

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting

June 12, 2017
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover, Martha Marchut, Laurie Haynes, Heidi Alley, and Dan Staples

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Kate Hoyt, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Public Present: Dan Remian, Frank Muddle, Carole Leporati, Kristi Niedermann, Monika Magee, Alan Magee (all Cushing taxpayers).

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve Warrants 24, 25, and 26.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 05/22/17 Meeting:

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to approve the Minutes of the 05/22/17 meeting.

Discussion: None.

Motion to Approve 5/22/2017 Minutes Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a (was 7a). Guy Barter, on Mowing Cushing Cemeteries [New Business, moved to beginning]:

ACTION: None taken

Discussion: Guy mows Cushing cemeteries. Last year, there was not enough money in the cemetery account to pay him for the entire summer. He had come to discuss options for the current year. Guy offered to mow for free, once the account had been exhausted, but the Selectmen proposed instead paying him by the month during the summer and fall months. The main challenge seems to be the ancient cemeteries, of which Cushing has seven.

5b. Will Payson's Email About Getting Draft Notes Sooner

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Laurie Haynes addressed an email that Cushing resident Will Payson had sent to the Selectmen regarding what Chet Knowles used to do at Board meetings, when he was alive. Chet was in the habit of attending meetings of all Cushing Boards, taking unofficial notes, and posting them a day or two later to a community email list that he also maintained. [Ed. Note: The confusion comes from the difference between unofficial notes, which Chet took, and official minutes, which cannot be circulated until approved.] Selectman Dan Staples was concerned about posting draft minutes to the Cushing email list, and Heidi Alley commented that a solution would be for more townspeople to attend the Board meetings. All agreed that Chet's community service had been much appreciated, and that they hoped members of the community would step up to fill his unofficial role.

5c. Evelyn Kalloch, Update

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Evelyn Kalloch lives in a memory unit out of town; her house is on the market; and the Planning Board/Board of Assessors will need to fill her position, at some point, as that is necessary/possible, in accordance with each Board's charter. Dan Remian and Frank Muddle sketched the situation. Issues surrounding residency were discussed.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Transfer Station Report

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha Marchut gave an update on the Transfer Station situation. The issues have been addressed at length in minutes of recent meetings. Selectmen had the same concerns about the Board, going forward: whether a Board with an even number of members could function; whether having a vote on a new committee would offset receiving tipping fees, as in the past; why the issues had come up at this time (because the contract was being renewed, and it's a logical time to make changes). Martha said that however the Selectmen wanted her to vote was how she would vote. She pointed out that there was one more meeting of the Selectmen before the vote, and that the discussion could continue then. Alton Grover suggested that the Selectmen attend the upcoming meeting of the Transfer Station Committee. Selectman Heidi Alley said she wanted to see more numbers before deciding. This committee meets the second Thursday in July, on July 14th.

7. New Business:

7a. Open Bids for tax-acquired properties Map 001, Lot 26; Map 007, Lot 46; and Map 011, Lot 023.

ACTION: Dan Staples motioned to accept the high bids from Dan Ford of Hope on the two properties for which the Selectmen received bids. Heidi Alley seconded.

Discussion: Select Board Chair Alton Grover opened the bids. There were no bids on Map 001, Lot 26. There was one bid on Map 007, Lot 46 from Dan Ford of 318 Hatchet Mtn. Road, Hope, for \$7,550. Three people bid on Map 011, Lot 23, on Ahola Lane: Dan Ford, of Hope, bid \$3,550.00; Mariann Ahola of Cushing bid \$3,220.00; and Pine Tree Real Estate in Waldoboro bid \$1,051.00.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Good Neighbors Park:

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Frank Muddle presented the Selectmen with an outline of responsibilities for a Cushing Good Neighbors Park Committee. He reviewed some specifics about the park that Kristi Niedermann had recently donated to the Town, including provisions for maintenance and upkeep; fundraising support; how the committee would report to the Select Board; and membership on the proposed committee. The proposal was for a three-member Board that Kristi Niedermann would chair. The other two members would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Dan Staples recommended Gary or Ida Clarke as one of the other two members. Vic Goldsmith had volunteered to mow a path through the park at no charge, but needed the Selectmen's okay to do so. There was discussion of how much the Town's insurance would cover. Alton Grover asked who would mow the big field. Kristi thought that David Smith, Bull Run Farm, would hay it 1-2 times a year. He had hayed the field in 2016. At Alton's suggestion, Kristi agreed to check with David again about haying going forward. David had wanted to be able to fertilize the field; Kristi said it would not be a problem to fertilize the field to improve the quality of the hay. Issues of fertilizer runoff into Broad Bay were touched on. Frank Muddle enumerated a number of potential expenses, subject to Select Board approval, including walking path, parking for shore access, signage, plantings, and fundraising expenses. He specified that legal fees would not be paid out of this fund. The Selectmen discussed assessing additional insurance to groups that rented the space, if that happened. Frank Muddle and Carole Leporati specified that Cushing residents would not be required to pay usage fees, but would be responsible for costs to restore the park to how it was, if necessary. Dan Staples commented that the proposed Park Committee seemed similar to the relationship the Select Board had with the Fire Department. Selectman Laurie Haynes asked when the Committee would start fundraising, and Carole and Frank answered that it would begin as soon as an account is established.

7c. Discuss Culvert Problems on Stones Point Road

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to authorize local Cushing excavators Meklin to complete the fixing of this culvert.

Discussion: Culvert partially collapsed near property of Ann Craven on Stones Point Road. Homeowner has agreed to pay whatever is necessary to fix the private property end of the culvert. Discussion of putting the job out to bid; Alton Grover said it was a difficult job to bid, because a previous homeowner had continued the Town's culvert across private property all the way to the shoreline. There was no telling what was underground. Discussion of bidding procedure. Discussion of timing the work. Alton Grover suggested fixing it at a time when there was not water running through it. Discussion of the hazards of doing a bad job and having to redo, as well as how accepting a misguided low bid would require the Town to waste time and money. Concluded that there was no state statute requiring the Town to put the job out to bid, so they would give it to Meklin.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

8. Comments from Citizens: no additional

9. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Municipal Clerk