

Minutes Alford Select Board

February 28, 2022

Present: Select Board Charles Ketchen, TJ Horrigan

VIA Zoom: Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Peter Puciloski, Jayne Smith

Others present in person: Marion Ortwein, Joan Rogers

Other present via zoom: Jim Wilusz, Allison Dixon

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Minutes of February 14, 2022 approved as written

BOH update: Jim Wilusz, Tri-Town Board of Health, presented an overview of the Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative. The Collaborative will be filling a void for Public Health nursing created by the VNA discontinuing services to South County. Wilusz is requesting funds for supplies that are not covered by the Grant. FY2022 request is \$1514.20 from ARPA funds and FY2023 \$625 which is the amount usually allocated to the VNA.

A motion by Henden-Wilson to authorize \$1514.20 for FY2022 from ARPA funds and \$625 for FY2023.

Motion seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Wilusz will be sending an IMA from the Town of Lee as Lee is the host town for the Collaborative.

Smith reported the Berkshire Harm Reduction van would like to set up regular hours in Alford as the 4th Monday of the month from 2-4pm.

Covid numbers in South County are down again this week. Smith suggest the Town follow the CDC guidelines for mask mandates and opening town buildings to the public.

Smith would like to work with the HVA to supplement the water testing of Alford Brook this summer.

Puciloski asked Smith to get the costs of the water testing for budgeting purposes.

Highway: Horrigan asked Smith about getting a sharps collection container that can be installed at the transfer station.

Horrigan reported he got a call from MASS DER that there is \$425,000 earmarked for Alford and the Green River Road culvert. This bill has not been passed as of this date. Henden-Wilson suggests Horrigan not proceed with the project until there is confirmation the funds are secure. Allison Dixon stated the HVA has the funding available for the make ready costs of engineering and geotech services. Henden-Wilson asked Dixon if she had spoken with the Conservation Commission and she stated there is no permit needed for the make ready work. Horrigan will set up a meeting with Dixon and her colleagues at the HVA for the end of the week.

Horrigan has applied for a Shared Spaces Grant for speed control signs. If we do not get the Grant Tim Roy is willing to pay for one out of his police expense.

Old Business:

9 Alford Road- Ketchen met with the building inspector and he recommended the building not be a mixed use space. Since the space would potentially be used for office and storage space a sprinkler system would not be ideal and an alternative fire suppression method should be installed.

Town Counsel- Puciloski has not received a proposal from Adam Costa yet.

New Business:

Library- Marion Ortwein submitted a letter of resignation as for June 30, 2022 as Librarian. Wilson asked how many children use the Library on a regular basis. Ortwein said only one family comes periodically. Puciloski suggested the issue of keeping the Library open be addressed at Town Meeting when the budget is discussed. Henden-Wilson asked if the Library still has passes for various museums. Ortwein has not renewed them since no one has asked in 2 years.

Ortwein received a request for a toddler swing to be installed at Town Hall. If the current swing is removed the Town would have to follow ADA compliance for a new swing.

Other Business-Town Clerk

Henden-Wilson has set the Annual Town Meeting on May 10th and Annual Election on May 17th from 12-6pm.

A motion by Henden-Wilson to hold the Annual Town Meeting at the Fire House on May 10, 2022 at 6pm. Motion seconded by Puciloski. Motion passed unanimously.

Henden-Wilson reported remote participation will be allowed until July 14, 2022

Meeting adjourned 6:44 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain

