

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
July 8, 2024
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Keith Ross, Chair; Brian Snell, Vice-Chair; Alan Genovese, Clerk

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; David Shoemaker, Chief of Police; Andrea Woods, Jason Cook, Bill Lyman, Kristie Delfauser

Present via Zoom: Janice Kurkoski, Buildings & Energy Committee; Sharon Matthews, Tree Warden; Claudia Lewis, Rita (unknown last name)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Keith Ross called the meeting to order at 6:07p.m.

II. APPEARANCES

a. Beech Hill residents – need for noise ordinance, regulation of unpermitted gun range

Jason Cook, Beech Hill resident, came before the Board seeking advice on how to handle an issue with a neighbor that is target shooting about 2-3 times per week. Cook indicated that the neighbor has been using that property for target shooting for quite some time and it was never an issue, but recently it is occurring more often and for longer periods of time. Cook reported there was a Sunday recently that the shooting continued for about five hours and at this point it is disturbing his quality of life. He wants to resolve this in a neighborly way and is wondering if there is a noise ordinance that could be applied to this issue. Cook stated that he left a friendly note on a tree for the neighbor and since then it has seemed to be better. He does not want to walk on the property to talk to them because he does not know what direction they are shooting in. The property is owned by John Fink who lives in another surrounding town. Cook believes it is Fink's children using the property. Cook has discussed this issue with his neighbors and residents on Gale Road that can hear it as well. Andrea Woods also lives in that area and stated she can hear it as well as residents on Route 78. The Board asked Chief Shoemaker for his advice on this issue. Chief Shoemaker stated that it depends if it is an established gun range or not and that an established gun range is not actually defined. Chief indicated that Environmental Police Officers have also investigated this in the past and found that there is not much you can do with what laws are currently in place. Chief explained that someone has brought it to the

Board's attention so he feels it has risen to disturbing the peace at this point. He pointed out that people are fearful to hike behind there now so it needs to be addressed. Chief Shoemaker will find a way to reach out to the people. He would like to research other town's noise ordinances that they have in place to get some verbiage before moving forward with anything. Snell pointed out that there is a walkable trail behind where they believe they are shooting so it is a safety issue that needs to be addressed.

b. Janice Kurkoski Fire Station Solar electric update, project expeditor; letter of interest

Kurkoski reported that she spoke with the installation company, Northeast Solar, and the project expeditor and found out the project installer can deal directly with project expeditor. Young is concerned about the procurement part of the project and committing with the letter of interest. He has not had time to research the necessary procurement laws pertaining to this. Kurkoski stated that the current grant is due August 30th and then the next grant round closes October 18th. Kurkoski explained that there are additional grant funded projects that Warwick would be eligible for if we were established as a climate leading community. Warwick would need to adopt the new stretch code in order to be established as a climate leader community. Young stated that we will have to keep an eye on the timeline for a Special Town Meeting if this is something the Board would like to move forward with. The Board would like to discuss the fire stations solar project further at the next meeting.

III. ETHICS EXEMPTIONS OR DISCLOSURES IF ANY

Nancy Putnam is on the Conservation Commission and is also an employee of DCR and a Warwick resident. She disclosed that she is a Town employee therefore cannot act on behalf of the Town or State work on each other's land. Putnam lives on Hastings Pond Road and has disclosed this information to the Town Clerk.

IV. MINUTES

Snell MOVED to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting as presented. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

V. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Claudia Lewis asked the Board to please remember to be consistent with giving thanks to volunteers for their efforts.

Young recommended sending a letter of thanks to Larry Kilroy. He volunteered and fixed the broken posts on the common. He also installed half the roof boards on the pavilion at the school. Young will draft a letter for this.

Sharon Matthews indicated that someone has been removing the flags on trees that she has been marking for National Grid to remove. Matthews will be reflagging and sending her notes to National Grid. Ross suggested putting an article in the Town's newsletter to inform residents that the flags should be left alone. Young pointed out to Matthews that there are various trees in Town where people have nailed signs on trees. Matthews will look into this.

VI. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Coordinator Report highlights including Home Rule, Capital Planning, Town Accounting

Genovese explained that it is the School Committee's hope that the home rule for the school will be taken up in January. At a recent School Committee meeting Hancock presented their case and the Superintendent provided testimonies of the difficulties it makes for towns.

There is no update on the home rule for the Police Chief to continue working after the age of 65. Genovese suggested reaching out to Representative Whipps to see where that stands.

Young announced that there will be another Capital Planning meeting tomorrow July 9th. Genovese recently spoke with Gill Selectboard member, Greg Snedeker. Snedeker recently drafted/started the Capital Planning process in Gill. He would be a great resource to inquire about how the capital plan is formed and what process they use. Genovese asked him to send any relevant materials he may have that could be useful for the new Capital Plan Committee.

Young reported that the new Town Accountant has started working and things seem to be going smoothly thus far.

b. Selectboard Reports

i. Planning Old Home Days recognition of team that made Warwick School District happen

Snell and Young will meet in the near future to come up with a plan on how to recognize the team that helped open the Warwick School District. They will bring their plans back to the Board at their next meeting.

ii. Discussion whether to and how to handle public comment/citizen concern

The Board has discussed this at a previous meeting. Genovese would like the Board to first decide whether they would like to keep the standing item on agendas for public comment or require people to request to be on the agenda to appear/be heard at a meeting. The Board agrees that if they opt to keep the public comment item on the agenda, they need to put parameters around that. Snell indicated that the School Committee provides a 20 minute maximum at the beginning of their meetings for open time for public. The Board is in favor of leaving the public comment item on the agendas but having parameters in place.

VII. ACTIONS

a. Approval of administrative actions taken – Highway Bid documents

Genovese MOVED to authorize the Town Coordinator to sign the FRCOG Highway contracts. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

b. Personnel Policy advertising requirement

Young indicated that our current personnel policy lists a requirement to advertise in the newspaper before hiring anyone. The costs to run advertisements in the newspaper have increased tremendously. Young is looking to remove this requirement if the Board agrees. Claudia Lewis suggested adding another place to advertise if the Board chooses to remove the newspaper requirement. She suggested sending it the Town Clerk to advertised on the Town website.

Genovese MOVED to waive the personnel policy requirement to advertise via newspaper prior to hiring personnel. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Appointment Lawrence Pruyne, ZBA

Genovese MOVED to appoint Lawrence Pruyne to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

d. Solid Waste Contracts FY25

Young seeks the Boards approval for three Franklin County Solid Waste Management contracts including third party inspection, hazardous waste day, and the FY25 hauling contract.

Snell MOVED to authorize the Chair to sign the three discussed contracts with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

VIII. ITEMS UNANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING

Bill Lyman reiterated to the Board that he has an issue with the process used to hire a Building Inspector a couple of months ago. Genovese reminded that the Board has

reviewed and discussed Lyman's complaint in an open meeting and they did not feel the need to hold an executive session or discuss any further.

Snell MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

- *Meeting agenda dated July 8, 2024
- *Coordinator report dated July 6, 2024
- *Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated June 17, 2024