

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



Sutton Town Hall
4 Uxbridge Road
Sutton, MA 01590
Telephone (508)865-8727
Fax :(508)865-8721

James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 1/18/2022 by a roll call vote of 5-0
6:00 p.m. – January 4, 2022**

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person:

Chairperson Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair Jeff Bannon, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select person David Hall

Member in attendance by Zoom: Select person Wendy Mead

In attendance in person: 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 885 3126 5355 & Passcode 389725. 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 – N/A

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented the December 21, 2021 Select Board meeting minutes, Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 - with Roll Call vote

Recognition: Sutton Girls Soccer State Champs- Chairperson Limanek calls those from the soccer team in attendance to come forward- Captain and goal keeper Catherine Wright speaks for the team- they won the Division 5 State Championship on November 20th, 2021. After congratulations from each of the board members- Clerk Jonathan Anderson reads the recognition into record, the Select Board sign and present to the Soccer Team.

Agenda #2- Open Space & Recreation Plan (2021-2028) present is Jen Hager- Planning and Economic Development Director and Joyce Smith, member of the Open Space Committee. Jen gives a brief presentation (attached to final minutes) on the process. Survey cards were mailed out to all residents in town, meetings were held during the week as well as a weekend day for residents to participate, CMRPC was also involved. This presentation has also been given to the Historical Commission, Conservation and the Planning Board. Once complete this will be sent in to DCS for review & approval. This allows us to apply for grants which we will be looking for \$400,000. Grant for renovation of the American Legion field. This committee set 5 aspirations which is broken into goals and then a set of strategies/objectives. The most interest residents have requested more of are programs to show the history of Sutton, then followed by recreational amenities and open space. Select person Hall says this is an impressive, easy to read document. Dave asks if we ever look back at the previous plan to see how we do: Jen Hager replies yes we do we did manage to check off quite a few from the last plan (trails at Marion's camp/Goddard lodge renovation). Select person Mead is pleased to see it not just focused on obtaining new open space- a lot has to do with maintenance and rehab of critical areas. Select person Anderson is happy to see the heavy number of responses asking for education on history. Jonathan asks how many surveys were returned- Jen replies approx. 4000 were mailed out- approx. 400 returned. Vice Chair Bannon was glad to see sidewalks on the list- as the community ages we need outlets for people- this helps in making people's lives better. Jen does agree and would like to review a few areas of this plan to include for the aging population. Chairperson Limanek says this is a well done document, there was a lot of leadership in putting this together, Jesse feels in order to have successful goals there must be measurable steps- reviews and revisions. Jen Hager reminds the board she will be looking for a letter signed by them to submit for the \$400,000. Grant.

Agenda #3- OML Complaint- Town Manager Smith reviews with the Select Board- this is to acknowledge the Open Meeting law complaint received by Mr. Patrick Higgins of Northport, Alabama. The complaint stated the Board violated the OML by not listing on the agenda of Dec. 7th, 2021 the business names, addresses and licenses being considered for the 2022 license renewals. At the last meeting (12/21/21) it was posted properly and the board did vote to ratify, validate and confirm the license renewals. Town Manager Smith states we followed the same process as years past but going forward we will post appropriately. Select person Hall says it is not bad to have a watch dog group- thank you to Mr. Higgins for pointing out this technical not egregious violation. We have done this the same way for a long time but in researching we now know the proper way to do it. We have taken the recommended steps to do it properly it's just unfortunate we have to use town counsel time and money but we are happy to do the right thing. Select person Mead feels we took the appropriate steps along with discussion to rectify at the last meeting and is happy to move along with counsel representation and recommendation- we make every attempt to do what is in accordance with the law. Select person Anderson agrees with Wendy and Dave and states he is glad people are paying attention but does agree this is a small violation. Vice Chair Bannon has nothing to add but agrees with the comments made tonight. Chairperson Limanek states the law is written as such, this was a minor step we failed to adhere to but we took the corrective measures and will not repeat- the Open Meeting law is very important; we always strive to be transparent- going forward we will be in full accordance to the law. Select person Mead motions that Chairperson Limanek finalize the Select Board's response to the Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Mr. Higgins with Town Counsel consistent with the Boards discussion and issue such response to Mr. Higgins and the Division of Open Government in response to the complaint, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0 with Roll call vote

Town Manager Update:

- Actuarial presentation- at the Feb. 1st Select Board meeting there will be a presentation to the Select board, Fin Com and the OPEB committee regarding OPEB.
- Audit presentation will take place by our town auditor firm Melanson on March 1, 2022
- Charge point charges- the installation of Chargepoint chargers at the high school are complete. Jim takes this time to thank the town electrician Larry Morris, the highway dept. and Doreen DeFazio. The chargers will be free to the public for 90 days while we evaluate the usage.
- FY2023 budget and capital plan- the capital plan will be presented to the Select board at the January 18th meeting. The requests totaled 1.8 million dollars- we are looking to cap the requests to 1 million.

Announcement's/Round Table

- Select person Hall gives a shout out to Highway for taking care of the icy roads Christmas Eve & Christmas day.
- Select person Mead reminds all to be kind and gentler to our neighbors.
- Chairperson Limanek offers a warm thankyou to the town hall employees that served Christmas luncheon to the employees. Jesse says the food pantry is well stocked but if out shopping cleaning supplies are always welcome. Also mentioned was the annual New Year's eve firing of Big Ben- thankyou to the crew that handles the firing and al the residents (approx. 100) that came out to celebrate.

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