

MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 – 7:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD
COLCHESTER ROOM

PRESENT: Selectmen Wilma McDonald, Chairman; Chuck Takesian, Ronalee Ray-Parrott, Freeman J. Condon and Donna Abdulla
ALSO PRESENT: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager and Janet Flannery, Secretary

I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Room, Salisbury Town Hall. She then announced, per the Open Meeting Law, that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast live.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of May 24, 2021

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of May 24, 2021 as written.

III. Public Comment

Rosemary Decie addressed the Board re: the changes in the Rules & Regulations at Long Hill Cemetery. She said she had sent a letter to the Cemetery Commission, DPW and Selectmen but had not received any response from anyone. She stated that she visits her parents' graves on a regular basis and when she went on May 21st the urn that had been on her father's grave for over 60 years, the flag and commemorative marker had been removed, broken and put behind the DPW building, and she provided photographs of all the urns behind the DPW. She noted that because of the new rules and the way the cemetery is laid out, all plots are not uniform. In her case, if she puts something in front of the headstone, per the regulations, it would be on another gravesite; she can't conform to the new regulations. She said she is willing to sit down with someone to arrange a way to place the urn.

Selectman Takesian suggested that she attend the next Cemetery Commission meeting because the Commission is working on revising the new regulations. Selectmen Condon said no Town official had any motive other than to do what they thought was in the best interest of the townspeople as it relates to the cemetery. He pledged to work on her behalf and said the goal was to make the cemetery a better place for everyone.

IV. Old Business

Dolphin Grille – Amend Entertainment License to include non-gambling card games (45's and cribbage) tabled from last meeting

Motion by Selectman, Second by Selectman; unanimously voted to remove this item from the table.

Mr. Buswell was unable to attend the meeting for medical reasons and Mary Giordano spoke on his behalf. She explained that there has been card playing for 3-4 years at the Dolphin with no problem. She then said there is a buy-in of \$10 to play and winners get a prize. She pointed out that other establishments in Town are also running tournaments with entry fees and cash prizes. A short discussion ensued. Chairman McDonald outlined what she interpreted an entertainment license to be and said she doesn't believe the Board should regulate card games and other similar forms of entertainment.

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Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; voted that amending the license before the Board is not necessary. VOTE: 4 yeas – Selectman Condon opposed. Motion carried.

New Business

a. License Renewals:

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to renew a **Parking Lot** license, with the same conditions/restrictions that may have been on the original license and all subsequent renewals, for: MJF Bowery Corp. Parking – 10-11 No. End Blvd. and Mark Wojcicki Parking – 32 Railroad Ave.

b. New Licenses

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve a **General** license for Riverfront Garden, LLC – 88 Elm St.

Motion by Selectman Ray-Parrott, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve a **General** license for Elaine's Barbershop – 194 Elm Street, Unit 5.

Special Event Permit – Cassidy's 5K – June 27, 2021 sponsored by the Winner's Circle Running Club

Motion by Selectman Ray-Parrott, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve the permit as presented.

c. License Amendments - none

d. Liquor License Renewals - none

e. New Liquor Licenses - none

f. Committee Appointments

Planning Board: 2 openings: One Regular member for a 5-year term and one Alternate member for a 2-year term; two applicants, both incumbents: Deborah Rider (regular member) and John Schillizzi (alternate member)

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to re-appoint Deborah Rider to the Planning Board for a 5-year term expiring June 30, 2026

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to re-appoint John Schillizzi to the Alternate position on the Planning Board for a two-year term expiring June 30, 2023.

g. Update/Presentations: DPW Director/Planning Director

DPW Director: Ms. DeMeo reported as follows:

- Street Maintenance: Chapter 90 paving will begin in July on Cushing Street, Bartlett Street, and Baker Road, and in August on Caroline Drive and High Street. Pothole filling is ongoing. Street opening permits have been brisk.
- Parks: 2 employees mow and maintain 4 cemeteries, 5 fields and 7 town buildings. The part-time employee that was hired into a new full-time position has left and she is trying to fill that

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position. In-kind services are to be provided as the concession stand is finished at Partridge Brook; the foundation is being poured this week.

- Solid Waste: Permit sales at the recycling center are keeping track with previous years. The facility is open Saturday mornings and Wednesday PM.
- Beach: kiosks have been installed in most locations and are adjusted as needed.
- Comfort Station: Construction has been moved above ground and decking is in progress.
- Water: hydrant flushing has been completed with good results.
- Water Break: A large diameter pipe was broken by Albanese during the new project, and the company stepped up and participated in the repair. It took a while and the break had a major impact to the Town's water delivery system, with reversed flow and sediment collecting in many properties. Some hydrants on Ring's Island are now being flushed to assist with flushing out the remaining sediment.
- Wastewater: The Town has received verbal approval from the EPA for its tidal discharge proposal and there is good progress on the Lafayette Road sewer project.
- Stormwater: MS4 and NPDES programs are up to date. Telemetry components have been investigated on the tide gates at Town Creek and replacement parts were ordered.
- Project Reviews: Ongoing with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and ZBA, as well as small single-family projects.
- Construction Oversight: Driftway – drainage is complete; curbing installed, sidewalks will be poured next week, with road re-construction to follow; binder will be set in place first, with the top coat to be done after Labor Day. The Border to Boston Rail Trail is basically done but not officially open. DOT is working on the ribbon cutting.

Lisa Pearson – Planning Director

- The Town received two grants – one for the YWCA Program and the other for the Pettengill House. We also help provide funding to the Boys & Girls Club to help them for being open during COVID. There are also scholarships for those in need of help.
- She will be applying for two upcoming grants: a PARC grant and an ADA grant; there will be public meetings to gather input for both applications.
- Conservation Agent Adriane Marchand has been working diligently with several beach residents, DCR and DEP on rebuilding dunes that were destroyed during the February storm.
- The Town secured CDBG CARES Grant for the Boys & Girls Club and Our Neighbors Table.
- Community Garden – there was a voluntary clean-up/work day with great success. A volunteer built raised beds. The regular plots have waiting lists.
- The Town has applied for a State grant to assist in updating the Town's Master Plan.
- The Art Stroll that was held June 13th was a fantastic event!

h. Lisa Pearson re: FY2022 CDBG Grant Application

Ms. Pearson reported that the next grant round is due by the end of September and she asked the Board to think about what they want her to apply for in addition to funds for housing rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements in eligible neighborhoods. There are several different categories for which the Town can apply, and she said she will give the Board a list before she returns for their input in a few weeks.

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i. Vote to Approve and Sign Acceptance of Deed for Gift of Two Parcels of Land on the Easterly Side of North end Boulevard to the Town

Mr. Harrington explained that there was a vote at the Annual Town Meeting in May authorizing the Town to accept a gift of two parcels of land on the easterly side of North End Blvd. The individual who owns them doesn't want to pay taxes on them any longer and would like to donate the parcels to the Town. In order to accomplish this the Selectmen needs to accept a deed to these two parcels and have the deed recorded at the Registry before July 1.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted that pursuant to Town Meeting Authorization in Article Ten of the May 17, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, the Board accepts the gift, for general municipal purposes, of two parcels of land, located on the easterly side of North End Blvd., shown as Lot 128D and Lot 128E on Land Court Plan No. 3200-30, filed at the Essex South Registry District of the Land Court with Certificate of Title No. 4820, and identified on Assessor's Map 34 as Lot 200, containing 230 square feet, more or less, and described in Certificate of Title No. 80807 and approves signing of the Acceptance of Deed for these parcels.

j. Discussion/Vote re: Suspension of Open Meeting Law Requirements

Mr. Harrington reported that there is a House and Senate version of a bill intended to extend some of the emergency orders issued by the Governor during the COVID pandemic, including the suspension of some provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and a new law may be approved and signed by the Governor soon. However, according to Town Counsel KP Law, until a new law is put in place, and since the Governor's emergency orders expire tonight, local public boards are required to return to in-person meetings for the time being. No vote is necessary tonight, but the Manager informed the Board that he would monitor the situation in the Legislature closely and would advise them if they needed to take any action if and when a new law is passed.

VI. Sewer/Water

Vote to Approve Restrictions on Non-Essential Outside Water Use

DPW Director Lisa DeMeo requested the Board, acting as the Town's Water Commissioners, voted to approve the proposed outdoor watering restrictions that had been provided. She explained that, as part of the Town's Water Management Permit from DEP, once the water level drops in the Parker River to a certain point, the Town is required to adopt such restrictions.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the restrictions on non-essential outdoor water use recommended by the DPW Director.

VII. Correspondence

Notice from Xfinity re: changes to the regional sports networks.

VIII. Hearings

7:15 PM – National Grid/Verizon: Joint Pole Location on Black Snake Rd.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to open the hearing a 7:20 PM.

Mr. Johnson, representing National Grid, explained that a new pole is to be erected at the corner of Black Snake Road and Folly Mill Road. The pole is to replace a pole that is leaning too much due to a long span causing too much of a strain. There was one abutter present, Mr. Mansurian, who did not

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have any objection. The DPW Director had also reviewed the location and approved the request. Selectman Condon said the Board wanted the situation with the leaning pole corrected and asked Mr. Johnson if he would commit to correcting the potential problem by having the leaning pole removed. Mr. Johnson said National Grid is committed to public safety and he would do his best to comply with the Board's request.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to close the hearing at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Selectman Abdulla, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the request of National Grid as presented.

IX. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Harrington gave a brief overview of his written report, a copy of which is available in the Selectmen's office.

X. Selectmen's Report

a. Ratification of Signing of Weekly Warrants:

Motion by Selectman Ray-Parrott, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W21-92 through W21-99.

Selectman Ray-Parrott said she has been on the rail trails almost every day and pointed out that everyone using the trails was happy and smiling. She mentioned that the third grade went on a field trip on the trail and then to a picnic at the Partridge Brook Park. She also mentioned that the Boys and Girls annual auction will not be live this year; it will be via the internet and anyone interested should contact the Boys & Girls Club.

Selectman Takesian said he attended the Triton graduation and wanted to congratulate all the graduates.

Selectman Condon commended retiring Director of Assessing Cheryl Gorniewicz on her successful career, noting the high level of expertise she brought to the job. He also thanked her for her willingness to assist the Town with certain projects on a consulting basis.

XI. Executive Session - none

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Documents provided at the meeting and on file in the Selectmen's Office:

Minutes of May 24, 2021

Appointment Request Letters

National Grid Info

Copies of licenses as listed

Town Manager's Report

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Respectfully submitted:
Janet E. Flannery, Secretary

Approved: _____

Ronalee Ray-Parrott, Clerk

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Selectmen

From: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager 

Date: June 14, 2021

Re: June 14th Report to the Board

Outlined below is a summary of activities over the past three weeks. Let me know if you have questions about any of these items.

1) Interviews for New Position

Over the past few weeks, interviews have been conducted for applicants for a new part-time position, included in the FY2022 budget, to directing parks and recreational activities and coordinate community events. This will be the first time that the Town has funded a staff person whose responsibility it will be to work with the Parks and Rec Commission to enhance sports and recreational activities in town, and also to assume responsibility for running community events, such as Salisbury Days, which have been handled, by default, by the Town Planner. We have several good candidates for this new position and I hope to make a selection this week.

2) Retirement of Director of Assessing

As you know, the Town's long-time Director of Assessing, Cheryl Gorniewicz, recently retired after 23 years of exemplary service. We are in the midst of searching for a new Director and hope to have a permanent replacement sometime this summer. In the interim, the work of the office goes on. Also, I have retained Ms. Gorniewicz on a consulting basis to continue doing some work for the Town in areas where she has a particular area of expertise; she is also working on some specific tasks that I would like to see completed before a new Director is appointed.

3) Cemetery Commission Meeting

I attended the Commission's most recent meeting on June 4, at which several people expressed their concerns about not being aware of the new regulations that were put in place last year governing, among other things, the removal of certain items from gravesites. Some of those who attended informed the Town that, besides items that were removed and stored at the DPW facility, in some cases items appeared to have been stolen or lost. On behalf of the Town, I offered to replace these items. There was significant discussion about amending the new regulations, and one amendment was adopted relative to the placement of urns and flowers within close proximity to headstones. Other suggested amendments were tabled for a future time when a full membership of the Commission could be obtained. At the present time, there are two vacancies on the Commission. If there are residents of Salisbury who would like to serve on the Commission, they are urged to send a letter of interest to my office.