

TOWN OF TRENTON
MINUTES OF January 25, 2022 MEETING

- Call to Order: Board of Selectman Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present: Fred Ehrlenbach, John Bennett, Rachel Nobel, Charles Farley, Jr., Carol Walsh. Excuse: Daniel Monahan. Visitors Present: Chip Roskom, Brant Viner, Kristen Farley, Danielle Cole, Michael Gilmartin, John Whetstone. Attending virtually: Linda Hodgkins, Sam Hughes, Starr Gilmartin, Judy Sproule, Margaret Harlin.

- Visitors to be Heard: Chris Roskom spoke to the Board concerning re-instituting the Parks & Recs committee. He spoke with Ryan Swanson, former Chairman, concerning the various projects, including perhaps taking over the maintenance of the trail up behind the Gateway Center. There is a lot of interest in a community park as well as starting up a little league team to participate as a separate team with Acadia Little League. Chris has also spoken with Tony McKim on the same subject. He is requesting a line item in the upcoming budget, for approximately \$2500 to pursue this, if there is enough interest. Six names were presented as potential members of the P & R Committee. The Board agreed to have those names presented as appointments at the next Board meeting. Roskom asked for consideration of funds to be added to the budget this year.

- Adjustments to the Agenda: Update traffic safety committee meeting

- Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2022. Bennett motioned to approve the minutes as read; Farley seconded. Vote: 4 Yes.

- Old Business:
 - Fire Department: no report

 - Broadband Committee: The committee met and will gather details of expenses as well as make a few minor adjustments to the newsletter. The quote came in well within the expected expenditures. The Committee also discussed a possible domain site that would possibly act as a link to a repository for trainings. Maine Community Foundation did respond back concerning some items that could be added to the grant that were not approved previously. Walsh asked that any additional items that are being added back into the grant from the original notification, be put in writing to avoid any billing issues later. Bennett asked about the Spectrum lines that would be run. Ehrlenbach said the additional lines meet the guidelines of the franchise agreement and there is no cost. They will have to deal with Bangor Hydro (Versant) concerning easements, and that may take some time.

- Road Committee : The committee met on the 20th along with two members of HCPC to discuss opportunities to work together on planning in Trenton. The first area of discussion was the transportation chapter of the comprehensive plan, which would not be a lot of work and could result in a draft from HCPC as soon as February. The second area would be an in-depth active transportation plan which would likely be an addendum. They discussed the issues of the area including bike and pedestrian safety. They could make recommendations with the committee and public feedback. That would be about a six month project. The committee felt that working with HCPC on both projects would be a good idea. Also discussed was the cost of the comprehensive plan update which could be as much as \$20,000 over two years.

- New Business:
 - EMR Solid Waste Recycling: Mike Gilmartin has talked with Lee Worcester of EMR concerning the recent communication from EMR to the Towns. He posed a scenario where EMR would come to Trenton every Saturday 9 – 12 located at Salty Sand Way to gather recyclables. EMR will look into that and try to put a price against it for consideration. Nobel asked if there was a cost estimate under this scenario. Ehrlenbach said it would be \$800/month plus \$560 per trip, or \$9600 plus 6 tons costing \$10,000 for 6 tons of recyclables, at approximately \$1600/ton, or dispose of it at \$75/ton as we are doing now. Tony Smith of ADD has indicated that there are two potential buyers for the Fiberite plant, but that any sale is likely a year or two down the line. It was noted that the Worcester proposal is a month to month proposal and could be a stopgap until Fiberite can secure a buyer.
 - Comprehensive Plan: Ehrlenbach put this item on the budget to address misinformation that has been circulating, including the Comprehensive Plan is out of date, we are not eligible for grants, and other issues. Title 30(A) § 187 section 4314 says that comprehensive plans adopted or amended by a municipality under the former Title 30 remains in effect till amended or repealed, Ehrlenbach stated that we have a Comprehensive Plan that was adopted under the former Title 30– it’s not an issue. Nobel read information she had looked up that said a Comprehensive Plan will expire after 12 years. Ehrlenbach explained that the Town adopted their Plan under Title 30 and read the list of articles that were repealed since that time: [Title 30(A) sections 4341, 4342, 4343, 4344, 4347, 4348, 4349], allowing the Town’s Comprehensive Plan to still be in compliance and in effect with no penalties. Nobel questioned why the DOT said the Town needed to update the growth management section of the Plan and Ehrlenbach again read from the State Statute 4324, that the Town “MAY” update their growth management plan. This is, by use of the word “may”, an option, and not a mandate. He reiterated that the information is all on the State website and that was what he read to the Board. Ehrlenbach also read from the State website, the portion of the law that states the Municipal Officers may appoint members of a planning committee to update the growth management section of the Plan, or may designate any existing planning board to do so. He said our planning Board was established under

Title 30, therefore, the Town may designate the Planning Board to update the plan, or may do nothing. The Town is still eligible for grants because they have a comprehensive plan in force. There are no restrictions until the Town repeals or amends the plan. Linda Hodgkins asked that Ehrlenbach send the link that shows the Town is in compliance and that that be discussed with DOT to confirm that we are eligible for grant funding. Title 30(A) Chapter 187 will be the starting point when reviewing the current plan. Ehrlenbach said the demographics would be the place to start. Provisions for updating the plan are explained in Title 30(A). Ehrlenbach suggested that the Planning Board take the lead with the Comprehensive Plan and may request input from others if they wish.

- Other Business: Farley said that the solar company would go to the Trenton School on the 26th of the month to look at the facility. There appears to be no contract with Versant (Bangor Hydro) which may be a good thing for planning as that was the original sticking point. The plan is now to go ahead as though there is no contract with the electrical company, since neither the school or the power company are able to locate a contract. Gilmartin referenced the legislature's bill concerning elderly residents whose property has, or is, going to lien. Ehrlenbach clarified that the bill before the Legislature provides that the State would be the one to lien the property and pay the taxes, not the Town. The Town would have been paid by the state and there would be no Town lien on the property. He suggested reading all the requirements and limitations that make a person eligible for this scenario. as they are very restrictive.
- Approval of A/P & Payroll Warrants: Bennett motioned to approve the AP & Payroll Warrants, Farley seconded. Vote: 4 Yes.
- Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Bennett and seconded by Farley. Vote: 4 Yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.