

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday September 28, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid

PRESENT: Roger Manzolini, Chair; Al Hanson, Selectman; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Daniele Fillio, Town Administrator; John and Jodi DeKraker, residents; Ron Veillette, Chair, Conservation Commission; Valerie Bird, Board of Health Agent; Rick Bell, resident; Dick Stover, resident; Lauren Broussel, Reporter *Richmond Record*, Thomas Potter, resident

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Approval of the Minutes of the September 14, 2022 Meeting: All comments from the Board having been included in the minutes, Roger moved to approve them. He was seconded by Al. Discussion: Rick Bell noted that he had been at the September 14th meeting, but his name was not included in the list of attendees. That correction will be made. Roger amended his motion to approve the minutes with that correction. The motion was seconded by Al and adopted by unanimous vote.

Neal then moved to open the Public Hearing for John & Jodi DeKraker for property at 421-2B Swamp Road. His motion was seconded by Al and adopted by unanimous roll-call vote: Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye; Manzolini, aye.

Special Permit – 421-2B Swamp Rd. Temporary Mobile Trailer Housing: John and Jodi DeKraker approached the Board to ask permission to temporarily reside in a mobile trailer on the property they recently purchased while construction of their house was ongoing. Roger advised that there will be conditions applied to the permit such as a time limit for completion of the house. There was a discussion of the best way to word the permit, which resulted in a consensus that the permit will have a lifespan of one year with an option to revisit it if the work on the house is not completed in that time, but to waive the fee if a second application is required.

Rick Bell asked about the correct procedure to conduct a Public Hearing. He was advised by Danielle that all requirements had been taken care of and that this was now the public hearing that had been advertised in local media as required.

Dick Stover asked about arrangements for sanitary needs at the trailer. John said he had spoken to Valerie Bird about permission to use the septic system currently under construction as a tight tank until that construction is completed. Valerie assured the Board that the Board of Health had approved the use of the tight tank system until construction was completed. She also noted that the construction site already has a well drilled.

Roger asked John what their plans were for the trailer once the house is completed and they can move in. He responded that they are considering either selling it or using it as a recreational RV and no one would be using it to live in.

Discussion having come to an end, Roger moved to close the Public Hearing. Neal seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous roll-call vote: Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye; Manzolini, aye.

As there were no further questions from the Board, Neal moved to approve the Special Permit as presented based on the finding that it was not substantially detrimental to the neighborhood, and to include the provision to waive the permit fee, if a second permit request becomes necessary. The motion was seconded by Roger and adopted by unanimous roll-call vote: Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye; Manzolini, aye.

Town Wide Traffic and Speeding Discussion: Neal reported that he had originally drafted a letter addressed to the State Police but had been advised by Danielle that it would be more appropriate, since the State Police is the enforcement body for traffic violations, for him to prepare a report to the Selectboard. He worked with Ron Veillette, Chair of the Con. Com., Pete Beckwith, Highway Dept. Super., Danielle and himself. The subsequent report was meant for discussion at this meeting, but the temporary loss of the Town's website meant that residents were unable to access the information prior to the September 28th meeting. He noted that the Report contains six points for review of actions that are within the discretion of the Board.

The issue was opened for discussion and several suggestions were made concerning the use of advisory signage, warning signs, intersection signs and flashing pedestrian signs, all of which are steps the Board can accomplish without the involvement of the State or State Police. Where they have already been put in place, they seem to be having a beneficial effect. It was decided that a broader discussion be held at a future meeting to provide an opportunity for residents to read the report, which will be available on the town website.

Rick noted that there is a section of road by Olivia's Lookout on which brush overhang is causing pedestrians and bicycle riders safety concerns. He asked about having the brush cut back. Danielle advised him that the Highway Dept. is working on overgrowth issues throughout town and his concerns will be forwarded to Peter.

TOWN CENTER DISCUSSION:

Invoices / Change Orders – None

Status of Building – No update available

Items Requiring a Vote by the Board – None

Public Comment: Rick said he had sent an email to the Board of Selectmen outlining some research he had done on the subject of "blighted property." Roger agreed it will be a good idea to have a blighted property bylaw on the books. He recommended putting that issue on a future agenda.

Dick Stover asked Danielle for an update on his request to have the Zoning Officer follow up on the 159 Willow issue. She assured him that the Zoning Officer is going to begin issuing fines.

Lauren Broussel asked if there was a definition of “blighted property.” She was advised that there was in the email Rick Bell sent, which will be forwarded to her.

Town Administrator Updates: Danielle reported on the work being done to identify Air B&B’s located in Richmond and whether the town is receiving the appropriate percentage of local room tax. She noted that other towns are receiving a 6% tax, which can be instituted without a Town Meeting vote requirement. She is currently awaiting word from the DOR.

Danielle explained how the town’s website went down, the steps that brought it back up and what’s being done to assure it does not happen in the future.

Work on the MVP grant has begun. Research work with Weston and Sampson has begun on a Storm Water Management Plan and a meeting next Monday will focus on problem locations and what residents can do with storm water runoff on their own properties when there are significant amounts of water from heavy rain. They are also doing a school outreach program and a survey for residents, all of which are to be completed by June 30, 2023.

Ron asked about the storm water education curriculum to be used for residents as the Con Com has similar information. Danielle said she is working with the Housatonic Valley Association, the Mass Audubon Society and Weston and Sampson to create a curriculum. She will be happy to include his input when it reaches that stage.

Selectmen’s Matters: Al felt that the School Committee should be physically checking on security systems at the school. Roger suggested that Al attend a School Committee meeting and raise the question of how they are overseeing security at the school. Al plans to do that.

Sewer Matters: No issues – Tom Grizey not present

There being no further business before the Board, Al moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. the motion was seconded by Neal and adopted by unanimous roll-call vote: Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye; Manzolini, aye.

Signed:

Roger Manzolini, Chair