



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 2021–6:00 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie,
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: Town Clerk Paul McLatchy III, Christine Bailey, Ashley Brown, Hannah Poplawski

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Announcement of recording devices- One
Noteworthy Announcements- None

Minutes:

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes of August 5, 2021
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of August 31, 2021- Covid-19 Group
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of September 2, 2021

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of August 5, 2021, Covid-19 Group Meeting of August 31, 2021 and September 2, 2021 as presented. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

Selectboard Business:

New Business:

Meeting Amendment Request: Request of the Franklin Land Trust:

Emily Boss of Franklin Land Trust asked that we clarify the Minutes of May 27, 2021 to read:
Franklin Land Trust purchased a conservation restriction on 240 acres of land in Rowe owned by Jean-Claude van Itallie and 40 acres in Charlemont. Jean-Claude remains the owner of this property, with the land trust being the sole holder of the restriction.

Chair Sokol and Vice-Chair Semanie agreed to acknowledge clarification and inserted into the Meeting Minutes.

Ongoing Projects:

1. **Policy Updates and Review:** It was agreed to continue work to update policies

1. Updating Job Descriptions with Wage Chart Column Assignments – It was agreed to continue to work on Wage and Salary charts for positions at the next meeting
3. Bylaw Review - Tabled until a later date

Appointments - Interviews Administrative Assistant Position:

1. 6:30 Christine Bailey

Christine Bailey left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

2. 6:50 Ashley Brown

Ashley Brown left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Following interviews the Board discussed the candidates.

MOTION TO HIRE: Chair Sokol made a motion to hire Ashley Brown for the position of Administrative Assistant, a Grade Level G position, at the rate of \$21.00 per hour for 24 hours at this time. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was accepted. (vote 2-0-0)

Appointment- 7:15 p.m. - Hannah Poplawski – MTWP Rep:

Follow up to the Forest Legacy Program Questions:

Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership (MTWP) Representative Hannah Poplawski discussed items that were left from the prior meeting to be clarified. To answer the question regarding the effect on taxes, Ms. Poplawski said that taxes of properties held in the Forest Legacy programs would decrease, however, are most often in programs that reduce taxes. There would be public access on a portion of the property that would be determined.

MOTION TO SIGN: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the support letter in support of the expansion of the Forest Legacy Areas designation into the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Region to Lindsey Nystrom of the DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

There was appreciation expressed to Ms. Poplawski for her work and interest and work on the MTWP. Ms. Poplawski left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Old Business:

House Burn Follow-Up:

Vice-Chair Semanie said she was still waiting for the quotation from Hilltown Demolition for the clean up to the burn house site used in Fire Dept. training and did not hear back from any of the other 2 vendors. She further stated that it was not possible to ascertain the cost of the burn training since there was a great deal of preparation time on site that, most likely, would be difficult to cull the exact times unless Fire Chief had detailed training records. She said the administrative office would not have those records.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Review Warrants FY22W 6 and FY21PW 6: Vice Chair Semanie would review on Friday.

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

1. Executive Secretary Updates:

Projects Include:

- Working on reviewing Personnel forms & procedures and assisting working with new hires
- Organizing and reviewing current Personnel procedures
- Working with NBSU to have a meeting in the near future to discuss procedures for new hires to school since there have been some issues

Meeting in Charlemont: As a follow-up to recent discussion with the Charlemont Town Administrator about the future and succession planning for the Fire Chief, Charlemont invited us to meet to start an initial discussion about Shared Fire Services. Sarah Reynolds, Town Administrator and Dan Giard Selectmen and Liaison to the Fire Dept. have set up a meeting next Tuesday morning at 9:00 am in Charlemont. Vice-Chair Semanie agreed to attend the meeting.

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours)

- Zoning Board of Appeals Members (

Next Meeting:

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie and unanimously accepted. (Vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *SEPTEMBER 30, 2021*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair

Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda September 16, 2021

2. Resume of Christine Bailey
3. Resume of Ashley Brown
4. BOS Minutes of August 5, 2021
5. BOS Minutes of August 31, 2021
6. BOS Minutes of September 2, 2021
7. BOS Minutes of May 27, 2021
8. Forest Legacy Support Letter
9. Executive Secretary Updates

Mail:

1. Email from J. Morse
2. Email from F. Parisi