

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 6/15/2021 by a roll call vote of 5-0

6:00 p.m. – June 1, 2021
HYBRID 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 (Zoom)

Chairperson Mead recites the following: 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 in a hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom component. To join the meeting visit www.zoom.us/join and enter Meeting ID 83382552276 & Passcode 808013. The meeting will be broadcast and recorded on local public access station (Verizon 31 & Charter/Spectrum 191) and live streamed on the Towns YouTube channel when available.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum N/A

Select Person Hall motions to approve as presented May 18, 2021 meeting minutes, Select person Anderson 2nds passes 5-0
Roll Call vote taken

Select Board Reorganization: Chairperson Mead takes this time to thank the Select Board for putting their trust in her over the past year- it was a good year but awkward with the Zoom meetings due to the pandemic. Wendy states the board members bring alot to the table. Vice Chair Limanek thanks Wendy for the past year saying the meetings went off with no issues. At this time Select person Hall motions to nominate Jesse Limanek to Chairperson, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0 with Roll Call Vote. Select person Mead motions to nominate Jeff Bannon to Vice Chair, Select person Hall seconds passes 5-0 with Roll Call vote. Select person Hall motions to nominate Jonathan Anderson to Clerk, Vice chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with Roll Call Vote.
The Board take their new seats

Follow up to the Red Roof Inn- new manager- Town Manager Smith states this is a follow up to the Red Roof Inn from the 5/4/2021 meeting. Present is Police Chief Towle and Building Commissioner John Couture (Zoom). Present is the new manager Mihir Patel (Ketan Patel has not yet arrived). John Couture informs the Select Board there were 24 safety issues that have all been addressed, there are a few more new issues but they are being addressed. Police Chief Towle informs the Select Board that from Jan 1st to present there have been 317 calls to the motel- approx. 70 of them are follow-ups- 250 were actual calls for police assistance. A lot of these calls were due to domestic disturbances, theft, mental welfare issues, overdoses. The Chief goes on to say they have seen an uptick of these issues across town over the past year. (Ketan Patel enters meeting). Chief Towle has spoken to his colleagues in Westboro and Auburn- these disturbances seem to be an issue all over. At the past meeting, Mihir stated a lot of the calls came from room #158- Chief Towle replies that was not a true statement, the previous night manager created a lot of the calls to 911. Ketan Patel states he continues to feel this is a direct correlation to COVID. The motel had lowered their room rates to generate revenue but now are looking to increase, they are also refusing service if they see the need. Select person Hall asks John Couture if he has contact information now should any issues arise and are all the safety issues addressed- John replies yes he has the contact information needed and he feels the

motel is moving in the right direction. Select person Hall asks Chief Towle his thoughts on the level of 911 calls- Chief Towle replies his sense is that it is not about the operator but the business there- every day, every shift calls were coming in, most either drug or alcohol related- when calls come in 2 officers will respond for safety reasons. Select person Mead asks John Couture if he has signed off on plumbing, electrical- John replies yes- John went to location with inspectors and signed off- the fire escape has also been secured to the building. Wendy asks how many rooms are there- Mihir replies 58 but 2 are for storage. Select person Anderson has concerns that they did not move on the safety issues until recently, Jonathan also notes that it seems like the 911 calls have dropped since they met in May. When asked what the volume of the calls were previously- Chief Towle replies ¼ of the calls were received from this year's call volume. Jonathan asks for them to continue on the path of improving they are on- Ketan is accountable for issues there- Mihir is responsible as well as the manager. Vice Chair Bannon has 4 points: Health & Safety of guests, Health & Safety of community, are you collecting enough for taxes and long term stays. Are there kids involved here? Chief Towle replies yes there are children- and DCF has had to be brought in for some cases. Jeff states this heightens the need for safety for guests and also triggers assistance with education. Chairperson Limanek asks John Couture if the move to fix the issues by the Red Roof Inn was a reaction to the last meeting or just a good effort on their part. John feels the pressure from the board helped- John is confident going forward the relations will be maintained- they will inspect in September and their license will be up for renewal at the end of the year. After more discussion- Select person Mead motions to extend the approval of the Red Roof Inn- new Manager Mihir Patel from June 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call Vote taken.

Sign Deed for Hatchery Road: This is to complete the sale of Hatchery Road that was approved at the May Town Meeting. The closing is tomorrow (6/2) Select person Mead asks where the funds will go- Town Manager Smith replies they will go into a reserve account for road repairs- hearing no issues Select person Anderson moves, pursuant to the vote taken under Article 11 of the May 15, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, to convey to UPG RE Sutton LLC the parcels of land located at 14 and 34 Hatchery Drive for consideration of \$1,450,000, and to execute, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute on behalf of the Select Board, any and all deeds, affidavits, settlement statements, and other closing documents as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate said conveyance Select person Mead seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call vote taken.

Town Manager Update:

- Vaccine Clinic at the middle school/high school was held on May 25th 2021 by the Southern Worc. County COVID clinic- 81 students received their 1st vaccine. The 2nd shot will be due June 15th. Sutton has the highest number of people fully vaccinated (46.8%) and most number of people receiving their 1st vaccine (63%) 50% of MA is fully vaccinated.
- Assessors revaluation- the Assessors has hired Vision Govt. to complete data – the project will start in June with Vision employees doing exterior of homes and interviewing homeowners at the door. Employees will have id's and register their cars with the Police Dept.
- Cybersecurity Awareness Training grant- we are in year two of the cyber security training. We received a report card from the State- Sutton is doing well. The town has received an 80% completion compared to the state average of 54%.
- Annual Goals Meeting- typically held in July – we have meetings scheduled for July 6 & 20th- Jim will not be available for the July 6th meeting. How would the board like to proceed? The board all feel one regular meeting to be held on June 13th and the goals meeting held on July 20th should be good.
- Marion's Camp Beach- online options for Swim lessons was added on the recreation dept. web page- the beach will open Father's Day weekend June 19th and run to August 30th. Lifeguards and porta potties will be in place prior to beach opening.
- Sutton Public Library is open but are requesting all to wear masks due to the age of the younger population. Also the library has decided to go fine free on 7/1/21.

Select board announcements/updates:

- Select person Hall says he appreciates the time Wendy was chair and the work she put in during pretty odd circumstances, Dave welcomes Jesse to the Chair position. In regards to Memorial Day- Dave says there were no parades but he along with Jeff Bannon (Jesse Limanek was there but playing another roll with in the Sons) attended the cemeteries and he will be eternally grateful for being part of this. Dave also thanks Pam Nichols for her traveling around the town and filming.
- Select person Mead was unable to attend the Memorial Day event but thanks the families of those that sacrificed so much.
- Vice Chair Bannon thanks Wendy for her leadership over the last year- Jeff also comments on the Memorial Day ceremonies and says it is one of the bigger perks to being on the Board. Jeff thanks Jesse Limanek and Pam Nichols for all their efforts on Memorial Day.
- Chairperson Limanek offers his thanks to Jeff and Dave for participating in the Memorial Day reading of the names at the cemeteries. Over the weekend Jesse attending a burial for Jack Tebo (WWII Vet). Also mentioned was the recent activity on facebook from Norma Baker looking to gather a group for improvements to the Veterans Field- similar to the Wilks Playground. A list of items for the Food Pantry were read.

Select person Mead motions to adjourn, Select person Hall seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0
Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm