

GOSNOLD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 28, 2021

Meeting held at Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting open @ 10:31 AM

Board of Selectmen present: Gail Blout, Sarah Berry, Stewart Young

Other attendants: Lisa Wright, Michael Milanoski, David Warr, Midge Frieswyk, Jon Winet, Leo Roy, Marla Garfield, Phil Houha, Carlyn Nunes, George Shaw, Rosie Goettsche, Serna Davis Hall, Slater Anderson, Ren Davidson, Nancy Wilder, Dix Leeson, Bee Elmore, Bob Elmore, Roxy Leeson, Seth Garfield, Charmaine Gahan, Dale Lynch, Terri Lowell, Karen Walega

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 30, 2021. Duly seconded. So moved. Unanimous vote. Roll call: Gail Blout – here, Sarah Berry – here, Stewart Young – here.

The Coastal Zone Management Grant to upgrade the solid waste area and install a new fuel farm has been submitted.

Michael Milanoski and Sarah Smith have been interviewing Dawn Barnes as our new Assessor. They are impressed with Dawn's knowledge and she is very enthusiastic. She will be a good fit for Gosnold.

Review of the warrant for Annual Town Meeting.

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

SCHOOL:

Midge Frieswyk gave an update on the school:

- 1: the FY 22 school budget is \$149,127 based on current enrollment.
- 2: School Committee voted to form a committee to create a 501C3 (non-profit) for the Steam Academy.
- 3: School Committee voted in favor of a Summer 2021 Steam Experience Program for island children.
- 4: Michelle Carvalho has been appointed to lead the summer art program, for two weeks, July 26 and August 3.
- 5: Current enrollment is the school is 7 students, 1 is under a home education plan.
- 6: School Committee considered the request to change the number of members on the committee, no action taken.
- 7: June 11 @ 5:00 PM will be the end of school concert.

BOARD OF HEALTH:

The masking provisions will be rescinded tomorrow. No masks and no social distancing for anyone who's been vaccinated. Masks are still required on public transportation and inside health care facilities. It is recommended that individuals who haven't been vaccinated continue to wear masks. Local Boards of Health may make their own regulations.

There was a Board of Health hearing for a variance for the new septic design for the Lowell property at 22 Broadway.

Local upgrade approval waivers required:

1. Leaching area size; 784 Sq. Feet required – 708 Sq. Feet proposed (10% reduction)
2. Leaching facility to property line 10' required: 2' proposed
3. Leaching facility to foundation 20' required: 15' proposed

Board of Health Agent, Karen Walega recommends the Board of Health approve the waivers. It was also mentioned that Mr. Lowell will need to file a Notice of Intent with Conservation Commission as the work is 86' from the resource area.

A motion was made to approve the proposed septic plan for 22 Broadway. Duly seconded. Unanimous vote. Roll Call: Gail Blout – here, Sarah Berry – here, Stewart Young – here.

SOLID WASTE:

The new solid waste trailer is here on the island. Two blue hoppers are for trash, the two red ones are for recycles. There will also be a box for flattened cardboard. The trailer may be relocated across the street from the public restrooms. There was discussion about making all green bags \$5.00. To be discussed at next meeting.

WATER:

The Water Commissioners met with USDA and Richard Holland.

Options include:

1. Keep Environmental Partners as our Engineer.
2. Hire another engineering firm to finish the well project and step away from the USDA grant.
3. Keep Environmental Partners for the wells only, step away from USDA grant.

Leo reported that we are in a true conundrum as we have gone down a long road with Environmental Partners and USDA. Environmental Partners has not focused on the needs of the town, they should be listening to the client. If the town will continue with EP, they would require close scrutiny.

Richard Holland wrote his opinion regarding the water projects. Stewart read the last paragraph: Ultimately, the decision of whether and how to proceed with the projects is a policy decision not a legal one. Even so, based on the information discussed in this letter, including statements by the Town's peer-review engineer and USDA representative, unless the Town is willing to risk the loss of USDA funds, it seems that the path of least resistance from a legal/contractual perspective is to procure a single construction contract for the wellfield and water main projects; to have EP, as the PER design engineer, complete the design of the water main project and administer the resulting construction contract for both projects (with or without peer review); and to procure the stormwater project separately, and to have the engineer that designed that project administer the construction contract.

Stewart expressed that he is stuck in the middle here, as Gail and Sarah have opposite opinions on how to move forward. Getting the grant didn't sit right with him in the beginning but getting the funding and low rates was appealing. The idea of getting both the well project and pipe replacement done together was also appealing. The town doesn't have the ability to reduce costs associated with these projects as

we only have fixed costs from EP, all billings have equaled PER prices. There have been no breakdowns of invoiced costs. The town ultimately wants the best product possible upon completion.

Leo reported that the any changes made to the projects would require us to reapply for the grant, there are many questions about funding if we were to reapply and how long that might take.

FUEL FARM:

Soil contamination was detected when removing the old fuel tanks, under tank #2. There were 5 previous owners before Ralph Packer. There was no evidence of any leaking tanks.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

The Conservation Commission is meeting tomorrow, then June 11 and July 9. They will address: individual piling repairs, finalize the Order of Conditions for the Road/Wall/Drain project and pump out liability.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The appropriation sheet for FY 22 is complete.

LIBRARY:

The new library is open! Masks are required. Opening celebration is scheduled on July 10 from 3 – 5 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn. Duly seconded. Unanimous vote. Roll Call: Gail Blout – here, Sarah Berry – here, Stewart Young – here. Meeting adjourned @ 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Wright

Gail Blout

G. Stewart Young

Sarah Berry

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July 12, 2021