

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 11/16/2021 by a roll call vote of 5-0

6:00 p.m. – November 2, 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 868 5986 4507 & Passcode 132122. 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 – John Belcaine of 75 Leland Hill Road is here to discuss 2 trees in the Dodge Road Cemetery. Mr. Belcaine and his wife have cleaned & repaired approx. 240 stones at this cemetery – there are 2 trees within the cemetery that need to come down before they fall on the stones. One of the trees has a guy wire on it, he called NGrid and was told it is not their wire- it may belong to the phone company. Also of concern is a large beech tree in the center cemetery and the trees that are adjacent to the center cemetery along Boston Road. Town Manager Smith responds that the Cemetery Commissioners as well as Jim are in constant contact with Ross Weaver who is overseeing the repairs of the stones- we will look into it.

Dave Pizzi from Fair View Drive is also present to Dave would like a chestnut tree in the area of the King plot in the center cemetery checked out by an arborist- it does not look healthy. Dave states the town has been attentive to the needs of the cemetery restoration he would just like these trees on the towns radar.

Select Person Hall motions to approve as presented October 26, 2021 meeting minutes, select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0 roll call vote.

Recognitions of Service (Fire Dept) read by Select person Jonathan Anderson for: Joe Bessette, Paul Bessette and Charles Dautrich

Approve use of Imagecast Precinct Tabulators: present to discuss is Town Clerk Laura Caruso. Laura informs the Select Board it is required by the Secretary of State there needs to be a vote to discontinue the old AccuVote Optical Scan tabulators and approve the new Imagecast Precinct tabulators. Laura states there are only 2 companies now that service Massachusetts- LHS Associates (MA) which is a very reliable company and Elections Systems & Software (Nebraska). With this comes service should the need arise. The machines we currently have were purchased in 2007. They will no longer be serviced. Select person Hall asks so the reason is they are being aged out- Laura replies yes- they can no longer get parts for. Dave asks if the new machines are connected to the internet- Laura replies no. Select person Mead asks what is new with these machines, Laura replies the screen will be more interactive with the voter. Wendy asks the cost- Laura replies for the 3 machines in 2007 it was \$15,000. these 3 machines will cost \$17,000. Laura will attempt to sell the old machines on Municibid. Select person Anderson asks if the previous machines were Dominion based- Laura is not sure. The good thing will be these new machines can hold 3000 ballots so better security. Vice Chair Bannon asks if there is an error with the machine how is it handled- Laura states there is a small locked box in the top of the machine that the ballots will go in until repaired. Jeff also asks if due to the supply chain issues is there any concerns- Laura states we are due to receive these in time for the May 2022 election. Chairperson Limanek asks about the SD card in the machines- Laura states they are coded by the vendor and you must have a key to remove. Jesse asks for a little history in the previous 2 elections regarding time Laura and her office had put in.

Select person Mead motions for the Town of Sutton to start using the ImageCast Precinct Tabulator at its Annual Town Election of May 2022 and discontinue the use of the AccuVote Optical Scan Tabulator pursuant to MGL. c54, §34 Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 roll call vote.

Re-Precincting: present for this is Town Clerk Laura Caruso- Town Manager Smith states this is due to the 2020 census, Precinct 3 increased a little and Precincts 1 & 3 stayed the same. Laura states there was no redistricting after the 2010 census. This is only to clean up the lines. There are 130 registered voters that have moved from Precinct 1 to 3 and 65 from precinct 3 to 2. These voters will be notified. The Select board all feel this is straight forward- Precincts 1 & 3 vote in the same location so that would just be changing lines- those that have moved to precinct 2 will have a little drive. Select person Anderson motions to accept as presented the 2020 Re-Precincting Plan for the Town of Sutton Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 roll call vote.

Town Manager Update:

- Fiscal Year 2023 budget process: The FY23 budget & capital process has begun- capital requests are due back by Dec. 17th, budget requests are due back by January 7- the preliminary budget will be presented to the Select Board on February 15th.
- Library Director process- initial interviews held on Oct. 29 with 4 candidates- the final interviews will be within the next two weeks. We are hoping for a Library Director in place for Dec 1st.
- Jingle Jaunt 5k road race- Sat. Dec. 11th 10:30 to take place from the Congregational church to Eight Lots Road. This annual race is organized by Howard Bottomly.
- Peregrine informed us today the NGrid winter supply price (6 months) is 14.821 cents/kWh- the town of Sutton has a 3 year agreement and if a resident is enrolled in our program the cost to them will be 10.651 kWh.

Announcement's/Round Table

- Select person Hall thanks John Belcufine and Dave Pizzi for highlighting the tree issues at the cemeteries.
- Select person Mead mentions the wonderful job done by the Historical Society and the July 4th Committee with the cemetery tour as well as the Jack o lantern display on the common. Wendy reminds all that words and actions are always remembered- be kind.
- Chairperson Limanek echoes Wendy's comments regarding this past weekend events. Jesse reminds all with Thanksgiving approaching the Food Pantry could use fixings for the meal. Select person Mead asks for clarification if refrigerated items can be purchased- Jesse replies shelf items or box mixes are preferred.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:14 pm