selectboard, dated 9/25/2023.

Mr. Marek noted that other than the leaks, the rest of the roof system appears in good shape; no evidence of rot or mold was seen in the attic, and no other damage to basic roof system components were evident.

Mr. Marek reviewed the manner by which the rack was designed to work, and suggested a proposed repair (a bolt, proper flashing, and some sealant).

After some discussion, the question was asked whether the minimal repair could be done effectively. No clear answer was offered; Mr. Marek suggested that a roofer be consulted to provide a more educated proposal for repair.

Ms. Anne Marie O'Reilly suggested that the Trustees would be amenable to Mr. Marek securing the services of a contractor or contractors to perform the repairs.

Mr. Marek noted that, in addition to the leaks, he was concerned with the missing spray-foam insulation in the attic, representing about 25 square feet of missing insulation. Mr. Marek suggested that the town needs to secure the services of an engineer to determine if the foam can be safely repaired or replaced with new spray foam without damage to the overall system.

Ms. Schwelm recommended that a full replacement of the roof be placed on the capital planning schedule. Mr. Marek suggested that the cost of panel removal and replacement would have to be factored into the overall cost.

Mr. Marek was asked to secure the consultancy of a local roofer, and (if possible) to get an estimate for the repair roof, and report back to the Selectboard at the next regular meeting on October 10.

Final Review / Vote to Post – Special Town Meeting Warrant for November 4, 2023

Mr. Finn presented a final draft warrant for the special town meeting. After brief review, it was MOVED by Johndrow SECONDED by Bronstein

To post the special town meeting warrant as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:36 PM)

Department Reports

Highway

Mr. Jablonski noted recent work that had been completed by the department, including vehicle repairs, roadside mowing, some road grading and ditch-clearing due to the recent rains, and other regular business.

Health

Ms. Bachelor noted recent work of the board of health included publishing guidelines for potluck dinners. Ms. Bachelor also noted that the board was trying to secure more covid tests for distribution at the Octoberfest on October 15 in Westhampton.

Finally Ms. Bachelor noted that the state has commissioned a survey that may result in a grant of monies to towns, based on the information provided. 30 survey responses are needed to qualify for funding.

Others

No other reports were presented by town department heads.

New Business¹

Unanticipated: Bike Race

Mr. Chris LaPlante presented a proposal for a bicycle race coincident with the OctoberFest event on 15 October. Mr. LaPlante presented some of the details of the proposed event, noting that cyclists will sign a waver of liability, purchase insurance and provide volunteers to help with course safety.

The course was reviewed.

Mr. Finn noted that Chief White had reviewed the proposal and was generally supportive.

Mr. Johndrow asked if EMS or medical services would be provided by the race organizers. Mr. LaPlante said that it was being researched so to determine cost and availability.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To endorse the proposal, with the following conditions: the applicant must deliver to the Town a Certificate of Other Insured (ACCORD) naming the Town as additional insured; further, that the applicant must continue to work in good faith with Town Staff for the security and safety of all participants.

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

Aaron Bauer: Proposal

Mr. Bauer introduced Paul Goyette, who is proposing an off-road motorcycle race on private property at 360 Main Road. Mr. Goyette noted that the event would be family oriented, a one-day event, involving about 300 riders. Parking on site is available. Noise levels are controlled through inspection of equipment.

Potential issues were discussed, Mr. Bauer noted that he is acting as a good steward of the land, and part of his job would be to return the land to its original condition, and repair any significant erosion or damage after the race.

Mr. Goyette noted his interest in encouraging good behavior on the part of the racers.

It was noted that there would be food service provided by licensed vendors. Trash would be policed. No alcohol would be permitted on site. No fires would be allowed on site.

It was noted that the date was not yet set, but likely would be next spring or summer.

No further action was requested or taken. Applicants will return with a more formal proposal at a later date.

Review / Endorse draft letter of support for Municipal Aggregation.

After discussion, and review of the proposed letter to Representative Jeffrey N. Roy and Senator Michael J. Barrett, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Johndrow

That the Town of Westhampton supports and endorses the draft letter of support for H.3852, "An Act supporting electrical load aggregation programs in the Commonwealth" as prepared by Colonial Power Group.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:10 PM)

Appointment: Mary Cleary to Westhampton Cultural Council.

Mr. Finn noted that a request for appointment to the Cultural Council had come Ms. Mary Cleary in June, but had not been acted on. Ms. Cleary reiterated her interest in being on the Cultural Council, and had received endorsement from the Council Chair.

It was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Johndrow

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

To appoint Ms. Mary Cleary to the Cultural Council for a term to commence on September 25, 2023.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:12 PM)

Administrative

Draft Audit Documents

The board reviewed and discussed the documents. With the approval of the other board members, Ms. Dempsey signed the engagement letter for the Town.

Review of Correspondence

Various correspondence was reviewed and discussed in some detail. No action taken.

Review and Sign: Minutes from Previous Meetings

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

To approve the minutes of September 11, 2023 as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1. (JOHNDROW) 8:31 PM)

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W24-07, WP24-07

The warrants were reviewed. It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To approve as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:32 PM)

Set date for Next Meetings

The board agreed to meet on October 10, 2023 and October 23, 2023.

Adjourn

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

To adjourn.


VOTED: 3, 0, 0. 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn

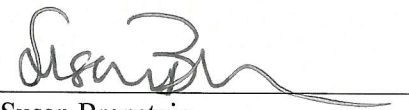
Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on October 10, 2023.



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow



Susan Bronstein