

Minutes of July 9, 2024 Meeting
Warren Select Board
Streamed on MRVTV
6:30 PM

Members Present: Luke Youmell, Chair; Andrew Cunningham, Vice Chair; Camilla Behn, Devin Klein Corrigan, Kalee Whitehouse

Staff Present: Jeff Campbell, Public Safety/Fire Chief; Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator

Others Present: Jessica Johannsen, Shannon Konvicka, Sam Krotinger, Alex Maclay (Library Trustee), Bob Meany (Recreation Committee), Dan Raddock (Planning Commission)

Public Comment

Alex Maclay spoke of the need for an HVAC system in the Town Hall, asking what the timeline for an installation is expected to be. Ms. Campbell explained that the Town is waiting on results from a CVRPC energy audit, and that she will be looking into grant opportunities for purchase/installation of a system.

Dan Raddock read a statement, providing an update on the Planning Commission's (PC) work to develop a Short Term Rental Ordinance; it was determined that the PC will present a draft to the Selectboard at an August meeting.

Agenda Changes

No changes were made to the agenda.

Warren Recreation Committee

Bob Meany provided an update, indicating that the Committee had met to elect officers and review the amended MOU, and that next steps will involve looking at potential funding mechanisms to undertake the projects outlined for the Selectboard at previous meetings.

Ms. Klein Corrigan outlined the changes she suggested for the MOU document, naming it a Charge for the Warren Recreation Committee. The substantive changes, agreed upon by the Board, included having all 'roles' be designated as projects and adding playground space oversight as a task, with some details outlined. She had also noted that Committee members must be officially appointed by the Selectboard.

MOTION: *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to adopt the Committee Charge with the Warren Recreation Committee; the motion was seconded by Ms. Klein Corrigan and passed unanimously.*

Mr. Meany then addressed the planned removal of trees and structures at Brooks Field, noting that quotes had been obtained for some of the work and indicating that it had been previously discussed that funds and potentially Road Department assistance were both available for some of this work. Board members indicated that the funds were available and that they would confirm from which budget line the amount needed (\$6700) would be allocated.

ARPA Committee

Mr. Cunningham provided some background regarding the Committee's work and scoring strategy used in evaluating the ARPA spending proposals received. It was noted that the total funds available are \$507K, but that some of that has previously been designated by the Board for Town purposes. It was also explained that a request for \$57K for maintenance work for Warren was missing from the Committee's review, and so not included in their recommendations. Mr. Cunningham indicated that none of the Town requests were rated, as the Committee felt that those projects were in the Selectboard's purview to review. In response to a suggestion that the Board first allocate funds to Town

projects, Ms. Klein Corrigan explained that funds would be available for all submitted Town-specific items even if the Committee's recommendations were all approved and those funds allocated from the ARPA total available.

There was some discussion regarding the request for playground improvements, with it being explained that the request was for more than is included in the recommendation to the Selectboard; the Committee did not feel it was appropriate to provide the full amount, but rather opted to fund the centerpiece project and include some monies for project management for the playground work. It is believed that the completion of this central feature will provide leverage for the Playground Committee in seeking further funds to finance their goal of a new, ADA accessible playground.

Ms. Behn raised the topic of the planned relocation/construction of the Town Garage, speaking of the challenge many residents are facing with rising taxes and the need to balance the funding of projects that are beneficial for many with the reality that many residents are experiencing difficulty in simply holding on to their property. She proposed the possibility of using a large portion of the ARPA funds which are available to reduce the upcoming need for a large bond to fund the new Town Garage. Ms. Klein Corrigan indicated that many of the proposals reviewed for ARPA spending provide a means for assisting taxpayers as well, and that the projects being recommended will benefit substantial segments of the population. Of the \$507K available, \$274K is being recommended as allocations for projects outside the Selectboard's purview.

Ms. Johannsen indicated that the Playground Committee has been unable to find another path forward for beginning work on the playground, and that the ARPA funds will provide critical leverage for applying for further funding. She explained that reducing the amount allocated from \$200K to \$100K will not provide the same quality central structure, and will not allow for ADA compliance.

The Board agreed to the \$200 allocation for the Playground.

Committee members noted that the proposal from Vermont Pro Construction is not included in the recommendation, as they did not approve any request from private companies.

The other recommendations, agreed to by the Board, were for:

- Neck of the Woods
- MRV Recreation District
- Valley Players
- Mad River Seniors
- Spring Hill School

MOTION: *Ms. Klein Corrigan made a motion to approve the \$274K of ARPA fund allocations as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham, and passed unanimously.*

The proposals for the Library and Public Safety were addressed next.

Ms. Maclay explained that the funds requested for Library work will finance projects which will provide a basis for leverage of other grant requests, some of which are due to be submitted in September. She spoke in particular of electricity needs, accessibility for the children's area, and a private work area to be developed.

MOTION: *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the ARPA request from the Library. The motion was seconded by Ms. Behn, and passed unanimously.*

Mr. Campbell provided some information regarding his request to install an AED in every Town-owned building and provide CPR training as appropriate for use of the equipment. Details were discussed, and it was agreed that this might be an appropriate use of capital funds rather than ARPA monies.

Mr. Campbell then provided some information regarding the request submitted for an electronic messaging sign for use in emergencies and for special events. It was agreed that this would not be an appropriate use of ARPA monies.

The remaining projects outlined were determined to be part of a larger Selectboard conversation regarding budgeting, including the possibility of hiring for some individual project/maintenance completion in the upcoming months, before a decision is made regarding the creation of a maintenance position. It was requested that Ms. Campbell create some documentation of the current and upcoming needs, as well as a schedule of maintenance activities which she has been taking care of in recent weeks.

Updates/Discussion

Ms. Campbell noted that the request for an easement from the Town for placing power lines on Dump Road has been withdrawn; the property owners have decided to work with a new pole to be placed on their own property.

Ms. Behn reported that the LUDR subcommittee has a final revision available from Sharon Murray for review, and will be moving the document along to the PC for their review.

Ms. Behn reported that the shed at the top of the cemetery road has been moved, allowing for access by larger vehicles; the next step is to install a gate at the secondary entrance to prevent further use of that road for cemetery access.

Ms. Behn reported that, in following up with the Sugarbush homeowners' coalition, she had received some questions to be addressed; it was also suggested that a March meeting would be more suitable for the homeowners than an October date.

Ms. Campbell noted that the speed bumps and signage had been installed by the Road Department at the Golf Course.

Ms. Behn noted that the Town Garage committee is continuing to gather information.

Ms. Klein Corrigan indicated that the construction of the pavilion is underway.

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Youmell confirmed that they will be following up on the dedication sign for Reta Goss.

Administrative Items

MOTION: *A motion to approve the Minutes of June 25, 2024 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$78,463.01 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$28,275.37 passed unanimously.*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard



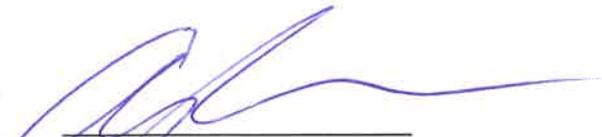
Luke Youmell, Chair



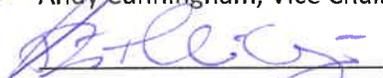
Camilla Behn



Kalee Whitehouse



Andy Cunningham, Vice Chair



Devin Klein Corrigan