

Wilmington Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2020

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Scott Moore, Chuck Clerici, Matt Cole, Matt Murano, Bill Spirka, Gretchen Havreluk, Christine Richter, Maria Stewart, Katie Boyd, Meg Staloff, Nicki Steel, John Lazelle, Therese Lounsbury, Mike Tuller, Charles Foster, Sheila Osler, Tim Dolan, Katie Boyd, Mike Eldred, Eric Trites, Todd Gareiss

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to the Agenda
 - The minutes for approval should be for Aril 21st.
 - Add after approval of minutes to possibly approve the gravel bid for FY21.
2. Approve Minutes of April 21, 2020
 - Rice moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2020, Fisher second; all in favor.
3. Action Item
 - Rice moved to approve the gravel bid from Mitchell Materials for FY21, Fisher second; all in favor.
4. Beaches
 - Recreation is supported by the Governor's executive order. Great River Hydro is still making plans; no final decision on opening the boat launch yet. They are not able to enforce the guidelines, though they can put up signage encouraging it. There have been some parking issues on Fairview Ave and they are working with law enforcement to try to mitigate congestion and parking complaints. There are areas that are not closed off that are already being used also. Meg feels that not opening some, like Wards Cove, will create a lot of difficulties. Public toilets are an issue; a protocol needs to be put into place. Chief Murano and his department have been noticing an increase in use of these areas. Keeping these areas closed will create more issues with social distancing and control. Those who do not abide by the landowner's rules can be trespassed and removed.
5. Summer and Fall Programs/Large Crowds
 - Events coming up are: fireworks block parties, fair, wine and harvest, old home week, bi-town marketing, twice blessed jazz series, Memorial Day. The summer rec programs won't be allowed due to the governor's order. Old Home Week is discussing postponing one year. It will be on their agenda Thursday. Fireworks and the other events can't happen unless the Governor changes his order. Charlie thinks the Board should wait until the next phase rolls out on May 11th to decide to cancel events. Meg would like to see things postponed but not cancelled completely right now. Mt Snow is still waiting to decide on their fireworks. This will be discussed again at the next meeting after more information. Any group that thinks they may want to go through with their event, they should submit a plan as to what it might look like as a modified event.

6. Outdoor Dining

- A request was made to consider outside tables to support restaurants once they are able to open with limited capacity; Chapman's, library, river by the Red Mill. Temporary signage could be put up encouraging social distancing and referencing the open container laws. Outdoor consumption could be an issue. Gannon feels this is evading the Governor's order. Gannon and Rice want to wait for the Governor's order to change. Eric Trites says that you would have to have someone there cleaning the tables after each use. Gannon thinks that they could allow restaurants to expand outdoors later on, depending on the governor's order.

7. 1% Local Option Tax Fund

- Approving up to \$52,000 would allow NBF to start this project and keep it on schedule. The town attorney advised that taking these funds from the Fire Dept. Equipment capital fund would be a gray area. Todd feels like it is a bad idea to take this money out of the 1% Fund during this time. Clerici commented that it will go back to the fund after July 1st. Fitzgerald moved to approve \$52,000 to NBF as a loan to begin the design phase of the Public Safety Facility Project in anticipation of the FY21 budget, Rice second; all in favor.
- Wilmington Works and the Chamber have been working with businesses since COVID hit the valley. They have decided a consultant would be the next best step for the local businesses to help with ideas on how to move forward. Gannon wouldn't like to see anything with restaurants and retail until the executive order changes so they would know how to prepare. Fisher would like to see businesses preparing. Gannon moved approve up to \$2,000 for business sector consultants in restarting the local economy, Fisher second; all in favor.

8. Selectboard Vacancy

- Fitzgerald tried reaching out to Mark O'Maley with no response. The next step would be a certified letter. It will go out this week.

9. Other Business

10. Select Board Members Comments

- Some legislation has passed to help towns: Selectboards may delay when taxes are due; reduce the tax rate if reducing the budget; waive penalty and interest on past due taxes.

11. Town Manager's Updates

- All employees practicing distancing, wearing face masks, proper hygiene; buildings remain closed to public access; encouraging work from home, if able.
- Proceeding with legal work for water acquisition/merger.
- Police officer is at academy, had to go through 14-day quarantine; will graduate but will need additional training later this year.

12. Executive Session

- Fitzgerald moved to find that premature general public knowledge of our revolving loan fund, would put the town at a disadvantage, Rice second; all in favor.
- Fitzgerald moved to enter into executive session at 7:51 pm, to include the town manager and Gretchen Havreluk, for the purpose of reviewing revolving loan applications, Rice second; all in favor.

Out of executive session at 8:29 pm

Gannon moved to transfer \$20,800 in the 1% Local Option Tax Fund to the Disaster Resiliency Revolving Loan Program. Rice second; all in favor.

Gannon moved to approve a Disaster Resiliency Revolving Loan for Vintage Motel in the amount of \$7,500, Rice second; all in favor.

Gannon moved to approve a Disaster Resiliency Revolving Loan for Maple Leaf Tavern in the amount of \$7,500, Rice second; all in favor.

Gannon moved to approve a Disaster Resiliency Revolving Loan for RSI Floors and Walls in the amount of \$5,000, Rice second; all in favor.

Gannon moved to approve a Disaster Resiliency Revolving Loan for 802 Fitness and Therapy in the amount of \$4,800, Rice second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher
