

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2019

Present: Chairman Daniel E. Carty, Vice-Chairman Patricia A. Brown, Selectman Janie Dretler, Selectman Jennifer Roberts, Selectman William Schineller, Town Counsel Lee Smith and Interim Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau (remotely).

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Flynn Building – Silva Room. Chairman Carty called the meeting to order.

Opening Remarks by Chairman

Chair Carty had no opening remarks.

Reports from Town Manager

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau had no reports.

Reports from Selectmen

Vice-Chair Brown had no reports, and Selectman Roberts had no reports.

Selectman Dretler distributed copies of the Boston Globe article “Baker’s housing bill stalls again at State House,” dated November 22, 2019 detailed Governor Baker’s proposed housing bill.

Selectman Schineller stated that he participated in the Carding Mill site visit with the Historical Commission and the Conservation Commission, and it was a very interesting visit.

Citizen’s Comments

There were no citizen’s comments at this time.

Discussion and possible vote to place potential articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant

“Selectman” Language/Title

Selectman Dretler spoke of the proposed change in the “selectman” title. Selectman Schineller stressed that Board members were in favor of the change in title and indicated that all concerned had done due diligence and the official title should be presented at December Town Meeting.

Selectman Dretler indicated that former Town Manager Rodrigues had drafted the proposed language change. Interim Town Manager Bilodeau stated that Ms. Rodrigues did not draft such language, and suggested that Town Counsel Silverstein draft the mentioned language and authorize Interim Town Manager to begin the process of change to the charter.

The Board discussed the charter process.

Selectman Dretler motioned that Town Counsel drafts the “Selectman” language change as a warrant article item for the December 10, 2019 Board meeting and authorize Interim Town Manager Bilodeau to begin the charter change process. Vice-Chair Brown seconded the motion.

It was on motion unanimously. Carty-aye, Brown-aye, Dretler-aye, Schineller-aye, Roberts-aye

VOTED: That Town Counsel draft the “Selectman” language and present such warrant article at the December 10, 2019 Board meeting.

Stone Farm

Selectman Schineller distributed proposed article language regarding preservation of the Stone Farm and a second article with language including acquisition of Stone Farm. Selectman Schineller stressed that the proposed citizen petition was to put the property in historic district status and that the Town should consider acquisition of the Stone Farm.

Selectman Dretler asked if the Stone Farm had been sold yet. Selectman Schineller stated not. Selectman Roberts queried about what the status was.

Mike O'Reilly, Attorney for Anne Stone, commented that a Stone Farm P&S was signed two years ago. Chair Carty acknowledged that such activity is a private transaction and not appropriate to be discussed publicly. Selectman Schineller commented "the whole thing is sticky."

The Melone Stabilization Fund was brought up, and Selectman Roberts asked about the status of it. Chair Carty stated the funding was waiting and would require a Town Meeting vote to allocate such funding for a new purpose and stressed that he first wanted to see the Melone/Quarry North project "locked in before we used the Stabilization Fund"

Selectman Schineller asked the Board members if they wanted to save all or some of Stone Farm. Selectman Roberts stated that she did not feel comfortable with such proposal at this time, and suggested that when more related information is available, perhaps May Town Meeting, this proposal may be more realistic.

Selectman Schineller stated that the signers of the Stone Farm petition indicate that preservation is being sought and the article could reflect an eminent domain action. Vice-Chair Brown asked Attorney Smith about justification of Eminent Domain regarding Stone Farm. Mr. Smith queried about ultimate intention. Selectman Schineller responded that the intention/purpose was preservation *for* public purpose and the owner would determine a purchase price and calculate what the associated damage amount would be.

Selectman Dretler asserted that the Stone Farm is the charge of the Historical Commission and Historic Districts Commission. Selectman Schineller responded that both those commissions did not have funding and detailed that the owner's lack of money for property maintenance and retirement was the overriding factor. Selectman Dretler mentioned that there are times when the Board does not take a position on a Town Meeting article.

Selectman Schineller asked if Board members think Stone Farm is worth the investment of Town funding. Chair Carty stated that he could not support the concept. Vice-Chair Brown affirmed that she could not ask voters for a blank check for such a project. Selectman Roberts stated that in order to support such an action she would first need to see the Town have a plan and that there is not one now. Also, it is difficult to make to propose such an acquisition in light of the other big capital items they Town would have before them at May Town Meeting.

Selectman Schineller motioned to authorize Interim Town Manager to work with Town Counsel on an article to raise/appropriate funds for the preservation of Stone Farm. Chair Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion one for and four against. Carty-no, Brown-no, Dretler-no, Schineller-aye, Roberts-no.

VOTED: Not to authorize Interim Town Manager to work with Town Counsel on an article to raise/appropriate funds for the preservation of Stone Farm.

National Development – Liquor License

Chair Carty commented that National Development suggested adding another liquor license, but because they are not present tonight, they appear not to be going forward with such a proposal at this time.

Fairbank Community Center

Chair Carty suggested putting forth a non-binding question at December Special Town Meeting because he indicated concern that an estimate would be put forth at Spring Town meeting that the Town would not vote in favor of.

Selectman Schineller commented that resident Ralph Tyler suggested ratification of an article to raise additional funding for Fairbank. Interim Town Manager Bilodeau noted that Mr. Tyler mentioned the possibility of a Special Town Meeting in January or February to address the Fairbank Community Center. Vice-Chair Brown stated that she was unsure of what Mr. Tyler wants the Board of Selectmen to do.

Selectman Dretler affirmed that there is a process to go through with each Board as well as a more extensive education process with residents. Selectman Roberts agreed that there was not enough time for such education, based on the user group needs presented several days ago.

Chair Carty agreed that the Town was not ready to vote on a Fairbank Community Center article in December.

Vice-Chair Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chair Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion unanimously. Carty-aye, Brown-aye, Roberts-aye, Schineller-aye, Dretler-aye.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Attest: _____

Maryanne Bilodeau

Interim Town Manager-Clerk