

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



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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 8/3/2021 by a roll call vote of 4-0
Select person Mead absent

6:00 p.m. – July 13, 2021
HYBRID MEETING

Members in Attendance by video chat:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Limanek 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 816 8680 4616 & Passcode 332958. 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.

Public Forum –

Robert Nunnemacher 24 Singletary Ave. says he has concerns with the water level at Manchaug Pond-over the years he feels the water has been extraordinarily high. It was high prior to the recent storm. He feels the town owns the dam therefore the town is liable. The small blueberry island no longer has blueberry bushes due to the high water levels. He feels there was never an issue when a private company owned the dam.

Erik & Christine Zarazinski (the voice for Stevens Pond) of 284 Manchaug Road are here to speak on behalf of Stevens Pond with an opposite issue. Erik says the water level at Stevens Pond is too low. Stevens is fed by Manchaug Pond. Recently the flash boards broke. Erik has a copy of the 2016 hazard plan where it has information saying this is a high hazard structure which could create issues for Manchaug Village if flooded. Erik states a report from 2003 said if the dam is adjusted accordingly there would be no issues. Erik would like to attend meeting to discuss further. Christine comments on the lack of water- the residents cannot enjoy the recreation on the pond.

Select Person Hall motions to approve as presented June 15, 2021 meeting minutes, Select person Anderson 2nds passes 5-0

Roll Call vote taken

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented June 15, 2021 Exec. Session minutes, Select person Anderson 2nds passes 5-0 Roll Call vote taken

****PUBLIC HEARING**** Class 1 Auto license- Rock & Recycling-79 Worc Prov Tpk. Selec. Anderson reads notice- Shane Fleming was to Zoom in and does not have the service to do so- Select person Hall motions to continue the hearing until August 3rd, Select person Mead seconds passes 5-0

Senator Ryan Fattman & Intern Pat Edwards are here to inform the Select Board of the earmarked funds he has had success in getting for Sutton. Senator Fattman had spoken with Town Manager Smith last year about some infrastructure needs helping to preserve history and expand recreational use. Ryan announces \$175,000. Is earmarked for Waters Farm to complete the barn project, \$50,000. will go towards the Waters farm chimney repair and \$75,000. will go to Marion's Camp for restroom facilities. Senator Fattman updates the Board on the FY21 state budget which a year ago looked like there would be a 6-8 billion-dollar deficit but ended up having a 4 billion dollar surplus. There is 5.17 billion in the American rescue plan which they have 3 years to decide where and how

it is to be spent. FY22 budget was just passed. Select person Hall thanks Sen. Fattman for the earmarked funds- Dave says it is good to hear the focus on infrastructure. Select person Mead says it is spectacular that he was able to secure funds for these specific items. Select person Anderson says the prediction that it would be a tougher year is not how it ended. As a small town we only have so much revenue that comes in- our roads are in bad shape- Jonathan would like to see the state do a better job for towns like Sutton. Vice-Chair Bannon says after a year of uncertainty we made it thru. For future boards coming in this is why we budget conservative. Chairperson Limanek appreciates Ryans efforts for Sutton but does have some issues on the way Beacon Hill decided who was to close and who could stay open during the pandemic. Jesse names 3 businesses that thrived due to their will to continue to provide services thru COVID: Whittier Farm Store, Brickstone and Vaillancourt Folk Art. At this time Senator states if anyone needs assistance please call his office at 617-722-1420.

Senator Fattman at this time presents the Unsung Heroine Award to Cheryl Rawinski for her dedication throughout the pandemic. Cheryl is present to accept the award. The Select Board all thank her for her hard work- 7 days a week over the past year.

Special 1 day Wine & Malt requests (8 dates) Vaillancourt Folk Art. Present to discuss is Gary Vaillancourt. Town Manager Smith states these events are during the Christmas season the beverages served will be in a restricted area that will not cross into the retail store which has an annual off site liquor license. A tip certified bar tender will be on site as well as detail officers if needed. Gary Vaillancourt states this is for Christkindlemart, the Dickens play, the Chain of Lights and the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce event. Select person Hall has no questions but is grateful to have them in town, Select person Mead is happy every year with the events, Wendy is thrilled last year worked out for them, Select person Anderson is happy to support, Vice Chair Bannon has no questions or concerns, Chairperson Limanek says these are always class events. Select person Anderson motions to approve 8-one day special licenses to serve Wine/Malt at Vaillancourt Folk Art (outside of the licensed \$15 off site Wine/Malt license) located at 9 Main Street for various Christmas Season gatherings on Nov. 12th, 13th, 27th, 28th, Dec. 4th, 8th, 11th and 18th - TIP Certified Bar Tender on site Select person Mead seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call vote

Building Dept. Fee increases- present to discuss is Building Commissioner John Couture; John states they did a thorough review using surrounding towns fees as ours have not been increased in a while. Select person Hall questions why do we charge fees- John replies the fees support him and his staff- building in town should not be levied on the tax payers. John states they recently purchased software for building permits- \$27,000. There is a \$14,000 yearly fee to maintain as well as a \$140.00 monthly fee for ipads. Select person Mead says that even with most of the increases we are still less than the other towns fees. Select person Anderson agrees it makes sense to support this dept thru the fees rather than having all residents pay. Vice Chair Bannon says one of the positives that has come from the pandemic is online permitting. Chairperson Limanek appreciates the effort to modernize using online permitting. Vice Chair Bannon motions to approve as presented the Building Dept fee increases Select person Hall seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call vote taken

Year End Transfers- present to discuss is Finance Director/auditor Tim Harrison- Tim feels this is the best assumption due to late bills. \$56,558 (copy attached to final minutes) will be taken from various line items within the individual depts. and transferred to the accounts showing negative. The Select Board all agree this is a very small number on a \$35-million-dollar budget- there are no issues/concerns. Select person Hall motions to approve the FY2021 Year End Transfers as presented Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call vote taken

Town Manager Update:

- MBR Tank timeline; award issued to Utility Service Company \$427,632. - we are waiting to execute the contract. We are planning on using the remainder of the school construction (\$210,000.) and for the rest we would like to use the ARPA monies. The town has received the 1st of two pmnts from ARPA in the amount of \$501,476. This project fits under the scope of what this money can cover (water and sewer infrastructure). Our consultant Ray Willis confirmed with Greg Devine with DEP that this use would be covered. These monies will have a federal audit performed. Also for the ARPA monies usage we would like to reconstruct the Town Hall septic system – we are looking at either running it down to the town owned property aside the center store or up to 16 Uxbridge Road. Jim would like to gather thoughts of the board for potential projects. Another possible project would be to complete the loop of fiber around town
- The Sutton 4th of July 2022 has been in contact- we requested a summary of their plans and will have them before the Board in September. They are looking at June 25th or 26th 2022.
- Manchaug Dam - Jim has worked for several years with Manchaug Pond Foundation (Phyllis Charpenter) in regards to water levels. Our Highway Superintendent Matt Stencel and Lyman Rosebrooks maintain the water levels by letting water out of Manchaug to fill Stevens. Jim was notified over the weekend two boards broke at Stevens Pond Dam due to the recent storm that delivered 5" of rain. We have funded for two years' money in the Capital Fund to analyze and repair Stevens Pond Dam which we believe has a low level leak. The issue is trying to see what the problem is- we may have to build a coffer dam to hold the water back for the repair. Jim states there was a rule curve followed when it was for manufacturing (interface)- now we follow a modified recreation rule curve. Jim expresses interest in sitting down with Erik Zarazinski and Phyllis Charpenter to discuss these issues.

Announcement's/Round Table

- Select person Hall says it was nice to have residents in the audience-
- Select person Mead announces a concert on the common this Thursday and asks for all to be kind to one another.
- Select person Anderson asks how many Dams are in town- Jim replies two
- Vice Chair Bannon thanks the audience for bringing their concerns forward/ also a shout out to Sean Burke drafted by the MLB to the White Sox
- Chairperson Limanek reads the needs of the food pantry.

Public Forum- Debra Dunleavy asks to speak to the Board she owns Manchaug Mills at 9 Main Street- this property took on water which came across the street from when the dam was breached- this is a separate issue from what was mentioned during Public Forum.

Select person Mead motions to adjourn, Vice Chair Bannon seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm