

Minutes Alford Select Board

August 10, 2020

Present: Charles Ketchen, Monty Green, TJ Horrigan- In Person, Peggy Rae Henden-Wilson, Jayne Smith, Matt Kollmer, Alice Halstead, Shirley Meuller, Tricia Bevan via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7PM

Minutes of the June 22, and July 13 were approved unanimously.

Highway update: The storm damage is all cleaned up. Town Hall will be washed and painted this month. Paving on West Road to take place at the end of August.

BOH: Smith reports that the E.coli bacteria in the Seekonk Brook is declining and is currently at an acceptable level. Alford Brook is coming down but the number is still too high for swimming. Gov. Baker has reduced the number for Massachusetts for indoor gatherings to 25 and outdoor gatherings to 50. Berkshire County rates are double what they were last month. Transmission is likely from family gatherings.

The Town Clerk would like to set up a meeting with Smith to set up the Town Hall polling for the September 1st Primary election.

Marion Ortwien, Alford's Librarian, would like to meet with Smith to see if she can safely re-open the Children's Library on Saturday mornings.

Matt Kollmer, Interim Building Inspector, was introduced.

Historical District Commission update: The application has been prepared to expand the Historic District to include the parsonage recently purchased by the Town. It will be sent to Chris Skelley, Director of Local Government Programs, Massachusetts Historical Commission. A special thanks to Peter Tucker for all the work he did to create the new map. Once there is approval from the State the expansion will need to be voted on at a Town Meeting. Jim Hall and Juli Scott have offered to create an ad hoc committee for building use. Henden-Wilson requested the Highway Department input is top priority as to what their needs for building use and equipment storage on the property.

Term Limits for Board members: Alford's Commission currently has term limits of 2-3year terms established in 1975. The Commission would like to change the term limits to mirror the term limits established by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. This will need to be voted on at a Town Meeting.

Snapshot in Time project: A slide show has been prepared of all the photos. Shirley will have it ready for the next meeting for the Board to review. Larry Gadd is compiling the photos and some narrative into book format. Juli Hall is going to design the cover. The Commission is hoping to get donations to cover the cost of the books.

Repairing the Railing on the Center Cemetery: The Commission would like to repair the gate and railings. They have an estimate from AA Memorials for \$5500. They would like to use money donated to the Historical Fund from Leslie Pederson.

Tree removal: The Historic Commission does not feel the trees need to be replaced in front of the Church. Historically trees are not planted directly in front of a Church.

Other Business: Ketchen spoke to Tim Roy, Police Chief, to ask him if he could have the State Police add more shifts to Alford. The traffic in Alford has increased since COVID and people are driving too fast in town.

Town Clerk: Henden-Wilson updated the Board about an issue she is having with the State Election Board. They have put the mailing address for ballots as 5 Alford Center Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 and a number of ballots are going to Great Barrington Town Hall not Alford. She has talked to the State on numerous occasions and they will not change the mailing address.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted
Roxanne Germain