

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
July 23, 2018
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Laurie Haynes; Danny Staples; Corey Jones

Selectmen Absent: Selectman Martha Marchut

Staff Present: Registrar/Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Cushing taxpayers Kristi Niedermann, Crystal Robinson, and Doug Hartley of the Good Neighbor Park Committee

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 2018 Warrants 25 and 26.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 6/11/18 Meeting:

ACTION: Select Board Chair Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve the minutes of the 7/09/18 meeting with typographical corrections.

Discussion: Several misprints corrected.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Poverty Abatement Guidelines

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Selectman Laurie Haynes opened the topic of rules governing poverty abatements with the Board. Martha Marchut

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Discuss Kiosk for Good Neighbor Park

ACTION: The GNP Committee decided to hold an information night to discuss improvements to GNP.

Discussion: Cushing taxpayer Doug Hartley expressed frustration at the lack of progress on development of the Park. He said that discussion had been going on for fifteen months since the date of donation by Terry Dodge, but that little had been accomplished since the land was donated. Selectmen Danny Staples commented that, personally, he felt that any big expenditures should be put before the townspeople in the Fall when most vote, not at a special town meeting. He said that the last \$10K transferred from the Recycling Committee was for maintenance only and could not be used to improve the park. Kristi said they were asking if they could accept a kiosk. Alton asked where they wanted to put it; its location, if in the Shoreland Zone, would require a visit to CEO Scott Bickford. Kristi said they would do that. Kristi said the kiosk might list announcements, regulations. Martha had spoken to several Cushing residents who thought that signage might attract the greater public, in an undesirable way. Crystal expressed frustration that funds which were contributed specifically for certain things might not be allowed to go for those things. "If we can't build those things, we need to return that money to the people who gave with something specific in mind." Kristi agreed. Crystal: "You got the DOT permit for the parking lot, which led us to believe you were going to put one in." Martha asked for more resolution on the kiosk. "Why don't you go back to the folks with the kiosk and tell them you'll accept it conditionally, dependent on the vote of the townspeople?" Alton asked what condition the kiosk was in. Kristi said she hadn't seen it. Laurie: "Why are we debating the kiosk?" Martha: "It changes the park and publicizes it in a way that some people in town do not want." Kristi: "So is the Park a secret?" Martha: "It's not a secret, but we need to choose how we want to publicize it. I hear about people finding needles and drug paraphernalia in parks." Corey said he was against a parking lot because it could attract drug dealers. Kristi said signage was necessary to explain to people how the park could be used. Alton asked what the Board's consensus was. GNP Committee agreed to make a list of what they want to do and put the list before the voters in November. Doug Hartley suggested delaying the parking lot until the townspeople can weigh in. The Board urged the Committee to be specific about what they want and to put it before the voters. Martha suggested they look at the wording of the Town Warrant. Lisa Young suggested a survey, and there was discussion of how to distribute it. Crystal: "Can we have an informational night?" Doug Hartley: "If we didn't ask for a parking lot or a chemical toilet, it would simplify things. Let's talk about specifics later. Wait; let people start using the park; and then see what comes up. In the meantime, make a wish list year by year." Crystal: "We feel a sense of responsibility to our donors." There was discussion of where to put the funds in the meantime, and what the constraints were for municipalities. Doug Hartley commented that, compared to what donors could be doing with their money, and the interest it could be earning, the donors may feel that their funds are dwindling. Crystal: Asked if, at a previous meeting, the Town had discussed giving back the Park. Kristi clarified that, no, the Town attorney had been consulted to be sure the land had been accepted appropriately.

6b. Poverty Abatement Request (*Discussed in Comments from Citizens portion of meeting*)

7. New Business – none

8. Comments from Citizens – none

---Executive Session---

The Select Board entered into Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F), discussion of confidential records, at 6:55. A motion was made by Selectman Dan Staples and seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Dan Staples motioned, and Martha Marchut seconded, to enter back into the main meeting at 7:10 p.m.

---The Selectmen rejoined the main meeting at 7:10 p.m.---

As a result of the discussion in Executive Session:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to deny the poverty abatement request that had been discussed in Executive Session at the June 25th meeting of the Selectmen, for lack of receipt of requested information by the applicants.

Discussion: Martha Marchut reiterated a caution regarding confidentiality. She said that, though the Selectmen had been speaking in general terms, they were skirting the issue too closely to be appropriate for the general meeting. Discussion preceding Executive Session was tabled.

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, write a letter to the applicants informing them of the Selectmen's decision.

Discussion: Martha Marchut agreed to write the letter.

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dan Staples, to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Town Clerk