



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
June 13, 2016

Attendance: Adam Dolby, William Levakis, and Andrew Montanaro, Cara Letendre - Secretary

Open Meeting:

7:00 p.m. Mr. Dolby called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting will be recorded.

New Business:

1. Historical Commission: Mick Brennan
 - a. Watson Park Update:
 - i. Have spoken with several entities who will be providing detailed proposals.
 1. One for a gate along the border of Route 23 to establish park boundaries as advised by Town Counsel.
 - a. waiting on three proposals, looking at about \$5,000-\$6,000.
 2. The second proposal is regarding tree work in the park (Liberty Hill Tree Service).
 - a. Tree Warden: Peter Thayer - did some work this weekend along the road in the park on the Pin Oaks. Cleaned up hangers and any dangerous limbs. Plans to remove the large dead Maple. Will schedule a tree hearing. Historical Commission did not have any concerns regarding this work.
 - b. Stone wall clean-up: Mrs. Kronholm had requested this week that the Park Superintendent clean-up along the stone wall at the top of the park as there are several weddings at the White Church this summer and often couples take photos near the wall. Mr. Emo will work on the clean-up this week. Board discussed marking boundaries.
 - c. There is a tree on the property that borders the park whose limbs are growing over the barns. Mr.

Brennan will follow up with the owner regarding allowing the tree service to clear the limbs.

3. Plans and proposals will be submitted to the Board as the trustees of the Park and they will choose the direction to go in.
 4. Discussed doing a survey of the park.
 5. Discussed path through hedges bordering the park. Mr. Brennan will check with the Assessor Clerk regarding deeds for the property and the park.
- b.** Shepard Farm: next step is to find out property that the town owns that is not designated as open space to possible trade and release part of the conservation easement on Shepard Farm.
- 2.** Healthy Hampshire Group: Kaitlin Marquis - Coordinator & Sarah Baker - Manager.
- a.** The group received a grant to expand their work towards healthy eating, active lifestyles and disease prevention in the Hilltowns. Partnering with Huntington Health Center, the CDC and the American Institute of Architects (AIOA).
 - i.** Provided a snapshot/health assessment of the Hilltowns.
 - ii.** Next step is strategic planning to determine the next steps to increase access to healthy food and physical activity in the Hilltowns.
 - iii.** Meeting this Friday 1:00 at Huntington Health Center with AIOA rep focus groups.
 - iv.** Public input sessions will be scheduled for September.
 - v.** Putting together a steering committee and are looking for participants.
 - vi.** Any ongoing positive efforts in town?
 1. Community Garden
 2. COA exercise groups/ walking club
 3. Knittell Walking Trails
 - vii.** Discussed our needs:
 1. more access to better walking paths, sidewalks (grant funds can't be spent on infrastructure but can help with signage etc.)
 2. Signage for walking trails
 3. Expanded walking group, Police Department would like to participate.
 4. Cycling friendly roads
 5. Mobile Farmer's Markets, Food trucks
 6. Materials regarding available programs for first aid responders to distribute.

3. Minutes:

- a. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of 5/23/2016 as written, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of 6/6/2016 as edited, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
4. Baseball in the Field: Complaint from some residents regarding trash. Board asked Cara to order signs.
 5. Water Department: Slow Sand filters had been running too slow. The Water Department recently came up with a new method of cleaning the filters, after consulting with UMASS, UNH and MS Filters. Will get 250,000 gallons a day to keep the clear wells at 8 feet for fire emergencies. Have DEP approval for new method.

Old Business:

1. Employee Evaluations: Cara contacted surrounding towns and they either have a Town Administrator who does the evaluations or they don't do them.
2. Town Administrator: first interview is scheduled for next week.
3. Community Compact: Next week. Mr. Dolby will follow-up with Town Counsel to get approval for Mr. van Werkhoven and Mrs. Smith to represent Blandford.
4. Special Town Meeting Warrant: the article regarding having the moderator declare 2/3rds vote was not on the warrant so we will have to count votes at the meeting.
5. Insurance: Cara checked with MIIA today and there was no new information.
6. Selectboard Conduct:
 - a. Mr. Dolby: Yes we should be moving forward, however we can't do so blindly without resolving the challenges before us. Everyone up here is passionate and has the town's best interest in mind. There are however ways to go about accomplishing things without being a bully on a pulpit. For far too long some of the behavior has been childish and immature and it is my responsibility as Chair to ensure that all employees, volunteers, etc are treated with the same level of respect. Last week and working backwards the shouting matches have been unacceptable. My credibility and intentions as chair being called out is very offensive to me as I am basically a volunteer. The same goes for the Finance Committee for their invaluable volunteer service. There are several things I have overlooked for far too long that are now affecting other areas. Yes it is completely embarrassing and I'm not sure what the reasoning is or if it's my job to get to the bottom of it. Going forward I'm not going to accept it. If someone is acting in an inappropriate manner without civil discourse it is within the purview of this chair to remove folks or close the meeting. I will give one warning. I'm hoping we can resolve these challenges just with this discussion and don't have to keep revisiting it. I would like to move on. The threatening and inappropriate texts/emails runs a risk of violating the open meeting law and are unwarranted and need to stop. We need to be respectful of the time and energy put into this town by volunteers, employees etc.

- b. Mr. Montanaro: I would like to resolve the past issues person to person in executive session so we don't have to advertise them any further and continue to embarrass the town.
- c. Mr. Levakis: agreed to discuss in executive session.

8:51 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss the ongoing union negotiation as well as to discuss complaints against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual, Mr. Montanaro second, Cara called a roll call vote, Mr. Levakis - yes, Mr. Dolby - yes, Mr. Montanaro - yes, unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

William Levakis - Member