

Arrowsic Board of Selectmen Minutes, August 25, 2020

Present: Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Will Neilson, Brett Jensen, Sheila Spear, Barbara Boyce, Michael Kreindler, Jack Witham, Jonathan LaBonte.

Minutes for July 27, 2020 and August 10, 2020: approval moved by DeeDee, seconded by Will, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Warrant #4, for \$12,292.57: approval moved by DeeDee, seconded by Will, passed unanimously.

Other financial items

Bank signatures: Brett now has the minutes indicating change of signatures and will use as needed. Will pointed out that the Broadband Authority will open an account at Bath Savings with DeeDee, the ARR, as the signatory.

Annual Audit September 3-4: Brett will send necessary documents to Jon.

Rogers Contract: Walter will discuss the concern with the town lawyer and Rogers.

November Elections – Barbara Boyce

Absentee voting is encouraged and there have already been 96 requests for absentee ballots. These cannot be sent out until October 4th. In July 154 out of 219 voters used absentee ballots. Barbara will address the matter of postage cost to the voter in her message to voters.

Election expenses may well go over budget. We may well need to use the Deputy Clerk

Secure mailbox: The Properties Committee has been requested to provide a secure lock for the mailbox. Barbara will go to the Town Hall every day when absentee ballots begin to arrive and will bring in all the mail. Sheila will sort and distribute as usual.

In person registration: Barbara will take appointments between 3 and 5 pm on Wednesdays so that voters who wish to register in person before the election may do so.

Michael raised a concern for the security of the mailbox but Barbara said that all ballots are strictly accounted for at several stages so they would be secure.

6:30 Maine TREE – Jonathan LaBonte and Jack Witham

Jonathan introduced himself and expressed a commitment to making sure that the Town is involved and informed about Maine TREE's activities. Will reported on past issues that had created concern amongst Arrowsic residents. Jonathan agreed that there is much work to do to build good community relationships.

There will be a tree harvest in the fall and Jonathan asked who they should inform when the plans were ready. Walter for the Select Board, Jack Witham, and the Conservation Committee should be the primary contacts. Jonathan will contact the ACC.

It was also suggested that Maine Tree should inform residents as to the purpose of the harvest and why it is good for the forest. A discussion with the Planning Board, a presentation via Zoom, and an item in the next issue of the Arrow were all suggested as potential ways of informing town residents.

Michael pointed out that Maine TREE should be aware of relevant town ordinances.

Sheila will send a copy of the town's Comprehensive Plan to Jonathan, though it was pointed out that this is old and that the town is beginning to plan a revision.

Select Board meeting schedule

It was agreed that the board will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, beginning in September. A notice will be sent to the Town. It was also agreed that Walter's title is First Selectperson.

CEO Search

It was agreed that Walter would consult the town lawyer concerning use of various moneys for this position. He will also call the candidate. The Board will continue to search for a long-term solution.

Sewall Pond

The Board voted unanimously to rescind the closure of the Sewall Pond Conservation Area. The closure had succeeded in considerably reducing the usage but there had been continued vandalism. Walter will inform the Sheriff and prepare a message for town residents.

Broadband

There will be a meeting with USDA representatives on Wednesday. The agreement must be finalized by September 8 or 9.

Motion to adjourn, moved by Will, seconded by DeeDee, was passed unanimously at 7.57 pm.

Planning ahead:

- Electronic Voting Tabulators
- New comprehensive plan - begin the process to put a proposal to Town Meeting 2021.
- CEO report monthly on the 2nd Tuesday
- PA system - purchase?
- Inquiry about M5/L1 (Town Clerk)
- Arrowsic Education Committee