

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 10/26/2021 by a roll call vote of 5-0**

6:00 p.m. – October 12, 2021  
HYBRID MEETING

Members in Attendance by video chat:

Chairperson Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair Jeff Bannon, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select Board members David Hall and 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](https://www.zoom.us/join) and enter Meeting ID 826 9419 6930 & Passcode 926032. 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.

Chairperson Limanek announces we have 7 members of Scout Troop 132 in the audience tonight

Public Forum – N/A

Select Person Hall motions to approve as presented September 21, 2021 meeting minutes, Selectperson Anderson seconds passes 5-0 roll call taken

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented September 21, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, Selectperson Mead seconds passes 5-0 roll call vote taken

**\*\*Public Hearing \*\*** Change of owner- Class III license: Select person Anderson reads the notice as published in the September 1, 2021 Millbury Sutton Chronical. Present is owner Scott Carr and his son Matt Carr. Town Manager Smith informs the Select Board Scott is going to retire- Matts name is currently on the license with Scott so this is a transfer to the son being the only name on the license. Scott Carr addresses the Select Board saying this is the second generation (he refers to his son Matty) taking over the business. Matt Carr informs the board business will continue as it has been run previous- there will be no changes. Select person Hall congratulates Scott on his retirement and offers the same to Matt for taking over the family business. Dave asks Scott how long he has been in business here- he replies 35 years. Select person Mead offers congratulations to both and says she is glad they were able to float by during the pandemic. Selectperson Anderson has known the Carrs for many years- he offers good luck, Vice Chair Bannon says it is great for Matt to step in and keep the business running, Chairperson Limanek says this is a multi-generation business in town- there is a huge value with small business mechanics. Hearing no comments from the public- Select person Mead motions to Close the Public Hearing, Select person Hall seconds passes 5-0- roll call vote taken. Select person Mead motions to approve the Change of owner request from Scott Carr dba Scott Carr's Auto Shack for the Class III license located at 91 Worcester-Providence Turnpike to Matthew (Matty) Carr dba Scott Carr's Auto Shack with an expiration date of January 1, 2023, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0 roll call vote taken.

Police Dept Update- the Select board will take the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee out of turn as we are waiting for an officer to arrive.

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee- April Eaton Brown of 32 Burbank Road and Jonathan Rocheleau of 31 Mendon Road are present. April states they are in full planning mode- the date for the parade is Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm from the ELC to the common with no rain date, the fireworks are scheduled for that night with a rain date of July 8<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan Rocheleau says the parade will be similar to the last one but adding a revolutionary war reenactors encampment. Jonathan states they really want to keep it similar to the previous. There will be kid's games, food trucks, bands. They are looking to improve signage from the 1<sup>st</sup> parade as that was some of the feedback they received. Select person Hall welcomes April and Jon- Dave says keeping the parade similar to the previous is a great idea. It is a great place to start. April states the committee meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of the month at 6pm at the Police Station if anyone wishes to volunteer. Select person Mead is a member of the parade committee but seeing as there are no votes tonight she will not have to recuse herself. Wendy informs all that there will be some events around Halloween put on by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee- people can bring carved pumpkins to the common and pay a small fee. The pumpkins will be lit for 3 hours the Fri, Sat and Sun of Halloween weekend. April states this will go along with an event the Historical Society is planning for that Sat. at the grave yard behind town hall. Select person Anderson asks about parking- Jonathan Rocheleau replies the parking will be similar to previous parade- we will use buses, the 2 church parking lots- the parking is what it is. Vice Chair Bannon was impressed with the organization from the last parade, Jeff asks if there will be new t shirts and how do people donate- April replies yes there will be t shirts and donations may be sent to her address at 32 Burbank Road, once the website is updated you will be able to donate thru there. Chairperson Limanek asks if they are on face book- they reply yes- thesutton4th- Jesse is in full support of this wonderful event- we are fully supportive with what you need.

Police Dept Update- present tonight is Sgt. Joe Fortunato, Lt. Lisa Sullivan and Police Chief Denis Towle. Sgt. Fortunato begins saying we want to show the transparency in the Police Dept. Tonight we will offer updates in a few areas- aside of Joe is the sign listing the 6 Core Values initiated last year by Sgt. Jacques and the younger officers. These signs will be throughout the Police Station- it is a reminder of the values the Police Dept. strive for. It outlines our standard, what is expected and acceptable behavior. Body cameras still in early stages of discussion- issues are retention management & privacy issues as well as the cost for retention. The Chief and Lt. remain committed to officer training and executive training in our Police Dept. Lt Sullivan received a DRE grant (drug enforcement)- we were able to get 2 officers trained- this is one of the hardest trainings for officers (Urato and Sinni) Officer Bertone is the new school resource officer, there was an FBI training- 3 blocks cover supervisor, command and executive training – Lt. Sullivan and Sgt Fortunato received the trilogy award for completing the 3 blocks- Sgt. Jacques has completed two of the blocks awaiting the 3<sup>rd</sup> class. Officer Desruiseaux is attending a drone training which is part of the CEMLEC unit. Officer Sinni completed the sexual assault training, Officers Pepin and O'Rourke continue to attend various criminal investigation trainings and Officer Herr completed crime scene training. The force completed Police Reform Training which was handed down in July 2021: POST stands for Police Officer Standard training. Also in the process is purging the evidence room- there are many hoops to jump through. The new radio tower- project cost was \$150,000. For the fiber and repeater equip. this will add coverage to Lackey dam, Manchaug & Purgatory road. It has been an officer safety thing. Trends relative to police hiring- what's going on in the US with law enforcement in America- Joe feels this is the true pandemic. There has been a 45% increase in resignations- we continue to be progressive in our training- our benefits, pay and incentives make Sutton attractive. We have been using a Police App for applications- it continues to be a great asset. Also mentioned is the dept being a proactive Police Dept not a reactive dept. Select person Hall says this was a unique update- this is good for the community. Dave feels the CORE values demonstrate the level of care. Dave is happy to see the training – it is good to see the younger officers; they are getting diversity. Select person Mead begins by saying this community appreciates you 150% - the empathy in being able to deal with individuals with mental health or domestic violence is important. Wendy asks how all of this is funneled to younger officers, Joe replies we hire hard- a lot come to us with empathy. Joe says the Police Dept. is not immune to what is going on in the world but the dept has the guardian warrior mentality and acts as guardians of the community. Select person Anderson says this was a very thorough presentation showing the different aspects of the job as well as the perplexity. Jonathan feels the body cameras are valuable as well as challenging. Vice Chair Bannon says this was informative showing the issues you face. Chairperson Limanek is impressed with the professionalism- in regards to the cameras- Jesse is afraid it could take away the human element to react how they see appropriate- Jesse also asks if there with an increase in drug related issues – Joe replies yes- with pot being legalized there is a huge spike.

Town Manager renewal contract- Vice Chair Bannon and Selectperson Mead met as a subcommittee to come up with a renewal contract for Jim. 12 towns were compared to ours- this showed Jim- having the most tenure, he was in the lower bottom of the pay scale. All agree Jim has done a tremendous job- the Board is looking to offer Jim a 5-year extension effective Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and run to June 30, 2027. In addition, there will be a 6% of salary put in to a 457 deferred plan and a bonus of \$5,000.00 if our bond rating can go from a AA+ to a AAA. Vice Chair Bannon says there is a significant increase in his base salary but it is not at the top of the 12 communities. Select person Anderson asks about Jims unused vacation time- can it be carried over or lost if not used in that year. Wendy looks at the contract and states it is carried over year to year. Select person Anderson motions to approve as presented the renewal contract for Town Manager James Smith for the period of November 1, 2021 through June 30, 2027 Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 roll call vote taken.

Town Manager Update:

- License Agreement- Shaw Farm maintenance- Jim worked with Town Counsel and Whittier Farms on a 5-year license agreement for maintenance and farming hay. Wayne Whittier agreed to maintain the property and has invested significant amount of resources on seeding and fertilizing the land.
- Fall Chapter 90 work- JH Lynch & PJ Albert will begin work on a few of the roads in town- the roads are Dudley Lane, Dudley Road from Harback to the Millbury Town line, Heritage Road, Whitins Road, Duval and Boston from Wainwright to the center.
- Free Cash certification- Free cash was certified by the DOR for FY22 for \$3,516,314. Attached is a copy of the breakdown
- Mickeys Car Wash Halloween events- Mickeys Car wash will hold events beginning Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and run every night until Halloween. There will be a DJ at the entrance to the building- no participants will get out of their vehicles.

Announcement's/Round Table:

- Select person Hall announces this weekend will be Waters Farm weekend.
- Select person Mead reminds all of the Pumpkin event on the common as well as the update Sgt. Fortunato gave tonight- they keep us safe. Wendys hopes are that the community remembers empathy.
- Chairperson Limanek reads the needs for the Food Pantry (with flu season- cleaners, tissues, paper products. In regards to Halloween- we will hold Halloween as we have always done in the past.

Select person Hall motions to adjourn, Vice Chair Bannon seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0  
Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm