

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
ALL PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020

Present:

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood
Others: Brian Story, Rosemary Audibert, Lisa Crews, Eben Patch, Shayne Spence, Lois Frey, Scott Meyer, Kim Dunkley, Walter Pomroy, Diana Osborn, Alison Link, Cal Stanton, Athena Parke, Charles Gallanter, Beth Foy, Lea Kilvadyova, Greg Tatro, Casey Romero, Jackie Stanton, Jeff Bickford, Jessica Bickford, Charlotte Reber, Jeanne Engel

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order*

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. *Additions, Changes to Agenda*

Mike added discussion and possible action on the Juneteenth proclamation and Kyle added discussion and possible action on beautification.

3. *Review and Approve Minutes of Meetings Past*

Doug moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2020 as written, Mike seconded and the motion was passed.

4. *Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills, Warrants, Licenses / Any Action Items*

Rosemary said the grievance period has passed and no one has grieved their assessment, which is unusual. With the Secretary of State sending out postcards to all voters we have seen a sharp increase in absentee ballot requests for the primary. The state will pay the cost for us to use a tabulator, which we don't usually do for the primary. We typically have less than 100 votes in the primary but we already have close to that in absentee ballots.

Rosemary said board members need to come in tomorrow to sign the loan documents for the tractor.

Beth Foy asked doesn't the tax bill usually arrive before the grievance deadline? Rosemary said no, it is always afterwards.

Eric suggested that board members sign the orders in person when they come in to sign the loan document rather than authorizing the chair to sign them. The rest of the board agreed.

In answer to Eric's question, Rosemary said she hopes the board will be able to set the tax rate at the next meeting. The state has said tax rates will be released July 15. The state won't have all homestead declaration forms until August 1 and if we send out tax bills before that we will need to send out more revised tax bills in the long run.

5. *Johnson Skatepark Update*

Brian said we learned that an individual had found drugs at the skatepark and later learned that it was rather a large amount. They were turned into the police. Since then, monitoring at the park has been stepped up with volunteers and cooperation from the sheriff's department. There have been some other curious incidents there.

Casey Romero said Ken Harvey's office reports that they have had more trouble lately in their Johnson trailer park than they have ever had. It seems to be symptomatic of COVID-19 and a variety of factors. We know there is more drug use and drinking now. When the skate park area was closed there was a lot of vandalism. The skatepark committee reached out to Nat and he has talked with the sheriff's department. The skatepark committee has since formed a connection with Sergeant Watson, who they have worked with before. He is willing to be a regular liaison. Sergeant Watson will see whether the sheriff's department might donate or loan a game camera to the skatepark. If they don't the Skatepark Committee will probably get one.

Casey said at the last Skatepark Committee meeting Nat asked everyone to remember that the skatepark is a good resource and he hates to see only negative things about it. There is a lot to be proud of. Casey started a park pride discussion on Front Porch Forum and the committee plans to update pictures on Facebook and Instagram.

Casey thinks the Skatepark Committee is taking the steps they need to take. They have regular communication with one person at the sheriff's department, they are being candid about what is going on, they are asking people to notify the sheriff or Skatepark Committee if they see something that seems wrong, they are keeping an eye on traffic at the skatepark and they are also saying that the skatepark is a terrific place and we should not forget the good.

Nat said the committee has also cultivated relationships with regular users. Casey said she has a connection with a teenager who is a regular skater and who emails frequently. He is going to help provide pictures. He tells her if there is something wrong or that needs fixing. Nat said the Skatepark Committee also got a no trespass order against at least one destructive person. Casey said the order still has to be successfully served. It is not an instant process. Nat said he thinks Casey has done a good job.

Kyle said she thinks the more we can get the community involved in reclaiming the skatepark the better. She feels we should not make the police the first go-to.

Casey said the Skatepark Committee is also working with Healthy Lamoille Valley on positive drug prevention signage.

Jessica Bickford said a lot of these issues are community-level issues. We as a community need to state what we want for our parks and kids. Most would agree we want safe parks. That involves work such as ongoing neighborhood watches and "see something, say something" campaigns. It needs to be a team effort. Law enforcement partners play a role, as well as the Rec Committee, the Skatepark Committee and concerned citizens. Alison Link of Healthy Lamoille Valley has the skills and resources to facilitate a work group process if people want to pursue that.

Cal Stanton said he thinks having more of a normative culture rather than criminalizing things is important. Skateparks are easy places to demonize. He would like to know more about the drugs that were found. He has seen a lot of instances of skatepark issues that were taken care of on a community level. He wants to make sure there is more of a normative

culture. Most skaters are decent folks. We should just be cautious and make sure to keep that lens on it.

Alison Link said skatepark users are not necessarily Johnson residents. It would be helpful to put out information on the things Casey has mentioned in a place where people beyond Johnson can see it. She encourages people to reach out if there is any way Healthy Lamoille Valley can help with positive messages, visioning and strategic thinking. A community conversation or convening a group could support consistent messaging.

Casey said the Skatepark Committee wants to update their Instagram and Facebook pages but they also have display space at the park and one idea was to use it for pictures, blurbs, etc. showing involvement.

Alison said there are stakeholders from outside Johnson like River Arts that can be involved.

Mike asked if Cal was looking for information about the type and quantity of drugs found at the skatepark. Cal said he was more interested in what the follow-up has been. Casey said it was 50 packets of heroin. It is an active case assigned to a detective. They said that building an actual case that will end up successfully in court is a long process. Casey said her daughter told her that amount of heroin is about \$500 worth but the sheriff said here it's more like \$1,000 because there is little competition.

Kyle said if it is difficult for the police department to get the case into court that is even more reason to deal with the issue as a community and not rely on police. She thinks we need to think outside the box.

Brian said he thinks Casey and Lisa have handled this well. Casey said Lisa's social media skills are very helpful.

6. *Discussion and Adoption of Resolution Regarding the Formation of Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District*

Brian said the legislation enabling formation of a Communications Union District (CUD) by the selectboard was recently passed. To move forward the selectboard needs to adopt a resolution about formation of the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District. Then we will use the CUD to try to access funds that might come along for broadband deployment.

Lea Kilvadyova said she has already had numerous discussions with the board about this but she is here to answer any questions. Eric asked, our action is to adopt this resolution and appoint a representative with some alternates? Lea said that is correct. She said Hyde Park acted on the same resolution last Monday and tonight Morristown and Waterville are having the same discussions. Eric said he understands that the authority for the selectboard to do this is in effect only while the state of emergency is in effect. Lea said that is correct.

Mike moved and Nat seconded to adopt the resolution approving the formation of Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District.

Charles Gallanter said the board does not need to appoint representatives tonight but the town needs to have at least temporary delegates by the time the CUD board meets. He noted that it was the unanimous recommendation of the Broadband Committee that Johnson join the CUD.

The motion was passed.

Charlotte Reber said she would be interested in being a representative or alternate. Nat said she would be a great representative. Brian said he had reached out to Paul Warden to see if he was interested in being a representative. Margo Warden said she doesn't know if Paul is interested and she went to ask him. Brian suggested Doug might be interested. Doug said he would be willing to serve.

Lea said it is important to have good people representing the town. It is better to have redundancy in appointments but if the board appoints only one representative tonight that would be fine and then the issue can be revisited in 2 weeks. She is hoping to put together an organizational meeting of the CUD next week. Nat asked, we can have two alternates, right? Lea said yes, the board can nominate one representative and two alternates.

Charles Gallanter said he doesn't see a continuing role for the Broadband Committee. Lea said Hyde Park is interested in keeping its Broadband Committee. She would not decide tonight whether to disband the committee. She suggested maybe getting committee input.

Mike moved to appoint Charlotte Reber as representative to the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District board with Doug Molde as an alternate, Nat seconded and the motion was passed with Doug recusing himself.

7. *Review Draft Building Permit Ordinance*

Brian said he had made a few changes in the most recent draft of the building permit ordinance. He changed the "shall not" language in Section IV(A) to soften it and make it more clear that the ordinance cannot be used to approve or deny a construction project. The permit is informational only. In the enforcement section he added a part that says that no penalty or injunction not described in the ordinance is allowed. The ordinance cannot be used to prevent construction.

Doug said he would suggest some revisions to Section VII. He had previously suggested putting a hold on enforcement for six months and Nat had suggested making that 12 months. In the definitions section he would say that an informational permit means a written statement, issued by the Selectboard of the Town or Permit Officer that establishes that the town has received the notice described in this ordinance. The permit is just communicating that they have provided us with the information. In section VI, he would cross out F and G

Doug said he would call this an information permit ordinance rather than a building permit ordinance. Eric said he would agree with that, except will the average person understand what an informational permit is? They will understand what a building permit is. Doug said a building permit is a zoning thing. We want to move away from that. This is not zoning. Kyle said maybe it is the word "permit" that is the problem. To her a permit means something

serious that will get checked back on. It can be a loaded term. Eric suggested “building notification.”

Nat said he has been pushing to make this as simple as possible. Now it is less than one page long. It asks for contact information and there are five questions. Three have yes or no answers and the others are short. And there is no way to deny people. It is incredibly simple. It accomplishes the two goals we set out to accomplish: more tax equity and fair assessments and safety of the assessor, because she will have contact information before she shows up. Regarding Doug’s suggestion to get rid of F and G under VI, his thought was to say that if the project is not complete one year from the date of the notice to proceed, then the project *will* be granted an extension of another year, rather than “may be granted.”

Brian said including F and G – issuing a notification and then the permit – does make the ordinance easier to administer. We can simplify it as Doug suggest but as it is now it would be easier because we would have a distinction between things that are open but not completed and those that are completed. We would issue a permit afterwards because we have closed it out and the assessment has been changed. Having the notice to proceed expire is helpful for us because we know if the property owners have completed the project or not. We will give indefinite extensions, as many as they want. But it helps us to stay on top of projects where the assessment hasn't changed yet.

Eric said he is not sure if we really care about that. This was just to notify the assessors that something was being built. Once we notify the assessors it is up to them to assess and our role is minimal. Brian said he thinks it would be helpful administratively to have a clear distinction between projects that are in progress and those that are complete. Doug said he doesn't understand how that will work. If it is less than a year since the permit application was submitted the assessors won't know where the owner is with the project. They will have to keep looking. Brian said it would be easier for him the way it is now but it is not necessary. If the board feels that is beyond where they are comfortable going he is fine with changing it. Eric said the notification is all we care about and we pass it on to the assessors.

Brian said he will return with another version that moves away from having a staged process and just provides us a notification and that is it. And he thinks there is some desire to get rid of the word “permit.” He noted that there were some different suggestions in chat about possible wording.

Nat said he is concerned that people will not understand what this is, what the intent is and how it will work. He wonders if it would be beneficial, rather than adopting it this summer, to put it before the voters at town meeting after educating people about it.

Mike asked, you are saying the voters should decide on this at town meeting next year? He could agree with that. Eric said it would be non-binding. We would gauge the voters comfort level and then the selectboard would have to vote

Nat said he is concerned that if the board adopts the ordinance now there will be a petition and an Australian ballot vote and the board will never get a chance to explain the ordinance.

Eric said if the voters approve it at town meeting and then the selectboard adopts it, the voters could still have a petition and an Australian ballot vote.

Doug said he thinks the board should vote on the ordinance and put in an extension of the time before there are penalties, then publicize it at town meeting.

Nat asked, if we got a petition back for a vote, isn't there a certain number of days within which the vote has to be held? It would have to be voted this summer or fall. It could be struck down even before town meeting day. Mike said Nat is right. We don't know how long COVID will last. If there is a petition and a vote is taken, that is an expense and especially in this time of tight budgets he feels we should wait until town meeting day and decide it then. Town meeting gives everyone in the town a forum to speak.

Kyle said her concern is the assessor's safety needs. If we push this to town meeting, what does that mean for the assessors in the meantime? Eric said they have probably already done their viewing of properties for the year. Brian said they have done that for this year. We are still working on arrangements for what next year will look like – whether there will be rolling or periodic assessment. Eric said we have enough time after town meeting to adopt this and have notification for the assessors when they start doing their viewing next year. Brian said we would miss anyone who is doing construction now. We won't get contact information from anyone who does projects since the last visits and before the ordinance is adopted. Nat said the effort to improve the assessor's safety will be all for naught if the voters strike this down based on potentially bad information about what it is. Mike said someone had mentioned in chat that people will be educated at town meeting and their vote will count. The ordinance could be struck down with an Australian ballot vote.

Eric suggested that when we feel the ordinance is ready to send for legal review we should decide at that point whether to wait for town meeting to approve it. Nat has a good point that the best chance of passing it is if we can talk directly to voters about it rather than having it voted by Australian ballot and it is too late to affect viewing for this year. It will only affect next year's viewing. Waiting until town meeting will have as much effect for addressing the assessor's safety as approving it now. Brian said he doesn't think however fast we act we will get much mileage out of it this year. Education will be needed. Eric said there also will be a delay after it is approved when people have time to raise a petition. Brian said we will have to have a couple of public hearings on it before we can adopt it.

Walter Pomeroy said he would suggest under IV(A) just saying that within 30 days of construction the property owner should file a report. In addition to getting rid of F and G under VI, he would also suggest eliminating D and E. He would get rid of the words “permit” and “application” and just refer to filing a report. That way it is clear to everyone that this is just for information only.

Brian mentioned some of the comments that had been made in chat. Lois Frey had pointed out a mistaken reference to a traffic complaint. Donna Griffiths pointed out that it will take time before everyone is aware of the new requirement. Jeff Bickford and Shayne Spence support having it approved at town meeting. Scott Meyers suggested basing fines on taxes

missed and a surcharge. Eric said he doesn't think we can do that. We only have so much statutory power. Brian said he is not sure if a sliding scale would work. He doesn't think that option is available but he will look into it.

Eben Patch said this is for the assessors. It implies they aren't covering all portions of the town. We are making the assessor's job easier and he is wondering if we should pay them less if they are not going to every house. Eric said they only go to 1/4 of the houses in town every year. So if someone built a large building they might not even be aware of it for several years. They do look at our curb permits and sewer permits trying to find out about new building projects. The listers used to go to every house every year but when the last lister retired we could not find other people who are willing to be listers. It is a little different with assessors. The assessor doesn't always know whose property she is on and they don't know who she is. She doesn't always feel safe.

Eben asked, so this ordinance saves us nothing in costs but provides a sheet that the assessor could call people from? Eric agreed that is right. This will tell her that someone is building so she can view the property out of sequence and would know the contact person. Doug said his recollection was that the assessors were saying this would help their efficiency. They don't like doing our assessments because they are running into this problem. Eric said this is the only town they support that doesn't have zoning so there is more work here compared to other towns. Brian said that is right. According to NEMRC, the assessor company, without this ordinance there would be a dramatic increase in our cost. We might still see an increase in our cost but without the ordinance it would be a massive increase and we might not even be able to get them to come back. Nat said it would be interesting to get a quote with and without the ordinance.

Eben asked, is there only one assessor company? Nat said there is an advantage to using someone who already knows the town. Eric asked if we had any other bids the last time we went out to bid. Brian said he wasn't here at that time. Nat said he thinks we did. Doug said this informational form would likely be as useful to any other assessors as to NEMRC. He doesn't think their desire for this form is a reason to talk about dumping NEMRC. Brian agreed. He said we will seek additional bids and ask for more details about the cost difference between having the ordinance and not having it, but he thinks anyone coming in will have the same issue.

8. *Update on Light Industrial Park*

Brian said for the EDA grant we are going after the EDA's recommendation now goes beyond our earlier understanding. They don't just want us to have a willingness to provide cash but they actually want us to have cash on hand for the project. We don't think we would have to spend most of the cash, maybe none of it. We would try to do in-kind donations of work and get other grants and financing but they are asking us to have that cash on hand when we make our grant application. That would make our application much more likely to be successful. Brian is working with our congressional representatives to help us push back on them about this but the board needs to discuss what our appetite is to borrow for this work. Eric said to borrow that amount of money we would need to have a townwide vote and because of COVID-19 it would have to be by Australian ballot. Brian said the total cost would be a little less than \$1.4 million dollars and our share would be about \$279,000. We

would need to have \$279,000 on hand for the grant application. The point he made when talking to Peter Welch's office is that communities are cash poor right now. We wouldn't have that much cash that we could just set aside. We will be able to provide most of our match through in-kind contributions and other financing.

Eric said he never heard of a grant application that required you to have your match in cash on hand. Nat asked why this is just coming up now. Brian said he can't entirely say that it is not a misunderstanding he could have had. His feeling is that this is to make us more competitive, not a strict requirement. We would likely get passed over if we didn't have the cash. He is trying to get Welch, Leahy and Sanders to write a letter of support asking the EDA to change their priorities in this time and to look at impact more than ability to pay.

Eric said up until this point they were leading us to believe that we were very competitive. Then at the 11th hour they say we have to have the cash on hand for the match. They should know we can't have a town-wide meeting during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Brian said this is a recommendation from the federal government. They probably don't have any understanding of procedures in Vermont.

Eric asked about the timeline. Brian said it's a rolling deadline. The clock starts when we make our formal application. They have been doing prep work with us so when we submit our application it will be virtually guaranteed success.

Brian said he wants to talk about the alternatives. We can submit a less competitive application with the money we have. We can spend more time trying to pre-sell lots in the industrial park. If we have a grant application ready to submit it might be attractive enough to a developer. We can continue trying to raise funds and not necessarily borrow the money.

Doug asked what probabilities they are giving us. How fierce is the competition? Brian said that is very difficult for him to say. He is interested in the possibility of submitting and seeing where we come out. He would like to find out the consequences if we are denied this time and apply again the second time for the same project.

Lea asked about the funding source. Brian said it is FY2018 developmental assistance. Lea said she has heard that that money is still available because they don't have enough applicants. She thinks it would be worthwhile to submit an application as is. But she doesn't have all the background. She thinks there will be a higher chance with this program. Eric asked if it would make us more competitive having the congressional letters of support. Brian said he thinks that would probably help. Lea said her sense is that the money is there now because they don't have enough applicants for it.

Brian said he is interested in submitting an application that is a little less competitive but he wants to find out more about the consequences of being denied. Depending on the consequences we could submit based on in-kind and borrowing from our revolving loan fund and if that fails he is interested in pursuing other grants before reapplying. Maybe there are other grants that can match with this. In the future there will be another round of Northern Border grants. We were denied for that grant for similar reasons. They were concerned about

us coming up with the rest of the money. We originally came up with an estimate that we were about \$75,000 short on financing. Our estimates have changed a little and Brian has to run to the figures again. We will probably need to raise \$75-100,000. A lot of that, if not all of it, can come from our revolving loan fund.

Nat asked if Brian is still partnering with Seth from LCPC. Brian said yes, Seth has been very helpful. They're also getting help from a state modeling team with estimates of how much money the industrial park will bring in.

Greg Tatro said he is wondering if the town can pre-sell some lots to raise money. Most bigger projects do that to get money for the match for funding. If the town did that, we would have to be totally committed and have a time frame for starting construction. Does the town have a design of the lots and how they will be subdivided? Brian said yes. We have a map, but we haven't subdivided the lots yet. When we have tried looked into selling lots in the past, developers we talked to wanted us to be further along in the process, but we are a little further along now.

Greg asked how many lots we will have. Brian said we have six targeted. Greg asked, does the map work? What will the lots be worth? Brian said he doesn't have that information in front of him. He would appreciate Greg's advice. Greg said he has some people he works with who he thinks could be of help.

Jessica Bickford asked if the town can resubmit the grant. Brian said we will find out more about what the process is for resubmitting. That doesn't seem to be the way they necessarily like to go. They have been trying to do all this in advance of us submitting the grant. They have read our complete application package quite a few times. He wants to find out more about the consequences of getting denied.

9. Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept Monthly Report for May 2020

The sheriff's monthly report was emailed out.

10. Juneteenth Proclamation

Mike said the proposal to pass a proclamation regarding Juneteenth came up at the last meeting and it was decided to table it until a future meeting. **Mike moved to adopt the proposed proclamation declaring June 19 "Juneteenth Freedom Day" in the Town of Johnson, seconded by Doug.**

Nat said he is fully supportive of a proclamation but he has a couple of questions about this particular one. This is the first time he has seen indigenous people mentioned in relation to Juneteenth. What is the relationship of indigenous people to Juneteenth? He noted that the board just got this at 3:00 and he hasn't had time to pick through the fact to see that it all makes sense. He has seen a lot of Juneteenth proclamations that are good. He thinks wordsmithing this would take a lot of time. He is strongly in favor of the board passing a resolution regarding Juneteenth.

Mike said the board has had this for 2 weeks, not just since 3:00. Nat said he just got an email today saying that it was added to the agenda for this evening. Mike said it was in the board packet last time and the board was supposed to study it. Brian said it was not in the

board packet but it did come up for discussion at the last meeting. Nat said it was never sent to him before today.

Kyle said she agrees that she really wants the selectboard to adopt a proclamation. She has been looking at this one more and also been looking at others. While this one has some very good things in it she thinks there could be more. She also thinks we should have the audience tell us what they think. She would like to hear from Shayne Spence where this one came from and why he chose to include the things he did and why he left out other things.

Shayne said he took it pretty much verbatim from the town of Hartford and replaced the town and selectboard names. This was the language passed by the Town of Hartford on June 9. He didn't add or take anything away. It is totally fine if the selectboard wants to modify it. Regarding indigenous people, the Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves in the South, not just Black slaves. Nat said his understanding is that Juneteenth really has to do with the African-American experience and that the indigenous experience, even for those who were enslaved, was quite a bit different than the African-American experience.

Eric said Vermont has already declared this a holiday. Do they have a proclamation other than this for the state? Shayne said he is not sure.

Beth Foy said he thinks she thinks it is really important for it to be very clear and simple and not wordy. She fully supports a resolution and she thinks the town should pass one but she thinks the wording of it should be selected carefully. She thinks one to three sentences is sufficient to make the point and speaks louder than having a lot of words on the page and will get more attention. She advises the board to do the homework before voting on this. Too many words can get you in trouble. There are ways to make your point and be pointed about it.

Jackie Stanton said she is glad the selectboard is talking about this now. She thinks the historical context that has brought us to this moment is important. She doesn't agree about having it simple and short. She thinks we need to say why we are doing this. She would hate to think that in the future our kids and grandkids would think we watered the resolution down to be careful or cautious. The Vermont State House of Representatives passed a long resolution by a large majority. It went over the historical context in great detail.

Lois Frey said she supports the statement but it mentions throughout it being a recognition of freedom day but in the fourth paragraph it mentions it being an official holiday. She thinks we should have clarification of what we are looking for. She thinks the state approved a recognition day, not a holiday. They mean two different things.

Mike read the last two paragraphs which he thinks sum up the reasons for the proclamation. Would that cover it all?

Kyle said at the last meeting we had with Bor Yang she talked about how we often were taught and our children are now being taught to celebrate holidays like Martin Luther King Jr. Day in their historical context but the missing part in terms of trying to combat systemic

racism is remembering that this is still happening today. To leave the current context of everyday systemic racism and what it feels and looks like to a person of color out of this proclamation would be a missed opportunity. It is not helping people of color not to talk about what is going on now. If we are committed to adopting a proclamation that celebrates emancipation she thinks we need to acknowledge the painful history and acknowledge what is happening today and that there is work for us to do to combat it. Her feeling is that we don't need to reinvent the wheel and wordsmith this ourselves. Why not adopt the resolution that passed overwhelmingly in the State House of Representatives? She would be very open to looking at that and going with that. Looking at it quickly she sees that it really speaks to the now. The one Shayne proposed doesn't speak much about that. Mike said it does discuss it. It says that people of color continue to struggle and overcome racism and bigotry. Kyle said she thinks that barely touches it. The one the state representatives passed talks directly to that point. Mike said Kyle was going to move forward with the proclamation as written last time. It must be that she had a change of heart. Kyle said yes, she has been thinking about it more. This is a learning process for her. Mike asked if Kyle thinks the one the legislature passed suffices or if she thinks Johnson has to craft their own. Kyle said she thinks the one the House passed is great. Mike asked if she is saying that the selectboard should check that one out and discuss it another time. Kyle said yes.

Mike withdrew his motion with Doug's agreement.

Shayne said he is pretty disappointed at the change of heart. He thinks that this, in addition to the resolution passed at the previous meeting, would go a long way toward establishing any context.

Brian summarized some of the comments from the chat. Diana Osborn encourages the selectboard to make a commitment to actions or goals. Beth Foy wants to clarify that the one that is proposed that people review for the next meeting is the one passed by the State House of Representatives. Is that correct? Brian said yes, that is the one he will send out a link to that one.

Scott said since June 19th of this year has already passed we have time to make sure we are adopting just what we want to say. We should be careful because now we have time.

Kyle said she doesn't think Shayne should feel disappointed. He should feel good because he started this important conversation. The board is just continuing it and making sure that the proclamation says what they want it to say. She thinks the proclamation is going to happen. It is just a matter of making sure which version resonates with the board and the community.

11. Beautification

Brian said the Beautification Committee has sought some proposals from Andrea Blaisdell for work around the municipal office building. It would be a continuation of the work she has done on the village green. The Beautification Committee has had a little trouble meeting lately and they would like the selectboard to sign the contract for them to work with Andrea. Brian showed a copy of the proposed contract for 4 projects at the municipal building – driveway hedgerow, improvements around the flagpole, improvements around the generator and town sign, and improvements around the patio. The total cost would be about \$3,100.

Kyle said it has been challenging to get all the members of the Beautification Committee on a Zoom call at once. They haven't been able to have a Zoom call with a quorum, but everyone has said yes to this contract via email. The Beautification Committee would like to move forward with the selectboard's approval.

Eric asked what our budget amount is for this line item. Brian said this would be paid for partly out of money that was unspent in FY 2019 and FY 2020. The committee can afford it. Nat asked if the village is contributing anything. Kyle said yes, they passed a budget including \$2,000 for beautification at their village meeting. Doug asked, are we paying half the cost? Eric said that is a good question. Is the amount shown here the town share? Brian said he would have to look at how the village has worded their contribution. He thinks if the selectboard authorizes the Beautification Committee to enter into these contracts the Beautification Committee can divide the cost into the appropriate shares.

Doug moved to authorize the Beautification Committee to enter into the proposed contracts with Andrea Blaisdell for beautification projects at the municipal building. Nat seconded and the motion was passed.

12. CUD Representative Appointments

Doug asked if Brian had heard back from Paul Warden. Brian said Paul had questions and he plans to have a phone call with him tomorrow. Shayne Spence had also expressed interest in being a representative and Brian will email him and set up a phone call.

13. Other Business

Eben Patch asked if there is any update on the new window in the town office and when the town office will be open to the public. Brian said the town clerk's office will remain closed for the time being and open by appointment only. Eben asked if any resident can make an appointment or if that is just for deed searches. Brian said it is mostly for deed searches but if someone has a need they can't service using the website or drop box they should contact Rosemary and we will find a way to accommodate them.

14. CUD Representative Appointments

Mike asked if we are going to leave appointment of alternate representatives up in the air. Is Shayne willing to serve now? Shayne said if Paul doesn't want to do it. Brian said he is interested in having a conversation with both Shayne and Paul and coming back with a recommendation. Either or both of them can attend the formation meeting. Doug said alternates ought to be attending the meetings for greater input but the opportunity for input will mostly come later. The first meeting will be cut and dried formation procedures.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths