

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 4/19/2022 by a roll call vote of 5-0  
6:00 p.m. – April 5, 2022**

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person and Zoom:

Chairperson Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair Jeff Bannon, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select member David Hall (roll call vote taken - all in person). Select person Wendy Mead enters meeting at 6:07 in person.

Also in attendance in person: Town Manager James Smith, Town accountant Tim Harrison & Deb Jacques, secretary

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 885 1771 4788 & Passcode 201994. 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

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented the March 15, 2022 Select Board meeting minutes as presented, Select person Anderson seconds passes 4-0 - with Roll Call vote (Select person Mead not present)

Select person Hall motions to approve the March 28, 2022 Select Board minutes as presented, Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 3-0-1 (Select person Anderson abstains, Select person Mead not present)

Blackstone River Watershed needs assessment report & resolution- present with PowerPoint is Stephanie Covino representing the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative. Town Manager Smith says the town will be applying for an MVP grant and the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative has agreed to partner. Stephanie gives some background on the Blackstone watershed- it is 48 miles long running from Worcester to Pawtucket RI, 475 square miles, runs through 39 communities and 2 states. This was part of the Industrial revolution being called "Americas hardest working river". A group of volunteers formed the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program to provide outreach for the watershed which then the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative was formed in September 2021. Together there are shared goals such as maintenance of the waterway, access to waterway, increased land protection and removal of the water chestnut which overtakes rivers and negatively impacts aquatic ecosystems and water recreation. Over the years- water from the Blackstone has gotten cleaner but things such as climate change and development remain an issue. Select person Hall asks for Stephanie's background, currently she is located at Clark University but previously was a Conservation agent for the city of Worcester. Dave mentions the water was once polluted- is it safe now? Stephanie replies it is not fishable or swimmable yet but due to the 1972 Clean Water Act it is getting better. Select person Mead asked if there are projects that an Eagle Scout could do, Stephanie replies if anyone has an interest reach out to her. Wendy says global warming is a huge issue and impacts the watershed. Select person Anderson says this was a very informative presentation- he is happy there has been some improvement to the water quality. Jonathan asks if there is a projected date as to when the water quality is at a good place- Stephanie replies there is no specific date. Jonathan states in Sutton there have been a few dams decommissioned which helps to restore back to its natural state. Stephanie states if there are any other dams that we would like decommissioned she would assist. Vice Chair Bannon asks if the recent discovery of PFAS in drinking water is something we should worry about- Stephanie states that is a newer item she is not well versed on. Chairperson Limanek thanks her for the

presentation and says open space in Sutton is very important to us. Select person Mead motions to approve and sign the Resolution for the Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0

Chair person Limanek informs board that the next agenda item (2-1-day Wine & Malt licenses for Concierge Physical Therapy) has been withdrawn at this time.

Review Draft Warrant for Spring Town Meeting: Town Manager Smith says this is the draft- the final Warrant will be presented for signing at the next meeting. Jim reviews the warrant- articles 1-10 are the usual articles seen every May Town Meeting, #11 & 12 are school related- #11 is due to the higher cost of SPED tuition and district placement and 12 is add to the SPED Stabilization account. #13 & 14 are for the OPEB and Health Ins. Stabilization accounts. Article #15 is to discontinue in its entirety the way known as Caplette Rd previously abandoned (article # 33 of the ATM of April 19, 1975), Articles 16 & 17 are to raise and appropriate funds for improvements to VanDyke Field and Veterans field in Manchaug. Article #18 is for an APR on Glenn Kings property to preserve and #19 is to amend the wording on the Zoning Bylaw for Accessory Apartments.

#### Town Manager Update:

- Secretary Kennealy from Exec. Office of Housing & Development was invited to a presentation on March 23<sup>rd</sup> given by Planning Director Jen Hager for a one-stop grant for sewer upgrade in Wilks. State Sen. Ryan Fattman, the Unified team and Select Chair Jesse Limanek were present. This included a site visit to view the future development of Unified.
- Cold in-place bid was opened on Thurs. March 24<sup>th</sup>- we received one bid from INDUS for \$600,000. They were awarded the contract.
- Painting of Sutton Town Hall – bids out due back April 28<sup>th</sup>. There are a few different alternates in the bid specs.
- QR Code located in the foyer by the Sutton Historical Society- this allows you to scan the code and read about the Sutton individuals that fought in WW 1. It was funded by the Sutton Historical Council.
- Informational meeting for the PARC grant application for Vandyke Memorial Playground at the Sutton Sr. Center on April 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm
- Thank you to all that participated in the Spring Town wide clean up held this past Saturday funded by the Cultural Council- 1.62 tons of trash was picked up. Thank you to Al's Rubbish removal for donating dumpsters.

#### Announcement's/Round Table

Select person Mead informs the community the Easter Egg hunt at Waters Farm has been rescheduled to Sat. April 16<sup>th</sup> due to expected rain and field conditions. Wendy thanks all that showed up to help in the cleanup day. Wendy also reminds all to be kind and mentions a recent apartment fire where a passerby helped save the lives of the residents.

Chairperson Limanek thanks Al's Rubbish for their continued community support. The items needed for the Sutton Food Pantry are read. Jesse takes this time to have a moment of silence for Dave Karacius – Dave was the point person for Sutton Veterans events and a wonderful and kind person. He will be missed.

Select person Mead motions to adjourn, Select person Anderson seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0  
Meeting adjourned 7:50pm