

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners
June 22, 2016 Minutes
Town Hall, 1529 State Road, Richmond, Massachusetts

ATTENDING: Alan Hanson; Roger Manzolini, Chairman; Neal Pilson; Mark Pruhenski, Town Administrator; Katherine Zahn, Town Secretary
Others Attending: John Keenum; Mackenzie Greer; John Mason; Richard Stover; Craig Swinson; Tom Grizey

Mr. Manzolini opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Manzolini opened the floor to John Keenum appearing before the Board this evening on behalf of the Richmond Land Trust. Mr. Keenum invited Ms. Greer of Berkshire Natural Resource Council to address the Board. Ms Greer provided the Board with a copy, attached, of a proposed conservation restriction on three parcels of land consisting of approximately 183 acres in the aggregate owned by Janet Robertson. Subject acreage abuts BNRC Hollow Fields reserve and Town of Richmond lands. One parcel is in the Town of Hancock assessed as map 29 lot 1. The land in Richmond is assessed as two parcels, map 402 lot 3 and lot 5, respectively. Ms. Greer explained that Mrs. Robertson is a part-time resident of Richmond, with a residence on East Slope Rd., and is in the process of filing for a MA conservation land program tax credit. A conservation restriction review is in process. Upon completion of this process the BNRC shall hold the conserved land in fee interest similar to the Hollow Fields reserve. This shall enable BRNC to oversee a section of the skyline trail and manage the holding in accordance with conservation regulations. Approval of the conservation restriction is pending with the office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Upon EEA approval the BNRC shall seek approval from the Towns of Hancock and Richmond Boards of Selectmen.

The Board inquired about the assessment and tax revenue generated by the two parcels. Mr. Swinson related that lots 3 and 5 are each assessed as chapter 61 land at a taxable value of 4,400.00 and 5,700.00, respectively and generate about \$100.00 in tax revenue collectively. Without the chapter 61 designation assessment would be 164,600.00 and 167,100.00 respectively. He noted that the parcels are landlocked, lacking frontage and access, and opined that they are undevelopable. He questioned the issuance of a tax credit. Ms. Greer explained that the tax credit is for conservation rights. Mr. Manzolini commented that the Richmond Land Trust graciously makes a payment to the Town in lieu of taxes on properties in conservation reserve.

Ms. Greer mentioned that the Malinowski property, of which a section abuts the southerly portion BNRC holding, is for sale. She related that the Malinowski's allow use of the footpath in that section.

Ms. Greer informed the Board that the appraisal submitted for purposes of the conservation restriction expires September 7, 2016. She requested the Board submit any input to the BNRC well in advance of this date. Mr. Mason acknowledged that the Richmond Land Trust would provide input. Ms. Greer confirmed that a forestry management plan is requisite for conservation reserve.

Mr. Hanson commented that an official road exists (traversing subject parcels from Perry's Peak Rd. in a northwesterly direction) that crosses into the Town of Hancock. Therefore discontinuance of the road is subject to notice to the Town of Hancock. He acquired this knowledge from past experience relative to use of the road to access the Town of Richmond parcel indicated on the attached as *Richmond Town Land and Richmond Conservation Commission*.

The Board reviewed the minutes of June 8, 2016. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Manzolini made the amendment and signed same. Mr. Manzolini signed the approved minutes of May 25th.

The Selectmen signed the warrants.

There was no mail for the Selectmen to review. The Board was provided with an issue of Municipal Magazine.

Mr. Pilson announced the luncheon/senior law presentation hosted by the COA will take place at St. Patrick's Church hall, West Stockbridge, MA on June 29th. He noted that the Long Range Planning Committee meeting is at 6:00 p.m. that evening.

Mr. Hanson related that he had not received any emails since June 17th. Mr. Swinson will trouble shoot the email address.

Mr. Pruhenski informed the Board of the resignation of Neal Pilson from the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective June 22, 2016. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded, Mr. Pilson abstained and Messrs. Manzolini and Hanson voted unanimously to accept the resignation. The Board requested Mr. Pruhenski follow up with Dick Miller, ZBA chair, for appointment recommendations and announce the vacancy in the *Town Enews*. The appointee shall serve the remainder of Mr. Pilson's term through June 30, 2018.

Mr. Manzolini informed the Board of a vacancy in the School Committee and related that Adeline Ellis is interested in the position and suggested that the position be filled immediately pursuant to statute. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that Julia Sabourin resigned from the School Committee effective today. Mr. Hanson stated that the vacancy should be publicly announced and candidates sought for the position. The Board agreed. Announcement of the vacancy will be placed in the *Town Enews* and a joint meeting of the BOS and the Planning Board scheduled on the BOS July 13th. agenda.

The Board discussed the long term planning status. Mr. Manzolini reported that teacher negotiations concluded with an agreement. Mr. Pilson related that the upcoming meeting of the Long Range Sustainability Working Group is intended for planning the next steps and to receive an interim report from the sub-committee on financial options. The Board of Selectmen will receive a report and a public forum shall be conducted in the future.

Mr. Manzolini suggested that Mr. Pruhenski prepare an operations calendar for Town affairs. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that same is in progress. Mr. Manzolini suggested that

other boards/committees/commissions/inspectors periodically meet with the BOS for "face time" and an opportunity to express issues and concerns.

The Board reviewed a draft of a memorandum of understanding for green communities local technical assistance grant. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is applying for the grant on behalf of multiple towns. Grant funds will aid paying for green community reporting requirements and keeping records up to date. The Town is not obligated to cost share. The grant application deadline is June 30th. Mr. Pruhenski explained that the draft will be customized for Richmond and requested the Board grant him authority to execute the MOU. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the MOU and authorized Mr. Pruhenski to execute same.

Mr. Manzolini remarked that there is an Energy Conservation Committee. He requested an update from that Committee and a report on municipal solar projects noting that he has observed municipal solar projects being undertaken in surrounding communities.

The Board discussed the appointment of a Plumbing Inspector and Alternate Gas Inspector in the wake of the resignation of William Korte. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that he met with Robert Gennari, the current Gas and Alternate Plumbing Inspector. Mr. Gennari asked to be appointed Plumbing Inspector and requested Bob Krupski be appointed Alternate Gas Inspector. He related to Mr. Pruhenski that he and Bob Krupski are Plumbing/ Gas Inspector and Alternate Plumbing/Alternate Gas Inspector, respectively, for a number of other towns. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Robert Gennari Plumbing Inspector and Gas Inspector effective July 1, 2016. The Board agreed to hold the appointment of Alternate Gas Inspector and Alternate Plumbing Inspector. Mr. Manzolini noted that Paul Manzolini had submitted a letter of interest in the position to the Board. Mr. Pruhenski noted that Bob Krupski had not submitted a letter of interest.

Mr. Grizey reminded the Board that he has been serving alone as Alternate Wiring Inspector upon the resignation of Wiring Inspector, Charles Alessio. For upcoming annual inspector appointments he requested the Board give consideration to this matter.

Relative to rides offered through the COA the Board discussed procurement of a wheelchair. Mr. Hanson related that the need for a wheelchair arose yesterday when a rider could not walk the distance between her home and the passenger van. He noted that the distance between the van running board and the ground is about 17" and some passengers have difficulty navigating this step height. Mr. Pruhenski provided the Board with estimates for a wheelchair in the range between \$275.00-\$350.00 and a two step stool for \$159.33. He related that Phyllis LeBeau is looking into the use of COA grant funding. According to the auditors monies are available in the septic repair account for FY16 expenses. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a wheelchair and a step stool.

The Great Barrington Rotarians are hosting the annual Fly-In event on August 20, 2016. There are three bicycle routes one of which passes through Town along Swamp, Summit and State Roads; the same route as in previous years. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve and support the event. The Police Chief will be notified.

Mr. Pruhenski updated the Board on beach improvements. Tree trimming and removal, float lines, dock mooring etc. were completed today. The DPW and the project manager all signed off on the completion. The project came in under the \$130,000.00 budget; bills to be warranted next week. Mr. Grizey commented that a posted sign at the beach reads "no dogs allowed" and expressed concern about the lack of enforcement of this rule. Discussion ensued about the Town Beach situs, the presence of dogs both leashed and unleashed, ACO jurisdiction, town by-law, and enforcement of rules. The Board agreed to place the matter on the next meeting agenda. Mr. Hanson will inquire about the possibility of the Pittsfield ACO enforcing the state's animal control law since the Town Beach is located in the City of Pittsfield.

Mr. Grizey was pleased to report routine sewer operations and there were no sewer matters to discuss.

Mr. Hanson related that there seems to be an increase in COA van ride requests. Phyllis LeBeau related to him that many ride requests are made at the last minute, the day of or the day before the need. He requested that clarification of the COA ridership rules, specifically the one week's notice requirement, be put in the *Town enews* and the *Richmond Record*. The Board agreed that Mrs. LeBeau needs to clarify this rule when fielding requests for rides. Mr. Hanson agreed to follow up on the recruitment and training procedure of volunteer drivers.

Referring to the available funds in the septic repair account Mr. Pruhenski advised the Board that purchase of a fire proof safe has been made by the Treasurer and purchase of a desk for the Town Administrator office is also requested. BBE Office Interiors provided an estimate of \$3,507.00 for these pieces. The unencumbered balance in the fund will move to the general fund free cash at the end of FY-16. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchases.

Mr. Manzolini executed personnel file documents. He signed the multi-town hazardous waste collection agreement between CET and the Town. This document is an addendum to the trash pickup contract with Republic Services.

Mr. Pruhenski related that Mr. Kerwood is available for dinner on June 29th. As this date conflicts with the LRSPC meeting the Board requested Mr. Kerwood advise the Board of other dates he's available.

Mr. Pruhenski advised the Board that a letter was sent to William Korte thanking him for his service to the Town.

Mr. Pruhenski, at the request of Mr. Swinson, related to the Board that the Assessors have not achieved a quorum for recent meetings. He asked the Board to consider directing an Assessor to step down. The Board agreed to contact the Assessors chair and place the matter on the next BOS meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.



Roger Manzolini, Chairman