

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday May 11, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid

PRESENT: Neal Pilson, Chair; Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Pete Beckwith, Highway Superintendent; Dorothy Hanrahan; Alex Kaplan; Rebecca Daly, Wedding Planner; Ron Veillette, Chair Con. Com.; Alison Dixon, HVA; Tom Grizey, Sewers

Approval of the Minutes of the April 27, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen: All requested changes having been incorporated into the minutes Roger moved that the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Neal and passed by unanimous vote.

Updates from the Town Administrator: Danielle reported that she attended a meeting with FEMA about the Town's application for a grant to replace the Swamp Road culvert. The Town is in good position to be given that grant. Some additional information needs to be provided to complete the application.

Danielle also reported that the State awarded a portion of the ARPA funds to 7 Berkshire County Towns, including Richmond. Richmond received \$389,612.00 in addition to the \$423,000.00 from ARPA. Neal noted that the ARPA funds were intended to be used for the roads, but this additional amount raises the option to utilize some of those funds for other purposes. Neal thanked Danielle and Pete for their hard work in getting that additional money.

Danielle listed the dates, times and locations of the various upcoming town meetings.

At 6:15 PM Alan Hanson was able to access the meeting via speaker phone.

Danielle noted that digital copies of the Town Report with attachments are now available and that hard copies will be available on Friday.

Special Event Permit – Kaplan Wedding, June 18, 2022 at 371 Dublin Road: Dorothy Hanrahan and Alex Kaplan came before the Board to request a Special Permit for their wedding on June 18th. They provided details about the organization of the event including start and ending times, the number of guests expected, plans for parking that would eliminate any on-road parking, etc. Neighbors have been alerted to their plans and all vendors are fully ensured.

There being no public comment, Roger moved that the Board approve the Special Permit. Neal seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

HVA Richmond Road Stream Crossing Management Plan: Alison Dixon provided a short history of the project that has been ongoing for several years and is now in the hands of the Selectmen. The completed report includes all road stream crossings and Ms. Dixon suggested that it be shared with the residents of the Town. She explained what kind of information went into the

report and provided a slide presentation to illustrate. She noted that this is intended to be a “living” document, which will be added to over time.

A discussion of the uses of the report included the directive to have the Town prioritize the flood risk locations in town that will be needing attention within the next 5-10 years. There was a discussion of the types of culverts that occur in Richmond and where they tend to be insufficient to handle the greater amount of rainwater being experienced. An important issue concerning plans to replace culverts was raised by Peter Beckwith. He noted that the Town had been given a grant of \$750,000.00 to replace one culvert. That full amount was needed for the project.

Alison said that the HVA would like to continue its relationship with Richmond and be available to help obtain funding. Danielle said that she would be continuing to work with Alison on nature-based solutions to flooding.

The plan will be presented at the next Conservation Commission meeting and Alison will send a copy electronically to Ron Veillette, Chair of the Con. Com.

Neal cautioned Richmond residents about the extremely high cost of replacing the culverts listed in the report and noted that the Town does not have the resources to be able to address replacement of many or even a few at any one time. In the meantime, cost-cutting options will continue to be researched.

Ron noted that manufacturers were beginning to provide standard designs for culverts, which could be created by a local company. Standardization of such a project is always a way to cut costs and is something that should be monitored for the future.

Special Event Permit – Doug Bruce – Richmond Run Around: This item was withdrawn.

Discussion of Town Meeting Zoning Debate: Neal opened a discussion of what the process would be for the discussion about the two zoning bylaw proposals. First, it is necessary to find a moderator for this section of the meeting as the Town Moderator, Bill Martin, is also Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and, as such, must recuse himself. Bill advised Neal that he will be speaking to several people in the next day or two to try to find a suitable moderator. It was noted that any members of the various Boards and Committees that have been involved in the issue cannot act as moderator for that portion of the meeting.

Neal then outlined the process as he felt it would play out: Both bylaw proposals will be open for discussion at the same time – pro and con. At the end of the discussion, the moderator will call for a vote on the Planning Board’s version of the bylaw. At the end of that vote, the moderator will call for a vote on the residents’ version of the bylaw. If both versions are voted “yes,” the residents’ version will take precedence because it amends the Planning Board bylaw. If both versions are voted “no” the issue will continue in court.

Public Comment: None

Selectmen's Matters: Roger reported that he is working on determining how many EDU's should be allocated for sewer use.

Neal noted that the Board has been advised of a vacancy on the Board of Health and has had a recommendation from the Board of Health's Chair for a replacement. The issue did not make it to this agenda, but he said that the issue will be given due attention.

Danielle asked about seating arrangements for the Town Meetings in consideration of the increasing numbers of COVID cases. The decision was made to put two chairs together with three feet of space between them and to open a second room in the event of overflow.

Sewer Matters: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Roger moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:18 PM. Neal seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous consent.

Signed:

Neal Pilson, Chair