



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Thursday, May 13, 2021–6:00 p.m.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

Meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20.

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Ed Silva, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie  
Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau  
**Audience:** Rosie Gordon, Park Commission Chair Laurie Pike

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Selectman Silva- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 3-0-0)**

Announcement of recording devices: One

Noteworthy Announcements (as needed)- Park Commissioner Chair Laurie Pike said that they could not find anyone to teach a summer program at the park, so their budget would be reduced by \$6,146.00.

**Selectboard Business:**

**Minutes:**

1. BOS Minutes of April 22, 2021
2. BOS Minutes of April 27, 2021 Covid Group
3. BOS Minutes April 29, 2021

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of Covid Group April 27, 2021 as written. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Selectman Silva- abstain Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 2-0-0)**

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 22, 2021 and the Minutes of April 29, 2021 as written. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Selectman Silva- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 3-0-0)**

**Contracts:**

**Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant Application:**

Park Commission Chair Laurie Pike presented a draft of a grant proposal through the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) with the help from Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) due May 24, 2021 for

projects that came from the Forest Management Assessment performed last year. The Commission selected 4 projects to focus on:

1. To treat white ash trees to inoculate them against emerald ash borer
2. Identify and Install 3-6 Hemlock Monitoring Plots and Develop Monitoring Protocols and Conduct Training
3. Identify a 20-acre Old Growth Forest Reserve and Design an Old Growth Forest Trail and Interpretive Materials and get the Rowe School Students involved
4. Planting of Red and White Oak Seedlings and also get the Rowe School involved to educate

The projects total cost is \$20,000.00. There was discussion about making certain to raise and appropriate funds and the grants are reimbursed.

In addition, there is a need to extend the grant for the Kiosk manufacture as the low bidder has had difficulty obtaining the proper wood. There is paperwork to be signed to request an extension.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve and sign the Grant Proposal for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership for a total of \$20,000.00 as a reimbursement program paid initially by the town and reimbursed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Selectman Silva- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 3-0-0)**

Laurie Pike left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

#### **Ongoing Projects:**

1. Policy Updates and Review – Tabled to a later date
2. Updating Job Descriptions with Wage Chart Column Assignments- Tabled to a later date

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Annual Town Meeting Final Plan:**

Selectmen discussed final arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting and presenting warrant articles.

##### **Senior Tax Work in Lieu of Taxes Program Discussion:**

Executive Secretary provided information about adding a program for senior work in lieu of taxes that some larger towns offered as Selectman Silva requested for a resident request. There was discussion about not having a great deal of menial work available for minimum wage tasks. There was discussion about having town resources to oversee and implement the program. Vice-Chair Semanie suggested he first contact the Board of Assessors and investigate whether he could qualify for a tax abatement.

##### **Town Clerk Election Appointments:**

Town Clerk recommended the following election appointments: Loretta Dionne – Election Clerk, Margaret Rice- Election Clerk and Colleen Avallone – Election Clerk. Due to conflict of interest, the other two workers previously appointed could not work.

**MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Loretta Dionne – Election Clerk, Margaret Rice-Election Clerk and Colleen Avallone – Election Clerk as recommended by Town Clerk. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Selectman Silva- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 3-0-0)**

Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk Appointment:

Town Clerk requested the appointment of Terry Green to the position of Assistant Town Clerk. Since she works for the town in the Treasurer capacity and can train to learn basic skills to fill in when needed, it continues the plan to have each employee have someone that can fill in or in the event the position is vacated.

**MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Terry Green as Assistant Town Clerk. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

Set Date to Vote on Fuel Bids:

Selectman discussed the opening of the fuel bids for FY22. It was decided to meet on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Mosquito Spraying Opt Out Hearing:

Vice-Chair Semanie said that the Board of Health had discussed the Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out Application and spoke with Health Agent Randy Crosier about the details. The Board of Health decided to Opt-Out of the Mosquito Spraying since mosquitoes carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Rowe are unlikely. Rowe is considered a remote risk area. It was decided to meet with Chair Maggie Rice on Tuesday to discuss and hold a hearing for the Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out.

**Warrants/Contracts:**

**Review Warrants FY21W23 and FY21PW23:**

Vice-Chair Semanie has not reviewed them as yet and will next week.

**Administrative Office Updates:**

**Executive Secretary:**

ARPA: Janice Boudreau said that Rowe was awarded \$113,821.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act. Ms. Boudreau attended a meeting about the details of the program and is still unclear as how Rowe could use the funds that had to match guidelines.

MVP: There was a follow up meeting to the Municipal Vulnerability Plan and a Resiliency Plan Draft 2021 was discussed and presented. It highlighted social, environmental, infrastructure resilience.

For more information: <https://resilientma.org/>

Rowe's Top Priority Recommendations:

- 1- Obtain funding to address stormwater mgt. & drainage issues and have a culvert assessment.
- 2- Secure funding for pest control & mgt.
- 3- Develop and implement an invasive species mgt. plan.
- 4- Complete an assessment of vulnerable populations & develop resources for seniors.

NEXT STEPS:

- BOS review plan – review period until May 24th
- BOS endorse plan after May review finalized
- FRCOG submits final form to State
- Next Spring apply for state Action Grant(s) that are appropriate

Warrant Invoices:

As a follow up discussion about the decision to notify the Board when invoices handed in by town departments were 30 days old, Ms. Boudreau said that 30 days was not practical as invoices sometimes came in late. It was noted that invoices over 60 days were not acceptable to process and that checks should still be handed in to Treasurer within 30 days or, if possible, every week.

**Administrative Assistant:**

Yankee Road: Paul McLatchy III said he is working with the Governor's office to learn how to obtain the \$740,000.00 for Yankee Road reconstruction from the Transportation Bond Bill.

King's Highway: King's Highway project has a few more items that are being worked on to complete the project.

Ford Hill Road: Engineers are conducting borings tests for the engineering part of the project.

**Next Meeting:**

FY22 Fuel Bids and the Hearing for the Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out Application.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

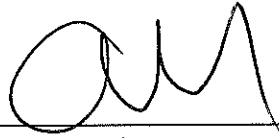
**Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol- yes Selectman Silva- yes Vice-Chair Semanie- yes (Vote: 3-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *May 27, 2021*

Approved:

  
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Chuck Sokol, Chair

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Ed Silva, Selectman

  
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Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

**Documents:**

1. Agenda May 13, 2021
2. BOS Minutes of April 22, 2021
3. BOS Minutes of April 27, 2021 Covid Group
4. BOS Minutes April 29, 2021
5. Senior Tax Work in Lieu of Taxes MGL c.59 §5k
6. Town Clerk Election Appointments
7. Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk Appointment Request
8. American Rescue Plan Act Fact Sheet
9. Mosquito Opt-Out Application
10. Mosquito Opt-Out Procedures
11. Grant Proposal for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership
12. Executive Secretary Updates
13. MVP Resiliency Plan for Review

**Mail:**

1. Letter to John Magnago