

John L. Hebert, Chairman
David Hall, Vice Chair
Wendy M. Mead, Clerk
Jesse Limanek
Jonathan Anderson



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town Of Sutton
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 01/08/2019 by a vote of 4-0-1

(Selectman Mead absent)

7:00 p.m. – December 18, 2018
Sutton Town Hall, Meeting Room 1A

Members in Attendance:

Chairman John L. Hebert, Vice Chair David Hall. Clerk Wendy Mead & Selectmen Jesse Limanek & Jonathan Anderson
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Public Forum: N/A

Selectman Limanek motions to approve as presented December 04, 2018 meeting minutes, Selectman Mead seconds passes 5-0

Public Hearing: Selectman Mead reads the Public Notice as advertised in the November 26th, 2018 Millbury Sutton Chronicle. Present is George Kowszik, property owner. Town Manager Smith states town departments have not expressed interest in this property. Mr. Kowszik states he still has approx. 4 acres of land if the town is interested to add to Pigeon Hill cemetery. The Board all agree if the Town feels there is no town use for this property to pass over its first right of refusal. Selectman Limanek motions to close the public hearing, Vice Chair Hall seconds passes 5-0. Selectman Limanek motions to not exercise the town's option under MGL Chapter 61A for 80,423 +/- square feet of property located at 172 Mendon Road Map 30 Parcel 96, Vice Chair Hall seconds passes 5-0

Whittier Farms re: Chain of Lights: present is Wayne Whittier of 7 Douglas Pike. Wayne states he was contacted after the Chain of Lights stating there was a liquor violation, it was discussed at the Dec. 4th Selectmen's Meeting and he was not present to participate. He states there was misinformation going around and states there were 3-4 town employees spotted at the site and if they went to Wayne he would have shut down the samples immediately. Wayne states it was the Chain of Lights committee that thought a beer garden would be a welcome attraction to this yearly event, when the person they chose to do it did not have the proper license to cover this, they did not hire him. They had heard that giving free samples could be served with no permit so that is what they did. Wayne states they looked into the ABCC website and could not find any information. They did not try and skirt the situation and regarding other comments made at the last meeting about food trucks, this allowed them to focus their attention on the products they were showcasing inside their store. One of the food trucks sold items that is sold inside Whittier's store. Regarding the Lions Club supposedly being kicked out, it was a mutual agreement that they move to Manchaug. Vice Chair Hall thanks Wayne for coming in and says it was pretty well known around town that the Board was unhappy. Dave states his reaction was demonstrable, it was an honest reaction. The Selectmen worked to develop an alcohol policy so that there was a process for handling violations & compliance issues. These are issues the BOS take very seriously. Dave states he felt there was a pretty serious violation and the BOS have an obligation to respond. Dave states it was not the intention of the Board to call Whittier Farm out individually. Selectman Limanek states he was a little empathetic and stopped by the store to ask about the issue. It is good that Wayne came before the BOS, the BOS are not aimed at punishing- this will help to clear the air, moving forward the Town can learn from this. Going forward any issue involving liquor, you need to come before the BOS. Jesse tells Wayne he appreciates him coming before the BOS. Selectman Mead says at the end of the day town employees out and about may not be aware of what is allowed. The ABCC has a hotline to call. Wendy says she appreciates what the farm does as well as the Chain of Lights and other events, we all need to use this a learning tool. Selectman Anderson states when this came up last week it was a hard situation, you are a respected business in town, Jonathan took into account all sides. It is unfortunate but we have to deal with this situation. Chairman Hebert fully supported the Town Manager including this in his update on Dec. 4th. Jim Smith handled it professional and the major blame was directed at Purgatory Brewery. It is the BOS that can approve or disapprove one day permits and under Chapter 138 the BOS are the Local Licensing Authority. Establishments that have a pouring

license and can serve 365 days a year can continue to do so on the Chain of lights. Chairman Hebert does not recommend any other Alcohol permits be issued for one day permits on this specific day. The BOS can control this. The Food Vendors in John's opinion should be local establishments/vendors. The Chain of Lights was established 25-30 years ago and was to show the goodness of Sutton and its community as well as local businesses in town. Outside vendors take away from the local churches, stores, sr. center. This event is to support local town providers as in the past. Wayne Whittier says the Whittier family was punished 2 weeks ago- it has caused hurt in the family as well as the business. He states it was uncalled for, they looked in MGL as well as used the ABCC hotline and after a considerable wait hung up. Wayne goes on to say Mr. Hebert, I respect your opinion but you should stick to the framework where your jurisdiction is. The BOS thank Wayne for attending tonight's meeting.

Sutton-Webster IMA Nursing Services renewal: Town Manager Smith states this is to continue the IMA with Webster which began in 2009. This agreement will be from January 2019- June 2020. The BOS all agree to continue with this IMA as long as Cheryl Rawinski can continue to carry the work load. Jim Smith replies we have hired Grace Peladeau to help with the flu clinics and reports, Grace is paid out of the account the IMA funds go in to. Hearing no issues Selectman Limanek motions to approve an 18 month extension for Nursing Services between the Town of Webster and the Town of Sutton for the period of January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 Vice Chair Hall seconds passes 5-0

Town Managers Update:

- Agera rate increase- Agera has formally withdrawn their request for a rate increase. The BOS entered into a 3 year agreement last fall at 10.97¢ per kilowatt hour. A team of people whose towns were affected joined together and with the help of John Shortsleeve of Baystate Consultants fought against the rate increase.
- House Fire at 26 Stone Road in Millbury: A letter came from the Millbury Police Dept. in regards to Matt Belsito and Sgt. Nunnemacher responding to a structure fire at 26 Stone Road in Millbury. A letter will be put in their files.
- Town Hall holiday hours: The town hall will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 21st and reopen Wednesday Dec. 26th at 8am. For the following week, the town Hall will be open Dec 31st until noon and reopen on Wednesday, January 2.

Announcements/Round Table:

Vice Chair Hall says thank you for the Christmas luncheon held today at the Town Hall it was a lot of fun. Dave also thanks the Chain of Lights committee. Dave states comments made may have been misconstrued and cast not a good light on the event - the Chain of Lights is iconic in our town, people look forward to this every year. We appreciate the Whittier's as well as all the other stops at the Chain of Lights no one meant to denigrate the efforts put on by all involved.

Selectman Limanek says the Dudley Gendron had their annual boot drive last Sunday and raised almost \$2,000.00 which is used to help the organization Our Family to yours. Jesse thanks all for the tremendous donations made to the Mike Chizy Food pantry and says they could still use cleaning supplies/personal items.

Selectman Mead says the 1st anniversary of the Police Station ground breaking just went by. Now we are in the twilight stages of completing the project. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Selectman Anderson Says Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Selectman Limanek motions to adjourn, Selectman Mead seconds passes 5-0 meeting adjourned 8:00 pm

