

11/15/23 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Al Bottone, Mike Davis, Jim Kidder, Evan Miller, Mary Tworog,, Kevin Raday (Chair)

Others Present: Robert McHatton, Carrye Castleman-Ross_Ross, Robert Peabody, Georgiann Fleck, Tori Hill. David Madsen, Haley Richardson, Patti Howard, Gerald Walraven, Glen Garland

Select Board Report (Robert McHatton)

- Horse drawn carriage & wagon rides are coming to the downtown village district on certain nights and weekends
- The maintenance by the Town of tax acquired property was discussed.
- As a result of the transfer station workshop, a proposal to hire an engineering firm to provide a concept plan for updating the Transfer Station was approved. Also under discussion is having hauling done in-house by Town employees rather than contracting-out this function. There was discussion of other ways to reduce costs to combat massive increases in costs at the Transfer Station. Options are greater efficiencies in waste disposal, a reduction in other services, or higher taxes. The emphasis will be on greater efficiencies to reduce costs.

Town Manager's Report (Georgiann Fleck)

- The Town received a donation of \$300 from the Ping Pong Club
- A reminder that dog licenses are due at the start of the new year
- The Town Office will be closed on both Wednesday and Thursday of Thanksgiving week

Community Development Director's Report (Tori Hill)

- The Comp Plan Kick-Off was held on November 1 at Town Hall with a brief presentation by the consultant and an opportunity for those present to provide input; input on a regular basis may be provided via a link on the Town web page. The next meeting is on Dec 6 at 5 PM in the lower meeting room
- BMS Ad Hoc Committee continues to meet to develop 3 alternative plans for the site.

- GPCOG, using a grant from the State, is studying 3 large tracts of Town owned property for their possible use as locations for developing work-force housing;

Transfer Station Update (David Madsen)

- The Public Services Department has a proposal from an engineering firm to do a complete review of the Transfer Station operations to identify improvements and efficiencies that would reduce ever increasing costs. The total proposal is for \$85,000, of which \$5,000 is for the concept plan.
- Changing hauling from being contracted out to being done in-house by Town employees using Town equipment is also under consideration.
- Other Towns are addressing rising costs with some form of pay-per-bag or pay-by-weight. (The former has been rejected by the voter here.) The latter seems cumbersome with so many individuals residents. Further discussion generated the thought of applying pay-by-weight to just the commercial haulers, of which there are 3. Further exploration of this will be undertaken, including providing lead time for any such changes.

MISC:

- Meeting Minutes of 9/27/23 & 10/25/23 were approved.
- Next meeting on 11/29/23 at Walker Memorial Hall, Highland Rd (up hill on the right, past Golf Course, with bell tower). An opportunity to see a wonderful Bridgton landmark being preserved for future community use.