GOSNOLD SELECTBOARD

May 15, 2023

Meeting open @ 10:30 AM

Meeting took place at Gosnold Town Hall and via Zoom.

In Person: Sarah Berry, Stewart Young, Gail Blout, Lisa Wright, Sarah Smith, Michael Milanoski, Fran Veeder, Matt Dunnels, Paula DiMare, David Warr, Seth Garfield, Gabrielle Dennison, Carlyn Nunes, Elaine Doran, Allen Berry, George Isabel

Via Zoom: Leo Roy, Jonny Winet, Phil Houha, Sean Uiterwyk

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

*A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 10, 2023. Duly seconded. So moved. Unanimous vote.*

*A motion was made to approve the recommendation of the Planning Board to adopt the language for Article 13 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Duly seconded. So moved. Unanimous vote.*

Warrant were reviewed and signed.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER:

Stewart reported that he had been in touch with Matt Gutwill regarding the summer position and he will continue to negotiate with Matt. The salary would be based on 20 hours/week; $1000/week for 12 weeks plus housing and various expenses for uniforms, etc.

ELECTRIC LIGHT:

Matt Dunnells reported on his review of the powerhouse and electrical system. The full report is available at town hall; highlights include:

There is desire to keep the distribution at 480V and not convert the system to medium voltage. As a compromise the study recommends adding 2400V transmission voltage to carry power from the centrally located powerhouse to remote parts of the island. The system is limited by voltage performance. At 480V the system load results in high line current (in amperes). The line current at 2400V is much less that at 480V. Voltage drip is proportional to the line current smaller wire size with higher impedance (the standard conduit size used on the island limits wire size). One reason for selecting 2400V cabling is that it is unshielded. Higher voltage cables, 5kV and above require specialized terminations to install and a skillset like that of a utility lineman rather than a typical electrician. By sticking with 2400V for the transmissional voltage an electrician can terminate cables in much the same way as with 600V rated cables.

NEAR TERM RECOMMENDATIONS:

Run a 2400V supply from the powerhouse to the marina. Major equipment required for this work includes new 2400V cable, conduit, handholds, a step up transformer, and a stepdown transformer. The estimated cost in 2023 is $212,000 + labor.

* Rate Study to be completed
* Succession plan for Wayne, a resident could be trained or we could contract with a local electrician from New Bedford to learn about the Cuttyhunk system while Wayne is still working.
* Replenish spare transformer inventory – approximate cost $25,000

Medium Term Recommendations:

Run a 2400V supply from the powerhouse to just south of Church’s beach in order to bolster the supply out to the neck. Major equipment required for this work includes new 2400V cable, conduit, handholds, a step up transformer, and a step down transformer. The estimated cost is $250,000 + labor.

* Add a capacitor in the vicinity of the 2400V – 480V step down transformer proposed to further bolster voltage and reduce system losses.
* Plan for eventual replacement of battery cells, inverters and other equipment associated with the solar + batteries which has a limited life expectancy.

Longer term issues:

* System-wide voltage conversion. The 2400V “transmission” voltage could eventually be used as the distribution voltage so the nearer term recommendations would help set the island up for this option if required due to future load growth.
* Mainland connections is highly unlikely due to the cost relative to electrical demand on the island.

SUMMARY:

* Voltage is the most limiting factor for the island’s electrical system to supply load rather than thermal capacity.
* Installation of 2400V transmission supply to remote parts of the island is necessary to mitigate voltage issues.
* New 2400V cables should be installed to separate conduit and handhole system from the 480V conductors to promote worker safety.
* A succession plan for Wayne

WATER:

*A motion was made to affirm the water loan repayment of 80% payback from the consumer and 20% repayment from the tax payer. The loan repayment is $69,000.68. Duly seconded. So moved. Unanimous vote.*

PLANNING BOARD:

The Planning Board Public Hearing opened @ 11:41 PM. *Stewart made a motion that the Planning Board recommends to the Selectboard that they adopt the language in proposed Article 13 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town’s Zoning By-Law by adding the following new language at the end of the current text of section 5.1.1:*

*9. Solar Facilities*

*“Solar energy systems,” as defined by Massachusetts General Laws chapter 40A, section 1A, or structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy.*

*Duly seconded. So moved. Unanimous vote.*

*A motion was made to adjourn the Planning Board Public Hearing. Duly seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 11:53.*

FUEL FARM:

Michael Milanoski reported that the project is moving along and the cement trucks are coming over on Wednesday and hoping for fuel delivery on June 22. Leo is working on the agreement with the Concessionaire. They are considering an operating agreement versus a lease agreement to help reduce insurance costs. There will be a three-year term with a termination clause.

USCG VISTOR CENTER:

The roof replacement has been completed. Dormers and windows will be completed after the fuel shack is finished. The Greenflush bathroom has been canceled. The boathouse is being cleaned out and the town will purchase a pod for storage of some materials.

BUZZARDS BAY COALITION:

An encroachment letter was sent to 4 individuals, including the town. BBC asked the town to contain the rock pile near the propane pen.

AVALON:

Opening for the 2023 season on May 19.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Leo reported that he will work with Will Saltonstall to move forward with the repairs on the existing public toilets.

LIBRARY:

We received $1200.00 worth of books from the Pilcrow Foundation and Friends of the Cuttyhunk Public Library will contribute $400.00 to the purchase.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Wright

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Sarah Berry

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Gail Blout

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G. Stewart Young

GOSNOLD SELECTBOARD

July 15, 2023