



## TOWN OF THORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Approved on: 1/27/21  
BOS Initial: hmm  
Rec'd by Town Clerk on: 2/1/2021  
Town Clerk Initials: apm

### Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes January 13, 2021

**4:30 PM Vice Chairman Brad Benton opened the Thornton Board of Selectmen meeting work session with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**This meeting was held via Zoom with the link referenced on the posted agenda.**

**ROLL CALL:** Vice-Chairman Brad Benton, Selectman Roy Sabourn, Selectman Jack Gaites, and Selectman Joseph Monti.

**ABSENT:** Chairwoman Marianne Peabody

**STAFF PRESENT:** Debra Shepard, Town Administrator

**Public Present:** Peter Laufenberg, Ken Wolff, John Piantedosi.

**MOTION: "To approve a request to the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay \$1,500 from the Hubbard Brook Scholarship Fund."**

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites - Yes.

**Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

#### **TA PRESENTS:**

TA Shepard presented the draft 2020 Selectmen Annual Town Report for review. The report was drafted by Chairwoman Peabody. The Board will review the report and submit any suggested edits to TA Shepard by Friday.

**MOTION: "To approve ZCA #2021-01 for PID # 17/2-5, 8 Strawberry Lane, for a roof top solar array."**

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites - Yes.

**Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

The Board reviewed a draft letter to Maria Dubach regarding Fondue Avenue.

**MOTION: "To approve and sign the draft letter to Maria Dubach as presented."**

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: J. Monti feels that the closing of the letter is worded too strong and requested that the board approve the language of the previous draft .

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – no, Jack Gaites - yes.

**Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 1 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

#### *Manifests*

**MOTION: "To approve the payroll manifest (includes the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021) dated 1/15/2021 in the amount of \$32,199.79."**

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – abstained, Jack Gaites -yes.

**Motion Passes: 3– Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 1**

**MOTION: "To approve the vendor manifest dated 1/14/2021 in the amount of \$280,736.46."**

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites - yes.

**Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

**MOTION: "To approve the vendor manifest dated 1/15/2021 in the amount of \$224,833.80."**

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites - yes.

**Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

**Board of Selectmen meeting minutes for December 30, 2020 will be reviewed at the Board of Selectmen meeting on January 27, 2021 when all members are present.**

#### **5:00 Town Meeting Format**

Present: Moderator John Piantedosi and Assistant Moderator Ken Wolff.

Vice Chairman Brad Benton started the conversation relative to what the format should be for this year's Town Meeting. TA Shepard provided board members with information from NHMA relative to other formats available for Town Meeting.

J. Piantedosi feels confident that the town election could be held safely in person on the Tuesday before Town Meeting. He feels that the November election was successful and that the same procedures can be used for the March town election. Discussion followed. The Board of Selectmen are confident that a traditional Town Meeting can be held safely with protocols in place in the gym at the Thornton School.

Selectman Sabourn stated that he felt the only topic which could increase turnout for the Town Meeting could be the capital outlay warrant article for a Zoning Enforcement Officer part time position. Roy also suggested that masks be required.

The Board discussed allocating a space for residents to stand if they choose to not wear a mask. The Board also discussed having more microphones available for residents, the importance of additional sanitation and how to set up the gym for effective social distancing.

J. Piantedosi suggested that the Board allow him to review the resources available and report back with a suggested plan of action. The Board agreed to discuss this further. TA Shepard offered her assistance to Moderator Piantedosi with the set up and protocols for town meeting.

### **5:30            Laundromat Road, Dead River Company**

The Board received a letter from the Dead River Company relative to a lot they own on Laundromat Road. They are interested in giving the lot to the Town of Thornton. Selectman Sabourn shared concerns he has with what may be on the property which was used to store propane gas. Selectman Sabourn stated that he is unsure if it was above ground or underground storage. He also noted that he thought this property had been marketed in the past and did not sell. Discussion continued. Board members concurred that nothing could be done without a thorough inspection of the property in the spring.

The Board decided to inform the property owner to contact them in the Spring if the property has not been sold in the meantime and the board may schedule a visit to the property.

### **Selectmen Comments**

Selectman Sabourn stated that he would like to see the cemeteries gated during the winter months to prevent vehicular traffic. Peter Laufenberg explained that the trustees asked Brad C. Benton to plow the entry to allow people to visit the cemetery during the winter season. He explained that residents have expressed interest in being able to maintain their sites during the winter months. Selectman Sabourn suggested that a shorter area be plowed. P. Laufenberg agreed to discuss this with the trustees.

P. Laufenberg stated that the Transfer Station Advisory Committee will be meeting tomorrow to review a suggested ordinance that will be presented to the board to review. He expects this to be presented to the Selectboard in February. The Advisory committee will be recommending that the Selectboard consider allowing the use of credit cards for transfer station fee items. TA Shepard cautioned that this option would require extensive research before implementation and that she would expect if credit cards were accepted at the Transfer Station, the expectations would be that they could also be used at all other town departments. Discussion followed.

The Board went over several suggested edits of the draft BOS Annual Report. TA Shepard will share these edits with Chairperson Peabody and submit the final report.

### **6:00            Public Budget Hearing**

Present via Zoom: Leslie Rosewarne, John Robello, Steve Medaglia

Vice-Chairman Benton stated that due to an absence of a board member, for reasons beyond their control, the Board will postpone the Budget Hearing to January 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The Board will meet on January 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the final budget prior to presenting it at the Public Budget Hearing at 6 pm.

The discussion relative to contracts for the Transfer Station will also be on the agenda for January 27, 2021.

**MOTION: "To postpone the Budget Hearing to January 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m."**

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites - Yes.

**Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

**6:10 p.m. MOTION: "To adjourn."**

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites– yes.

**Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No**

**Abstained: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Fleury  
Board Secretary