

## Minutes Alford Select Board-Approved

December 11, 2023

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

Via Zoom: Jayne Smith.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

Minutes of November 27, 2023 approved as written

**Highway Report:** Mr. Horrigan reported he has submitted all of the Chapter 90 paperwork for the paving done in October.

Mr. Horrigan reported he had a meeting with the EDM team for the ADA walkway at the Town Offices building. Mr. Horrigan is requesting the Select Board approve additional costs to include lighting and electrical expenses and for constructions expenses.

Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to approve \$2200 for lighting and electrical design and \$1500 for construction estimating costs. Mr. Puciloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Henden-Wilson commented about repurposing the marble stones for another location in the center of town.

**BOH Report:** Ms. Smith reported about 140 people attended the flu and COVID vaccine clinic on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the W.E.B Dubois Middle School. Otherwise things are fairly quiet in tow.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Incorporation:** Krista Annenberg introduced herself as the Chairperson of the group. Ms. Annenberg has submitted an outline of possible events for the Calendar year 2024.

Ms. Germain informed the Select Board she has had residents in town who do not want town funds spent on a party. Larry Gadd from North Egremont Rd asked if there was not a similar event 20 or so years ago. He also questioned if this committee was a town appointed committee. Mr. Puciloski stated a committee would need to be appointed. Ms. Henden-Wilson stated there would be no funds available for any events until after the Annual Town Meeting in May. Ms. Annenberg would like to have a logo developed and signage made announcing the celebration. She was reminded there is currently no money available in the budget this year for such. Ms. Halsted offered to check with the AHDC to see if they would have funds in their budget for the signs. Ms. Germain stated she would have to check with the Town Accountant to see if that is appropriate and legal.

Mr. Ketchen asked Ms. Annenberg to attend the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with a list of names to be appointed to the newly formed committee.

Ms. Cia Elkin of North Egremont Road asked what the difference between this new committee and the Land Trust would be. Ms. Henden-Wilson stated the Land Trust is it's own entity. They do not get any funds from the Annual Budget. They raise all the money from private donations.

**Future of Hybrid Meetings:** Mr. Puciloski read the updated guidance (June 28, 2023) from State to continue to allow hybrid meetings. Mr. Puciloski stated he would prefer to keep this option. Ms. Henden- Wilson would prefer to stop hybrid meetings as she sees a benefit to having her constituents face to face in a meeting.

Ms. Henden-Wilson made a motion to discontinue hybrid meeting starting on January 8, 2024. Mr. Ketchen seconded the motion. Ms. Henden-Wilson and Mr. Ketchen voted in favor, Mr. Puciloski opposed. Motion passed 2 to 1.

**Town Clerk:** Ms. Henden-Wilson presented information regarding a security assessment offered by the State of Massachusetts for election polling places. This is a free assessment for cites and town. The CISA will come and evaluate the town and make suggestion for improved security at polling location. Mr. Puciloski made a motion to request the security assessment from CISA. Ms. Henden-Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Topics:** Ms. Germain handed out a list of questions prepared by the Chair of the Finance committee for the SBA meeting on January 8, 2024. If anyone has anything to add to the list could they submit before December 20<sup>th</sup>. Meeting

Adjourned at 6:57 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Roxanne Germain