

Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
REVISED Minutes
Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie, Ed Silva
Town Officials: Park Commissioners Laurie Pike & Hannah Poplawski
Audience: Michael Laffond
Zoom Participation: Attorney Timothy Zessin, Attorney Thomas Kokonowski, Kathy Atwood

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

Announcement of recording devices: Yes (2)

Noteworthy Announcements: NONE

Executive Session: In accordance with M.G.L c. 30A, s. 21 (a)(1) to discuss a complaint against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual.

At 3:00 PM, Chair Chuck Sokol entertained a motion to enter into executive session. A motion was made by Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie to enter into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law 30A, Section 21(a)(1), to discuss a complaint against a public officer, employee, state member, or individual. The motion, seconded by Selectman Ed Silva, was approved. (Roll Call Vote: Chuck Sokol – Yes, Ed Silva – Yes, Joanne Semanie – Yes, vote: 3-0-0)

Chair Chuck Sokol motioned to adjourn the executive session at 3:13 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was approved. (Roll Call Vote: Chuck Sokol – Yes, Ed Silva – Yes, Joanne Semanie – Yes, vote: 3-0-0)

New Business:

1. Park Commission: Woodlands Partnership Letter of Support

Park Commission member Hannah Poplawski updated the Selectmen on the Woodlands Partnership trail. She also requested that the Selectmen sign a letter of support on behalf of the Woodlands Partnership to assist with implementing the project at Pelham Lake Park.

MOTION TO SIGN LETTER: Chair Sokol motioned to sign the letter of support for the Woodlands Partnership Grant on behalf of implementing projects at Pelham Lake Park. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

2. Review of Police Department Job Descriptions – TABLED
3. Planning Board Letter of Resignation – Chuck Sokol
4. Vacation Requests – Lance Larned – Vice-Chair Semanie signed vacation request forms.

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan: **not discussed.**
2. 2022 Audit – **no update.**
3. Town Line Sign – **delivered.**

Road/Bridge Projects:

Yankee Road: Vice-Chair Semanie and Selectmen Silva updated Chair Sokol on the details and requests made at the meeting with the Engineering firm held on Monday, 04/22. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of discontinuing Yankee Rd once necessary repairs have been made.

Cyrus Stage Bridge: **No discussion.**

Ford Hill Bridge: **No discussion.**

Tunnel Road Bridge: **No discussion.**

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Park Commission - Demonstration Forest Cooperative Agreement

Description: This is an agreement between the Town of Rowe and Mass Audubon, “ the parties agree that Mass Audubon and the Forest Climate Resilience Program will help to direct funds for climate smart forest management on the property, and enter into this agreement to cooperate and improve forest management of the property;”

MOTION TO SIGN: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve and sign the Demonstration Forest Cooperative Agreement between the Town of Rowe and Mass Audubon as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was unanimously approved. (vote 3-0-0)

Unforeseen Business: NONE.

Mail:

1. Berkshire & Eastern Railroad – Vegetation Management Plan

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes – March 28, 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the March 28, 2024, minutes as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Citizen Comments:

1. Micheal Laffond -

Future Meetings:

Thursday, May 09, 2024, at 6:00pm

Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 6:00pm

Adjournment: 3:45pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,


Brooke Shulda, Town Administrator

Original Approval Date: 5/23/2024

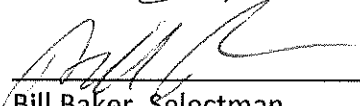
Originally Approved By: Chuck Sokol, Ed Silva, Joanne Semanie

Revised Approval Date: April 2, 2026

Approved:



Joanne Semanie, Chair



Bill Baker, Selectman

Ed Silva, Selectman

Documents:

1. Agenda for April 25, 2024
2. Woodlands Partnership Letter of Support -- Provided by Hannah Poplawski
3. Demonstration Forest Cooperative Agreement
4. MAIL: Berkshire & Eastern Railroad - Vegetation Management Plan