

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
October 4, 2021
28 North Main Street**

Present: M. Bard, C. Viens, D. Kehlmann and K. Martin, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; N. Nadeau, Director of Parks and Recreation; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held in person and by videoconference to allow for remote attendance and participation.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Jocelyn & Joan Depaolis; Elizabeth Walton, Greg Probst; LeeAnne Viens; Meg Baldor; Tom Scribner; Carolyn Fox; Bob LaFountain; Don Schneider; Theresa Wood; Otho Thompson; Alyssa Johnson; Maroni Minter; Kelley Johan; Karen Nevin and Mark Pomilio Jr., Revitalizing Waterbury.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

W. Shepeluk asked to add a discussion about the appointment of the Zoning Administrator and table the Entertainment Ordinance item. D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14th meeting and the Errors and Omissions letter dated October 4, 2021. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Request for Black Lives Matter Banner

D. Schneider, on behalf of the Waterbury Area Anti Racism Coalition, requested that the Black Lives Matter banner be raised on the banner poles for 30 days if approved. They would also like to display it next spring and fall for 30 days each. The banner policy allows for banners that promote community events, so an exception may need to be made. W. Shepeluk suggested that the Town fly the banner and make the statement, versus the organization, so that the decision can be made by the Town for future organization's requests. C. Viens stated it is not the business of the Municipality to make political statements. L. Viens asked that the Declaration of Inclusion that is posted on the Waterbury website be read. C. Lawrence read the Declaration of Inclusion. M. Minter stated that the Black Lives Matter issue is not a political statement and gave a history of its formation. M. Bard stated he is hesitant to change the current policy and allow long term banners to be put up. W. Shepeluk suggested that the Board receive a legal opinion as to whether they can allow one organization and disallow other organizations to hang banners, unless the Town decides to hang the banner itself. Members of the public weighed in on the topic. K. Martin suggested that some of the language or a phrase from the Declaration of Inclusion be included in a banner. M. Bard made a motion that Waterbury fly a banner that include some of the language from the Declaration of Inclusion. K. Martin asked that the group work on a banner to bring back before the Board. M. Bard withdrew the motion. W. Shepeluk suggested that the staff get a legal opinion on the issue. By consensus, the Board decided to table the item, structure wording from the Declaration of Inclusion, and discuss at a future meeting.

Makersphere Request for Art Project

D. Schneider suggested that Makersphere paint the new electrical boxes in the Village. He is trying to get clarity from Green Mountain Power as to whether this will be allowed. W. Shepeluk stated that there are some boxes that the Town owns and suggested that D. Schneider touch base with B.

Woodruff. C. Fox suggested that Makersphere work with RW's design committee on the project if it moves forward.

Revitalizing Waterbury

K. Nevin and M. Pomilio Jr. were present on behalf of Revitalizing Waterbury. W. Shepeluk previously distributed an MOU between the Town and RW to consider whether the Town will continue to fund the Economic Development Director position. This funding is ongoing from April 1 through March 31 each year unless the voters fail to approve the funding at Town Meeting. M. Pomilio Jr. distributed a copy of his report through August 2021 and gave highlights. K. Nevin outlined the work of RW and stated that there is a lot of volunteer help. Finding a tenant for the train station, owned by RW, was discussed.

Report of Recreation Director / Consider 2022 Recreation Fees

N. Nadeau was present to update the Board on the Department's activities. Summer camp revenues exceeded the budget by \$800. Every recreation revenue line is above budget. He reviewed the recreation camp program, swim lessons, vacation camps, planning for the River of Light Parade and Halloween in the Park. The Town received a \$10,000 grant that went towards the purchase of a van. A \$60,000 grant was received and went towards the summer food program. There is \$10,000 left over from this grant and N. Nadeau stated he would like the Town to purchase a second 15-passenger van. W. Shepeluk stated that there will be money available in the budget to cover the remainder of the cost. C. Viens expressed concerns about the revenue stream versus expenses. The recreation programs continue to be very popular and have low overhead. N. Nadeau plans to budget for a full-time assistant for 2022 as the Department is so busy. Staff will look at the budget and determine the appropriate time to purchase a second van.

The recreation committee applied for a VOREC grant for a long-range management plan for Hope Davey Park. The applications are still being reviewed by the agency.

N. Nadeau presented proposed increases to the recreation program and rental fees. K. Martin made a motion to approve the proposed fees effective immediately. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

Review Manager's Recommendation for 2022 Health Insurance

W. Shepeluk previously distributed his recommendation for health insurance for 2022. Health insurance rates have not increased significantly. The Board typically approves a stipend for employees to pick a plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield or MVP. W. Shepeluk is recommending a 2% increase in the stipend from that of last year. M. Bard made a motion to approve the increase in the stipend and the increase in the monthly rate paid to employees who do not take the insurance. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Discuss Board Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be on the planned date of October 18, 2021.

Appointment of Zoning Administrator

The Planning Commission has nominated Steve Lotspeich for the position of Planning and Zoning Director. D. Kehlmann made a motion to appoint S. Lotspeich as the Planning and Zoning Director for a 3-year term effective immediately. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: