



TOWN OF WARNER

PO Box 265
Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0265
Telephone: (603) 456-2298 Fax: (603) 456-2297
Warnernh.gov administrator@warnernh.gov
selectboard@warnernh.gov

Select Board: Harry Seidel, Chair
Faith Minton
Michael Smith
Kathleen Frenette, Town Administrator

Selectboard Meeting **DRAFT** Minutes April 23, 2024

Lower Meeting Room Warner Town Hall 5 E Main St

Open the Meeting and Roll Call

- Chair Seidel called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm
- Present: Harry Seidel (Chair), Faith Minton, Michael Smith
- Also Present: Martha Mical, Andy Bodnark, Barbara Marty, Lucinda McQueen, Karen Coyne, Beverley Howe, Tim Allen, Clyde Carson, Kathy Frenette and Judith Newman-Rogers

Request to expend Beautification Funds

Martha Mical requested to spend \$500 on flowers for the beautification of the Town center at the statue.

Minton motioned to approve the expenditure of \$500 on flowers for the beautification of the Town, Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Framework to Appoint and Reappoint Board and Committee Volunteer Members

The Select Board engaged in a conversation on how to move forward with appointments and reappointments for various boards and committees. Smith spoke about the benefits of serving on both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. The Select Board discussed their responsibility of appointing individuals to various boards.

Coyne spoke to the benefit of sending all applicants information outlining the board members responsibilities. Bodnarik informed the Select Board that the Planning Board's handbook has been circulated by email and various training webinars.

Beverley Howe questioned the need for the rules of behavior and the code of conduct. She expressed concern and spoke about the difficulty of getting people to serve.

The Select Board discussed various questions to be included on the applicant questionnaire. Minton explained that she does not want the questionnaire to be viewed as a way of screening out applicants but rather an opportunity to educate. The Select Board discussed informing the applicants about opportunities available to serve on other boards. The Select Board discussed reappointments.

Karen Coyne expressed concern about requiring individuals currently serving and who have a willingness to continue to be reinterviewed. Minton stated that she views it as an opportunity to have a conversation, build trust and show respect to the person seeking reappointment. Minton advised the Select Board that New Hampshire Municipal legal advised that appointments and reappointments be treated the same.

Seidel asked for a point of order on public participation during the Select Board's work session.

Kathy Frenette advised the Select Board that the Public Works Director is in attendance to bring something to the Select Board's attention. The Board agreed to keep the work session discussion among the Select Board.

Minton stated that she would prefer applicants receive an acknowledgement of their willingness to serve, forward information related to the position and inform the applicant that the Select Board would like to meet with them. The Select Board agreed appointments and reappointments should be treated in the same manner. Seidel recapped:

- The Board agreed all applicants are treated the same.
- The process should be easy and as timely possible.
- Questionnaire to consist of a maximum of 6 questions to be returned to the Select Board as soon as possible.
- The Select Board will conduct in person interviews in multiple sessions tentatively May 2nd at 5:30pm and prior to the Tuesday, April 30th, Select Board meeting at 3:00 pm.
- The Select Board discussed various questions to be included in the applicant questionnaire. There was a rigorous debate on the need for an in person question and answer session.

Lucinda McQueen read a statement opposed to the creation of a reappointment framework. She feels that it is a waste of time. The Board agreed that this was not the time to address issues outlined in the statement relating to the zoning board. The Select Board agreed that it is important to establish a process for reappointment positions.

Seidel stated that he feels the Planning and Zoning Board are very important to the Town and selecting the right people to sit on those boards is crucial. Bodnarik advised the Select Board that he will forward information on training and information that is given to all Planning Board members.

Karen Coyne spoke about the perception that is out there relating to requiring reappointments to come before the Select Board. She cautioned them that some might feel as though they are being challenged. She urged the Select Board to establish clear criteria for the reappointments. John Leavitt spoke against asking each applicant the same questions. Barbara Marty spoke about her concerns that the process of questioning reappointments feels coercive. She feels that this process could make members feel as though they are being pressured. She feels the Select Board is over stepping. The Select Board acknowledged and validated all the concerns expressed.

Judy Newman-Rogers explained that the re-appointment authority is given to the Select Board pursuant to State Law. She explained that the Select Board is addressing a direct question from a current volunteer up for reappointment of what the criteria is for being re-appointed. She stated that the Select Board is working to create a process and it takes time. She stated that in the past if a sitting member wants to continue to serve in their capacity, they have always submitted their intention in writing in some fashion.

Chair Seidel asked to hear from Tim Allen Director of Public Works at this time on an equipment issue that is before the Board. Tim Allen informed the Select Board that the town's grader is in need of repairs at a cost of \$36,000 and it would be out of service for 4-6 weeks. Tim explained that a rental grader is needed for a month at a cost of \$10,500/month. Clyde Carson recommended using ARPA funds for this unexpected expense.

Smith made a motion authorizing the use of \$36,000.00 from the ARPA funds for the repair of the town grader; Minton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Smith made a motion authorizing the use of \$10,500 from the ARPA funds for the rental of a grader for 4 weeks; Minton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Linda Dymond spoke about a situation that involved a sitting zoning board member who she described was speaking in an inappropriate manner while sitting on the board. Minton stressed that the chair of board should stop behavior as described. Minton stated the earlier discussion on processes and procedures will give Board Chairs guidance. Barbara Marty informed the Select Board that the Zoning Board, at the advice of the town attorney voted to recuse the member but that motion failed, and the member was permitted to vote on the matter. Seidel stated that the Select Board would meet in nonpublic with town counsel regarding this matter in the very near future.

John Leavitt asked the Select Board if the Select Board's representative would be subject to the same requirements and criteria for serving on various boards and committees as outlined in the new framework. He urged the Select Board to follow the same process that all other applicants are subjected to.

Unanticipated Agenda Items

None

Non-public Session (If needed, RSA 91-A:3 II (a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,I,j,k,l))

None

Adjournment

5:37 pm Motion to adjourn, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by
Tracy Doherty