

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
August 27, 2018
Cushing Community Center

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

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Cushing Treasurer/Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Cushing Fire Chief Arthur Kiskila and Fire Department member Eric Fitzmaurice; Planning Board Chair Bill Aboud and Planning Board members Frank Muddle and Bob Ellis; and Cushing taxpayers Bob Stackpole, Will Payson, and Edward Amoroso

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 31 and 32.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 8/13/18 Meeting:

ACTION: Select Board Chair Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve the minutes of the 8/13/18 meeting as written.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda: none

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Discuss Sand Shed Repairs

ACTION: Dan Staples motioned that Alton go with the lowest bid. Laurie Haynes seconded.

Discussion: General discussion of verbal bids/estimates, and about repair process, with comments from Bob Stackpole, Frank Muddle, Bob Ellis and Bill Aboud. Care to make the repairs so they last as long as possible. Dan Staples asked the Board have Alton accept the lowest bid if quality seemed comparable.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7. New Business

7a. Discuss Appointments for Planning Board and Board of Assessors

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to appoint Austin Donaghy member of the Cushing Planning Board.

Discussion: Planning Board Chair Bill About read a statement into the minutes, paraphrased here:

The Planning Board requests approval to appoint Austin Donaghy. They are understaffed, primarily due to the loss of Dan Remian; however, also an additional Planning Board member can't attend meetings on a regular basis, and this is interrupting the work of the Board. Bill About mentioned several strong points of Austin's, including his service as Cushing Harbormaster. He said that, while the Planning Board supports Austin's appointment, they also believe in public notice. Bill About said the Board is attempting to act quickly because they have important work on the table (revising the Site Plan Review Ordinance); the process is time-consuming; and they don't have time. He added that, if another person wanted to be appointed in addition to Austin, the Planning Board member who can't attend meetings is willing to become an alternate, opening up another position for this other person and an opportunity for the Board to open the process and deliberate further.

Martha Marchut commented that losing the Planning Board chair and having one other member not able to attend when important changes were going on constitutes an emergency and gives the Planning Board the right to appoint someone quickly. Bob Stackpole commented that it was important to open the process to the entire community. He also questioned why the Planning Board workshops regarding revisions to the Site Plan Review Ordinance were always in the morning, when working people could not attend. He said all public meetings had by custom been in the evenings. Bob Ellis said the workshops were in a.m. because that's when the Planning Board members can all meet. He also said that, while workshops are open to the public, they are not the same as meetings, which are in the evening. No decisions are made during workshops, for instance. Bob Stackpole said a meeting is not open to the public if meetings are consistently held at a time when working people can't attend. Frank Muddle reminded the Selectmen that the Planning Board personnel were appointed, not elected, so the Planning Board was not out of line in appointing [Austin] on an emergency basis. Alton said it was important that the Selectmen do not appear to be picking whomever they want. Dan Staples said, first of all, since there might soon be two positions potentially available, appointing Austin to one of them would not be unfair. Dan said he had no objection, as long as Austin's service on the Planning Board did not conflict with his duties as Harbormaster. Dan also said the problem in the past had been getting anyone to serve at all; Bob Stackpole answered that at least community members should be given the opportunity to apply.

Laurie Haynes suggested that the state of emergency would go away if the moratorium on commercial development could be extended. Several Planning Board members disagreed, saying that revisions to the document were complicated and should be undertaken as soon as possible. Bob Ellis and Frank Muddle said that it was important to avoid a situation where everybody wants to get on a Board when contentious issues are being discussed—but not otherwise. Bob Stackpole left the meeting, expressing a lack of faith that fair process would be followed, and requesting that community members be notified that the Planning Board position was open. Selectman Laurie Haynes commented that the Selectmen needed to discuss this issue further. Town Clerk Lisa Young offered to advertise the position on the Board and on the door, as well as in the newspaper.

Two in Favor: Dan Staples and Martha Marchut
Three Opposed: Corey Jones, Laurie Haynes, and Alton Grover

Motion Not Carried 2-3-0

7b. Discuss Scheduling a Public Hearing to Extend the Land Use Growth Moratorium

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dan Staples, to schedule the Public Hearing for the Moratorium on 9/24/2018 preceding the Select Board Meeting.

Discussion: Planning Board Chair Bill About requested that the Selectmen extend the Land Use Moratorium that was set to expire on Oct. 6th. He expressed a desire to balance people's freedom to make use of their own property with what's happening with their neighbors. Struggling with wording; studying other towns; time-consuming process. He thinks they are past the hardest part.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to put three articles on the warrant for the November election, regarding Good Neighbor Park.

Discussion: Wording will be agreed-upon later; the intent to place the articles has been made.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

---Executive Session---

The Select Board entered into Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A), a personnel matter, at 6:45 p.m. A motion was made by Selectman Alton Grover and seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Dan Staples motioned, and Laurie Haynes seconded, to enter back into the main meeting at 8:02 p.m.

---The Selectmen rejoined the main meeting at 8:02 p.m.---

As a result of the discussion in Executive Session:

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to contact Kristin Collins to ensure that she would feel comfortable reviewing Amanda's decisions, should Amanda be hired to help the Planning Board.

Discussion: no additional

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Corey Jones, to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Town Clerk