

Minutes Alford Select Board - Approved

September 25, 2023

Present: Select Board – Charles Ketchen, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Peter Puciloski, TJ Horrigan

Via Zoom: Jayne Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Minutes of September 11th approved with spelling corrections

BOH Report: Ms. Smith reported the Flu Clinic on September 15 had about 30 Alford people, less than last year but the COVID vaccine was not available yet. Ms. Smith did report the number of COVID cases are on the rise and she recommends hand washing, wearing a mask if you at risk and stay home if you are not feeling well.

Ms. Henden- Wilson asked if Jayne could look at 11 Rowe Road regarding the amount of standing water on tarps. The neighbors are concerned about mosquito problems.

Highway Report: Mr. Horrigan reported the roof at Town Hall was inspected and about 20 slate tiles were replaced. The recommendation from the roofer was to remove the Norway Maple to prevent any further damage to the roof. Mr. Horrigan also noted the Sugar Maple in the same area is dying and should be removed. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to remove the 2 trees adjacent to Town Hall. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Horrigan reported the homeowner at 433 West Road has been trimming trees and dumping the debris across the road. Mr. Horrigan would like a letter sent to the homeowner

Mr. Horrigan reported he has been in contact with the Town Accountant and the State and they feel that ARPA funds could be used to purchase a cardboard compactor. This would save the Town money on transportation of the recycling since the cardboard compactor and the bottle and cans compactor would require fewer trips to the recycling center in Springfield. Mr. Puciloski asked Mr. Horrigan to get a firm estimate on the costs.

Mr. Horrigan reported the speed limit signs are all properly posted throughout town. There have been several complaints since the new signs have been posted and Mr. Horrigan will reach out to MassDOT and inquire about the process to lower the speed in Alford.

POLE PETITION HEARING: Hearing opened at 6:31pm. Mr. Puciloski read the Pole Petition Notice. Steve Hayward from National Grid presented the petition. One abutter asked if this was for a new pole or to replace an existing pole. Mr. Hayward stated it is a new pole for a new home.

Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to approve the Pole Petition for North Egremont Road. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Raymond Wilcox Memorial: Mr. Ketchen suggested an Oak Tree be planted next to the Town Hall. Donated funds will be used for the tree and the plaque.

Public Comment: Ms. Harriet Bussel addressed the Select Board regarding the new speed signs on West Road. Ms. Bussel stated she no longer feels safe walking on West Road and would like to have the speed limit lowered. Mr. Horrigan did address her concerns as previously stated above.

Tim Ortwein reported to the Select Board the Municipal Aggregation Plan needs to be formally accepted by the Board for a public hearing. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to accept the Municipal Aggregation Plan for the Town of Alford as proposed by Colonial Power. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Henden-Wilson reported she would be attending the Legislative Breakfast in Becket on October 13th. Ms. Henden-Wilson attended a Town Clerk conference where it was suggested Towns make a contingency plan for voting in case of power outages.

Ms. Henden-Wilson has submitted the Special Town Meeting warrant to town counsel. She noted this meeting would require a written ballot vote for the School merger. The Select Board agreed to hold the meeting at the Fire House.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:16 pm

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain