

## SUNDERLAND SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Place: Sunderland Town Offices, 12 School Street

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Attending: N. Waring, C. Drake-Tremblay, D. Murphy, G. Kravitz

Others: C. Bennett; P. Gagarin, J. Corwin

Meeting Hybrid and In-person with portions recorded by FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM

### MINUTES

Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to accept MINUTES of 03/18/2024, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.

### BUSINESS

- **BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS DONATION:** Colin Bartlett introduced his business and would like to donate services that would be beneficial to the Buttonball Tree. The “root invigoration” process is where they air mix compost, biocharge and other soil amendments then introduce to the soil at the base which helps with environmental stresses such as the completion of roadwork a couple of years ago on N. Main Street. Mr. Bartlett feels the Buttonball tree would benefit from this treatment. It includes adding a mulch ring up to 10ft. wide in some areas. Care would be taken near the sidewalk to minimize debris run off. Soil samples will be taken initially to formulate a proper fertilizer which is applied once/year. These services are all donated. Ms. Drake Tremblay motion to accept donation with thanks to Bartlett Tree Expert’s for the Buttonball Tree treatments as described, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.
- **375 HADLEY ROAD APR PROJECT:** Property is currently in APR and owner wants to put greenhouses on property. Project has been reviewed by Conservation Commission where no wetland concerns were observed. The town is required to vote on the project since this is APR property. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion that the town has no concerns with the greenhouse project at 375 Hadley Rd., as presented, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.
- **BONFIRE PERMIT REQUEST - SUNDERLAND FD:** Chief is requesting he be permitted to issue a Bonfire Permit to the Sunderland Fire Department for May 4th. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to grant Bonfire Permit Request for FD, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0.
- **ATM WARRANT FIRST LOOK:** Article review. PLANNING BOARD proposal for two zoning bylaw amendments. 1) **STAND-ALONE BATTERY STORAGE FACILITIES FOR SOLAR**, and 2) **STRUCTURE CONVERSION**. Current bylaw does not allow for more than four units on a lot. The amendment allows for more units for older buildings. Current bylaw does not allow for older housing stock redevelopment. There are properties but developing a single-family home or less than four units is not profitable for developers. The Planning Board is trying to find ways to develop these properties for certain properties for redevelopment. Development of some properties would be limited to at least 10,000 gross sq/ft. and up to eight units for certain lots. The Board requested inviting a Planning Board member to the next meeting to further explain bylaw amendments. Petition for **SPECIAL LEGISLATION ALLOWING 16-17 YEAR OLDS TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS**, vote at town meeting would require approval from state legislature. Ms. Corwin is bringing petition proposal to the School Committee. Ms. Drake-Tremblay would like to do more research before taking a vote on the petition article. Warrant articles do not need to be voted at this meeting and will be reviewed at next meeting.
- **OPERATING BUDGET:** Inclusion of increase in local receipts and reduction of town budget line items leaves an \$87,000 gap. \$55,000 **RETIREMENT** article for retiring teachers. The has been placing this expense as an ATM article and not include as a school budget item. The expense for this article was not included in the current contract and will phase out. Mr. Waring requested ARPA funds be used for this expense in FY25. Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to pay \$55,000 for teacher retirement from ARPA funds and remove from ATM 2024 Warrant, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0. \$55,000 would be added to the Free Cash allocation.

OLD BUSINESS - none

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SELECTBOARD UPDATES

Board members had no reports.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Mr. Kravitz clarified details of Town Meeting to finalize ATM postcard for mailing. ATM will be Fri. April 26, 2024, 6:30PM at Sunderland Elementary School, 1 Swampfield Dr.

Next Selectboard meeting – Monday, April 4, 2024

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ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Drake-Tremblay motion to adjourn, Mr. Murphy second, vote 3-0 at 7:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Kravitz,  
Town Administrator