

Wendy M. Mead, Chair person
Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair
Jonathan Anderson, Clerk
David Hall
Jeffrey Bannon



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 6/1/2021 by a roll call vote of 5-0

5:00 p.m. – May 18, 2021
REMOTE DIAL IN MEETING

Members in Attendance by video chat:

Chairperson Wendy Mead, Vice Chair Jesse Limanek, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select Board David Hall & Jeffrey Bannon
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary
Town Finance Director Timothy Harrison

Chairperson Mead recites the following: Due to the current COVID-19 Crisis (pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law) this meeting of the Sutton Select Board is being held remotely via Zoom. To join the meeting visit www.zoom.us/join and enter Meeting ID 832 4440 3133 & Passcode 661995. The meeting will be broadcast and recorded on local public access station (Verizon 31 & Charter/Spectrum 191) and live streamed on the Town's YouTube channel when available. Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A Section 20, no person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair. Individuals who would like to participate should state their name and address after being recognized by the chairperson. In an effort to ensure transparency to our viewers at home, the chat function is not available.

Public Forum: N/A

Select person Hall motions to accept as presented minutes from the May 4, 2021 meeting, Select person Anderson seconds- passes 5-0 Roll call vote taken.

****Public Hearing**** 61A- 81 Purgatory Road- Public Hearing notice read by Select person Anderson as advertised in the April 22, 2021 Millbury Sutton Chronicle. Town Manager Smith says this is 82 acres of land located off Purgatory Road. The bona fide offer is \$500,000. The Assessor's office has contacted DCR as they are one of the abutters. Jim states if we pass our first right of refusal to the State they have 90 days to close. Present on the Zoom is Shaun Provencher with DCR. Mr. Provencher says the State had made an offer last year for the back 68 acres but the owner (Channing Smith) did not accept the offer. DCR is not interested in the house or some of the property that has had old cars and machinery on. Select person Hall asks if DCR reached out to the owner, Mr. Provencher replies they have tried to contact the court appointed Special Master Atty. Patrick Ferguson (invited to this meeting but not present) but have had no luck. He says at this time the State does not have the means to purchase the property and if it is passed from the town to DCR they would have to decline. The interest in the back acres is to add diversity and ecology to what is already owned by DCR. Vice Chair Limanek feels we are at an impasse, if we transfer our rights to DCR they will refuse and it is just delaying the inevitable. Select person Anderson agrees- the State must be in the position to accept. Select person Bannon asks what are the plans for this property- Town Manager Smith replies maybe 4-5 house lots. Mr. Provencher feels it may be more of a development. Select person Bannon says there is uncertainty to what will be developed there- it is a little concerning about possible development – without another avenue to assign our rights to there is no other decision. Chairperson Mead asks if DCR makes an offer on the 68 acres what would access ability be for residential projects- Shaun states all the frontage would be left intact. Wendy asks DCR at this point- any potential counter offer for the 68 acres? He replies there could be if we could talk to the potential buyer. Wendy asks if they could just make offer on the 68 acres- Shaun replies it is all or nothing as it is 61A. The value of this land would be far greater if we could have part as residential and part to DCR, our hands are rather tied – Jonathan feels if we could have contacted Worcester Land Trust they may have been interested in stepping in. Shaun replies they tried to put a deal together with Worc. Land Trust but the price was too high. Hearing no other thoughts- Vice Chair Limanek motions to close public hearing Select person Anderson seconds- roll call vote taken passes 5-0. Vice Chair Limanek motions to not exercise the town's option under MGL Chapter 61A for property located on Purgatory

Road, known as Assessors Map 32 Parcels 29 & 30 and Map 25 Parcels 6 & 7 (total of 82 +/- acres) Select person Anderson seconds- roll call vote taken passes 5-0

2021 Midstate Trail Running event- Town Manager Smith briefs the Board on this race that begins in New Hampshire and continues thru Sutton into Douglas. Sgt. Fortunato is the contact at the Police Dept. There are approx. 250 runners that spread out over 30, 50 and 100 mile routes. Present with the Midstate Trail event are Rich Mazzola the event coordinator and Andy Marx- a runner and director of the event. Select person Hall is happy when these events come thru our town- Dave asks what is the average time it takes to do this race and what time frame will it impact our roads- Rich replies the 1st person passed the finish line in 19 hours last year- the last person was just under 33 hours. Impact to the roads will be between 3AM- around 11Am Sunday- but the runners are dispersed so it is not big groups. This year Whittier Farms will be a water stop along with 1st aid. Select person Anderson asks how they keep track of runners- Rich replies they have runners download an app (Racejoy) which allows the coordinators to track the runners in real time. Select person Bannon says this sounds like a great event. Chairperson Mead thanks Whittier Farms for participating in this event as well as to SPD for their involvement. Select person Anderson motions to approve the request for the Midstate Trail Running Event to be held on October 9-10, 2021 with all insurance information on file in the Town Managers office Select person Bannon seconds roll call vote taken passes 5-0

Town Managers Update:

- School Dept. Wastewater Treatment Plant- went out to bid May 12th for rehab to the MBR tank- bids due June 10 at 11am
- American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund- The town is set to receive \$950,000. in two payments- one in FY21 and 1 in FY22We are waiting for guidelines as to where it may be spent.
- Select board Meeting on June 1 – discussions with Chairperson Mead- we would like to have in the Wally Johnson Meeting room at 6pm. There are Plexiglas separators as well as follow the State guidelines of mask wearing.
- Town Managers contract- Town Manager Smith is required to notify the Select board 12 months prior to the expiration which is June 2022. Jim is interested in continuing his employment with the town of Sutton.
- Town Meeting was very successful- well run by the moderator- it was 2 hours and well organized. Thank you to Pam Christine and Laura.
- Open Space Plan under way mailers out to all households with information on the 2 public hearings to take place.

Select Board Roundtable:

- Select person Hall in discussion mentioned possible 5pm meetings but let's settle at 6pm. Dave says in regards to Town Meeting so much went right but don't underestimate what it took. It was a really good vendor along with our Communications Team Pam and Christine. Thank you to our Financial team that put the budget together with no issues raised as well as the Planning board articles that brought about some discussion but no issues.
- Vice Chair Limanek reads list of Food Pantry items and reminds the community- kids will be home for the summer which means more needs. Jesse offers thanks from the Dudley Gendron Post 414 for the community support for the Iggy Strong benefit held Sat. The family received a check for \$8300.00. the Sutton Garden Club had a sale on the Town Common Sunday- it was a wonderful event. On Sat. May 29th at 11am at Old Howard there will be a burial of one of the original founders of the Dudley Gendron Post Jack Tebo- he was a WWII Veteran. On Memorial Day the Dudley Gendron will make its rounds to cemeteries- the Veterans, Sons of American Legion, the Select Board are invited. The bus leaves to make the rounds at 7:15.
- Select person Anderson reminds all to get out and vote on Tuesday May 25th 12-6pm
- Select person Bannon felt Town Meeting was very well organized with a few vigorous debates- the Financial articles did not bring a lot of controversy. Jeff is interested in attending Memorial Day ceremonies at cemeteries.
- Chairperson Mead said Town Meeting was fabulous special thanks to Pam and Christine- everyone was very respectful of each other. Wendy asks for all to do something kind for someone- it will not go unnoticed.

Vice Chair Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Bannon seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0
Meeting adjourned 6:19 pm