

Agenda
Warren Selectboard
Tuesday, October 8, 2019
Warren Municipal Building
7:00 PM

7:00 PM – Public Comment

7:05 PM – Tom Drake – Warren Elementary School Principal

7:20 PM – Co-Ed Softball – Alicia Biondio – Discussion on Softball Field Maintenance

7:40 PM – Warren Planning Commission – Ruth Robbins – Bike Racks – Warren Store & Gazebo
Proposed” Town of Warren Memorial Donation & Gift Program Policy”

8:00 PM – Jito Coleman – Warren Conversation – Knot Weed Project Report/Update

8:20 PM - Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

8:26 PM – Approval of Minutes for 9/24/2019

8:30 PM – Other Business

Agenda Subject To Change

Minutes
Warren Selectboard
October 8, 2019
Warren Municipal Building
7:00 PM

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Bob Ackland, Vice Chair, Luke Youmell, Randy Graves and Camilla Behn.

Others Present: Susan McKnight, Katy (VR), Marie Schmukal, Tony (TV 44/45), Jito Coleman, Tom Drake, Ruth Robbins, Claire Simpson, Dayna Lisaius, Amy Polaczyk, Alycia Biondo & daughter, & Cindi Jones.

7 :00 PM – Public Comment – None

7:05 PM Tom Drake – Warren School Interim Principal - Mr. Drake – Mr. Drake introduced himself to the board as Warren’s Interim principal. Mr. Drake is the 5th principal to service Warren School and was a principal at Crossett Brook Middle School for 10 years. He has over 29 years of background in teaching education. Given Ms. Peterson’s resignation at the end of June, the Harwood Unified Board did advertise the open position and received 6-7 applications and only 2 with licenses. The Superintendent of the district decided it was best to use one of the principles from Crossett Brook Middle School to fill the position for this coming school year. He lives in Waterbury and is highly engaged with the Warren School teachers and students. He brought to the board a list of things to discuss as follows:

1. Playground Equipment – He is with the understanding that the Town owns the land under and surrounding the school and wanted clarification of who’s responsible for maintenance and removal of structures. Mr. Cunningham commented that it was school’s responsibility and that the PTO has been in charge of the playground structures. Mr. Drake commented that they would like to remove the old slides from the playground as they have out lived their usefulness.
2. Plowing – Mr. Drake commented that he was aware that the Unified District had put the plowing of the school out to bid and that they received only one bid. He commented that if Town wanted to plow and salt the parking lot that they could make some money.
3. Dog Walkers – Mr. Drake asked about putting up dog clean up signs and a sign saying all dogs on a leash as the path goes right by the school and some children are afraid of dogs, a safety concern. Mr. Ackland commented that he could contact the Mad River Path Association as they manage the Path and have access to signage and dog facieses stations that they have installed on other Path locations.
4. – MOU – Mr. Drake indicated that there was an MOU coming from the district to Town regarding some common issues. Mr. Ackland commented that a year ago they sent an MOU but wanted the town to sign off with out knowing any costs associated to the MOU. The board sent it back to the district with Town comments. Since then there has been no more communication on that.

Building Use Fee & Insurance – A group of Warren pickup players use the school gym for pickleball during the week for an hour or so. They were shocked that the fee schedule had jumped up to \$70.00 for 1-4 hours of usage and that liability insurance was needed. Mr. Drake commented that he addressed the superintendent on this that the fee structure should be changed to an hourly rate as this was quite unreasonable for the average pickup game sports. Mr. Ackland commented that he was surprised by the way he heard about the rental of the school. He commented that the school was the center of the community and it was used for things such as pickleball, harvest dinners etc., in the spirit of comrade. There seemed to be again no communication with assumptions that the Town and community will take the hit and this does not give the community a good feeling. In the past principals have been less understanding about this commented Mr. Ackland. Mr. Cunningham commented that asking small groups such as pickleball that have no money and are not a league to put money out for liability insurance is a bit much. He commented that maybe the school could do some waiver forms and have players sign them. Mr. Drake commented that he is continuing to work on this issue and that Mr. Cunningham would be best to contact the Unified District and discuss this with Ms. Baker at the district.

The board thanked Mr. Drake for attending the meeting.

7:20 PM – Co-Ed Softball – Alycia Biondo – Ms. Biondo came to the board to discuss the use of the playing fields at Brooks Field. She commented that she is now on the committee in charge of the league. She commented that for the past 4 seasons the field has been neglected for playing. She commented that the school field was dangerous and unusable for adults to play on and that the league has abandoned the school field for playing use. The league would like to focus on the bringing back the big field as it has lights and is just a great location to play on. She knew in the past that the town supplied the clay for the field and that the men’s leagues paid for the labor. She currently stated that it needs to be completely skinned and new material put down. She is was thinking that currently there are 8 teams and if they could get 10 asking for \$200 per team to help with maintenance at least 2 times a year. She commented that Ms. Jones had discussed that they could apply for grant from the Mad River Valley Recreation District to fund some expenses as the Town contributes \$15,000 to the fund. Mr. Ackland suggested that she research the costs needed for the plan and apply for a grant and also present the plan to the board.

7:30 PM – Warren Planning Commission – Ruth Robbins, Zoning Administrator – Bike Racks and “Proposed Town of Warren Memorial Donation and Gift Program Policy.”

1. Bike Racks – Ms. Robbins started the discussion off that the Warren Planning Commission has been discussing adding bike racks to continually promote the bicycle/pedestrian use atmosphere in the downtown area. The Planning Commission discussed buying 3 bicycle racks with one location by the Warren Store at the northern side of the brick area and two at the location next to the gazebo where people drive up on the grass in the spring for parking. After the season is over, they would be moved and stored behind the gazebo for the winter. The total for 3 of these is \$1,985.00.

Ms. Schmukal commented that the Warren Library would like to have one placed by the alcove of the elevator as there are people that do bike to the library. Ms. Robbins commented that if approved she would gladly add one to the order. Mr. Cunningham inquired about why two bike racks at the gazebo area. Mr. Graves commented that they needed two for the large bike groups that visit the area. Mr. Cunningham suggested that the bike racks be in next year's budget Capital line item: Planning and Development as the season is winding down towards winter. The board agreed.

2. Proposed "Town of Warren Memorial Donation & Gift Program Policy" - The Warren Planning Commission presented to the Warren Selectboard a draft of a policy that they had been working on. Mr. Raddock on the Planning Commission spent a lot of time in researching this and drafting language that fits to Warren. The Commission felt that the town needed a clear precise policy for memorial donations and gifts so that the Selectboard could have guidance on what is acceptable and locations within the town. The board had just received it the policy late before the meeting and wanted to review it prior to making any decision. The board will review and discuss at its next meeting.

Mr. Cunningham also inquired if anyone had gotten any feedback from the contractor on why the brickwork was not edged. Ms. Robbins commented that she had followed up with Avery Construction but had not heard back as of yet.

Other Business

Housing Interim Report – Mr. Ackland updated the board that the Housing Interim Report is available online. The Mad River Planning District plans on having the author of the report present the complete full report at the Tri-Town Meeting in November. This report was shared to the Planning Commission and to the Selectboard. The Planning Commission had some questions on some of the statistics that were in the report as they reviewed the report. The Planning Commission's input is very important as they are tasked with Planning and Zoning. The Planning Commission have concerns about the Air B&B's that are being rented short term taking up the housing stock. Ms. Robbins asked if there was a housing policy how do you regulate it? Mr. Ackland commented that the state regulates it by collecting rooms and meal taxes but it is in zip code reporting format only. The report doesn't tell you where the revenue is coming from in each town. It is a rising concern out there right now in most towns across the state.

8:05 PM – Approval of Minutes for September 10, 2019 – Motion by Mr. Youmell to accept the Minutes of September 10, 2019, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:06 PM – Approval of Minutes for September 24, 2019 – Motion by Mr. Youmell to accept the Minutes of September 23, 2019, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:07 PM – Approval of Accounts Payable – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the accounts payable warrants as presented for \$ 197,047.88, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:09 PM – Approval of Payroll Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Payroll warrants as presented for \$33,426.40, second by Ms. Behn. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

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8:10 PM – Approval of Harwood Education Warrant for \$1,468,155.00 – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to approve the Harwood Education Warrant as presented for \$1,468,155.00, second by Mr. Ackland. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

8:12 PM – Jito Coleman, Warren Conversation Commission – Knot Weed Summary –Mr. Coleman and Kate Polazyk came to the board to discuss the knot weed project that was done this summer. Mr. Coleman commented that they mapped all of Warren’s town Roads and is on the iNaturalist.org under WarrenVTKnotweed project. There are over 150 sites documented and mapped. The disposal site was established down by Sugarbush pond Road for the project. The group hit the sites at least 3-4 times cutting them back and have marked all the sites. Some sights the knot weed was not as healthy as other area’s which could be a result of the high PH in the soils. These sites it was easier to eradicate the knot weed. He explained that the Town needed a Management Plan for knot weed control. He was asked if the Town would be successful in eradicating it. Mr. Coleman commented probably not but we can slow the growth down. Mr. Coleman explained that this year’s project was to understand the problem and get an understanding of knot weed. Mr. Ackland asked about plans going forward. Some thoughts were: eliminate delivery of contaminated gravel by Town or other Contractors. Develop town plan to isolate contaminated soils. Develop a treatment program to clean the knot weed out of gravel. Start a program to identify and certify knotweed free gravel sources. Develop and plan for 2020 a budget identifying funding opportunities and pursue. Change public opinion that you can get rid of it. Ms. Behn asked where was the knot weed the worst. Mr. Coleman responded to the East. He commented that he has read and researched that goats, cows and other animals have been used to tackle this problem. It does work to eradicate the knotweed as shown around Warren where there are farms with animals that have been eating it as there are signs in those areas. It is on the other side of the fence in the ditches that animals cannot get to it. Other things being done as an experiment are using lime on it to see if it slows or kills the weed roots. Mr. Cunningham suggested that Mr. Coleman get up in Town meeting and talk about what the program accomplished this year and to help educate the public that it can be eradicated by manual extractions from June-September. Mr. Ackland asked if Mr. Coleman would want to come to a quarterly roads meeting to talk about this issue with road crews in the Valley and see if they have any thoughts or ideas. Mr. Coleman was opened to the idea and willing to come and address the road crews. Ms. Jones will inform Ms. Miller of The Friends of the Mad River to put on as a topic for the next quarterly roads meeting and provide Mr. Colemans contact information. The board thanked Mr. Coleman for all his personal effort and the effort of the VYCC in the starting process of tackling a challenging problem.

8:45 PM – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to go into executive session to discuss real estate and personnel, inviting Ms. Jones and Ms. Lisaius, second by Mr. Ackland. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

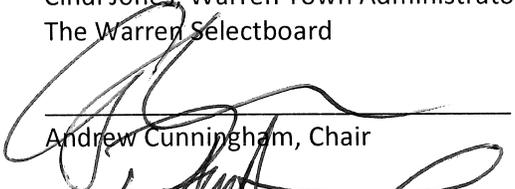
9:33 PM – Ms. Jones left the meeting.

9:56 PM – Motion by Mr. Ackland to come out of executive session, second by Mr. Youmell.
All in Favor: 5-0.

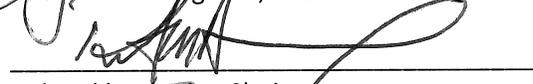
No action taken

9:57 PM – Motion by Mr. Ackland to adjourn, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator
The Warren Selectboard



Andrew Cunningham, Chair



Bob Ackland, Vice Chair



Luke Youmell



Randy Graves



Camilla Behn