

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Cushing Community Center
Minutes of Meeting
September 14, 2020

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Dan Staples, Craig Currie, Corey Jones, and Martha Marchut

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Health Officer Mariann Ahola

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and a quorum was determined.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve 2020 Warrants 87 and 88.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting and the September 1, 2020 Emergency Meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting as amended and the September 1, 2020 meeting as written

Discussion: Lisa said she had already pointed out a couple of typos that Sami had already corrected. Martha noted a change on page 2, under 5c, where Town Meeting should be Select Board meeting. She also added a way down in the same section the word rather should be whether.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Select Board Chair position

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to have Alton Grover remain as Chairman until the March meeting.

Discussion: Dan said a Chairman should be voted in since it hadn't happened yet.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5b. Gun Shooting

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Mariann Ahola brought a letter written by a resident of Lewis Lane in concern of some unsafe gun shooting. Mariann said it's been happening for about three years now, but this year it has been worse, adding 200-600 rounds getting shot off at a time. She said the police have been contacted and have responded. They said they have high powered rifles and are firing into the bank on the shore which is towards cottages on the shore. Mariann said the police felt they were within their rights and didn't do much about it. She added many neighbors feel uncomfortable and some family members aren't even allowed to visit [said neighbors] due to the danger and she feels something needs to be done. She noted about almost threat type confrontations happening between the shooters and a clam digger digging in the flats in front of the property. Mariann also brought concern for the playground right there when this shooting is happening. She added she is not new to guns, or against them, but respect for the neighbors should be taken into consideration. Corey wondered if wardens would get farther than the police, especially since things have involved clam diggers. Dan agreed and added that as Chairman of the Clam Board no one owns the flats and said if that happens again, he would contract the Warden for her. Mariann later mentioned some land she has on Ahola Lane and her letting a friend go on the land to look for mushrooms. She said the friend accidentally missed her property and ended up farther down the road when a resident came out with a handgun yelling profanities and questioning why the person was on his land. She said her friend had also contacted the police after the incident and the police said the landowner does have a right to defend their property. Mariann questioned what right he was defending from a guy with a basket. Dan asked if she was getting at the need of an ordinance in regard to the issue and noted the issue in the shoreland could be in the shoreland zoning. Mariann said it's more about safety, not just the annoyance. Corey added it's all around and bets majority of the towns people hear it or have dealt with it. Mariann asked if you can't get anywhere with safety, is there at least a noise or a nuisance ordinance. Corey said no the town doesn't have anything. Dan said the problem is the ordinances can be written, but when you call the Sheriff's they don't enforce them. Corey said he feels the Sheriff's Department is useless from any contacts he has had with them; he feels the warden, or the State Police are a lot more professional.

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Transfer Station Update

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to agree to approve to take some of the money the Transfer Station gets from bottles for a pizza party for the Transfer Station employees

Motion Carried 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to pay for Monika Magee to attend the Eztech Environmental & Energy Technology Council Zoom Conference on September 16, 2020

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Discussion: Martha shared a letter sent from Bob Butler about John Daigle showing what they have been taking in from recyclables. She said there isn't a whole lot to discuss, but said the Transfer Station

has donated recently \$1500 to the food pantries in Cushing, Waldoboro, and Friendship and wanted permission to contact somebody from the Food Pantry to make sure they send out a thank you note directly to the Transfer Station. She said another thought they had was if they could get a motion from each Town to allow them to use some of those funds to throw a pizza party for the employees to show appreciation to them for doing what they do. She said the landfill capping should be finished and they felt they saved about \$200,000 by doing it themselves. She said they will be working on increasing composting next year and expect some grants to come in the spring. She added they are working on a building to sell or give things away at the transfer station, adding other towns are currently doing that and people seem to like it. She talked about an upcoming two-hour zoom meeting put on by MRC that Monika Magee would like to attend if the town would pay the \$30 fee for her to attend.

6b. Approve and sign Winter Road Maintenance Contract

ACTION: contract was signed

Discussion: none

6c. Sign amended Personnel Policy

ACTION: policy was signed

Discussion: none

7. New Business

7a. Discuss automated defibrillator for the Cushing Community Center

ACTION: Selectman Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve purchasing the AED for \$300.00

Discussion: Mariann said Dr. Li, the Health Officer in Friendship, had e-mailed her about having three AED's he would like to give to the town for a good price. He said the Town of Friendship had a grant and got quite a few new ones to place around town. Mariann said he sold two to other towns, but she felt it would be a good thing to have at the Town Office. Martha said the machine tests the person and will not allow you to set it off if the person does not need it. Dan said he was pretty impressed with the part of the demonstration he watched.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Salt Pond Road by Osprey Lane wash-out

ACTION: none

Discussion: Dan said he rode down there and there isn't a wash-out; he said the gravel driveway itself is a little higher than the approach onto the road. He said if you're in four-wheel drive you're fine, if not you'll spin every time because you're turning to go up the hill. Corey said Pine Ridge is the same way. Dan felt it was the driveway and needed to be fixed by owner, it isn't the town's responsibility.

7c. Food Pantry

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said the Food Pantry wants a generator and a phone. Lisa said they already have a phone; they're paying for it and they just needed a physical address. Dan asked if the generator was for power outages. Alton said yes, they have freezers in there and sometimes there's quite a bit of food in them. Dan didn't think they'd need a very big one and thought a 10k would run the freezers. Alton asked if there was money to buy one now. Dan said no it would have to go on the Town Warrant. Corey suggested looking into seeing if it could be hooked into the Fire Station one if that one was big enough. Craig agreed that would be an idea if it was big enough, adding refrigerators and freezers do draw quite a bit. Dan said he had an older portable one he could donate but it doesn't idle down and is on high the whole time it runs. Corey wondered if you could work it into the sills, adding the sills need to be done on the food pantry building soon. Dan said the building needs some serious work before it falls over.

7d. Salt Pond Road Culvert

ACTION: none

Discussion: Alton said there was a letter about the culvert that was dug up on Salt Pond Road. Dan said Alton had set cones out and it should be getting hot topped soon. Alton pointed out one of the cones was stolen and added he was surprised they both weren't gone. He said the State recommends setting out a cone on each side because they represent something going on in the road. Alton added even a pothole, if you can't get to fixing it right away, set a cone next to it and that covers the town because it's a warning. Corey said it meets all State guidelines and will be fixed completely soon. Craig added there is a similar spot in Warren on Spear Mill Road right now, too. Alton said the letter actually says lower Cross Road but he knows that he means Salt Pond Road.

7e. Cushing Recreation Field

ACTION: none

Discussion: Craig mentioned Gretchen's note about having no use of the Rec Field right now and all fields being used for soccer are in Thomaston and Rockland. He asked about the cost of mowing and maintaining the field when not being in use. Lisa said we don't mow it; the school keeps up with it. Lisa said the reason it wasn't on the agenda was because it has changed entirely and is all on the parents not the rec. Craig asked if you are allowed to walk dogs and stuff down on the field, asking if there are rules for the use of it. Alton said people do it all the time. Dan just added there are no ATV's or anything allowed.

7f. Maine Resource Recovery Association

ACTION: none

Discussion: Lisa said it was something she put in the new mail and has to do with the recycling and such. She said it is a membership and asked if it is something the Board wants to continue with; she said it's \$100. Martha said it's usually a couple day convention.

7g. Town Loop Trail signs

ACTION: none

Discussion: Craig informed the Board that Gary & Ida Clarke replaced all the signs along the Town Loop Trail. She said they found all except two and hung them all back up after looking harder after the trail was vandalized.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary