

**Select Board
Minutes
October 13, 2015**

Leveret Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Present: Julie S., Tom H., Margie M., Lisa S., Tia Fataruso (Mont. Reporter) JoAnn M. resident

Leverett Cemetery Associations

Several members of both the village and north Leverett cemeteries came in to update the board on their activities and look for funding ideas. They have been busy fixing and cleaning head stones and mending fences thanks in part to CPA funds. They are concerned about the long-term maintenance costs of the cemeteries. They have money in an account from the sale of plots but are only allowed to spend the interest from the CDs. The issue was addressed that the cemeteries are owned by the Cemetery Association which is a non-profit. It would be inappropriate for the town to help fund the association. The board gave some ideas about possible fund raising including adding a check-off to the tax bill for people to make a voluntary contribution and having the association do a mailing for contributions. Dave G. thought there may be a clause in the MGL whereby towns can provide funding to cemeteries. The board asked him to give them the chapter and section and they would investigate.

West Quabbin Woods (David Powicki and Kristen DeBoer)

The Kestrel Land Trust is looking for funding from the Forest Legacy Project to get a CR on several parcels in multiple towns several attached to the Paul Co. Jones Working Forest. They presented the board with support letter at the last meeting. Their goal was include letters of support from local, state, and national entities; the projected cost of the project is \$6.7 million. At the last meeting trails co-chair and Conservation Commission member David Powicki informed the board that he had some reservations about them signing the letter since Cowls had been uncooperative with the town about marking trails and making maps of trails on the Working Forest (aks Brushy Mt.). Now, upon further investigation David discovered language in the CR stating that signage is allowed but at the discretion of the property owner (Cowls) and felt that a mutual agreement could be reached on that front.

Motion: To sign the letter of support for the West Quabbin Woods project. Vote: 2-0 in favor.

Shutesbury Rd. (Stewart Olson)

Stewart came in to express his concern about traffic at Shutesbury Rd/Cushman Rd. intersection. The board began the conversation by stating that the Highway Dept. is in transition with the Supt. retiring and new members. Stewart stated that the intersection is dangerous and noisy and that motorcyclists and sports car enthusiasts have discovered it as a thrill ride. There are a set of plans, completed several years ago, that the town could look at. At the time they were presented the Highway Supt. and the Select Board did not find any of the solutions suitable. Will has about \$18,000 in Chapter 90 that could be used toward a temporary or permanent fix. For now the board would like to look into signage,

rumble strips and a solar-powered yellow-flashing light. The board will let the new Highway Supt. know that this intersection is a priority project.

Business:

The minutes of Sept. 28 were approved as written.

Tom reported that he completed Ananda Larsen's performance review. He was wondering if her title could be changed from TS Coordinator/Supervisor to TS manager. Margie explained that her current title is such that she is expected to fill in for personnel as needed. The board agreed that manager is a suitable title also. The discussion will go to Personnel Board.

Motion: To disband Leverett's part of the old Broadband Committee. Vote: 2-0 in favor.

The hiring committee memberships for the Highway Supt. position was discussed. The following people were suggested: Tom Hankinson, Will Stratford, Jen Roberts, Mike DeRosa, Larry LaClaire, Gary Billings, Chris Nelson, John Field, Jim Field, Gordon Fretwell, and John Ingram. Margie will call the first 6 people listed. If any are not interested or unable she will continue down the list.

The board also discussed that this might be a good time to change the position from hourly (with overtime) to salaried (without). Margie polled towns of similar sizes and found that about half pay overtime. Some towns offer a "bonus" for extra winter work as well as comp. time. The board agreed to offer the position at \$55,000, salaried, with a bonus option. Applications are due on Oct. 19, Will's last day is Oct. 23. It is hoped that the new person will be in the position by mid-November. An interim may be needed for a few weeks. Margie and Tom will meet with Will and the other employees next week to see what everyone thinks.

The Annual Town Meeting date was set for April 30, 2015. School vacation is earlier this year.

Tom reported that Michaela is thinking about acting as the Town's FCSWMD representative.

The STM warrant was reviewed.

The mail was read.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford