

Belchertown EDIC Meeting

May 23, 2018

Members

Bill Terry Jonathan Spiegel Rich Kump
Beth Maroney Kirk Stephens Bob Rivard

Media: Pat Barry

Meeting Open-7:00 p.m., Large Meeting Room; Meeting Adjourned -8:35 p.m.

Introduction of Guest, Presenters, Observers - Agenda Item # 1

Bill Terry opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the large meeting room, Town Hall and informed us that Claire O'Neill would not be joining us this evening and that we would move to Executive Session after the regular meeting.

Agenda Item # 2 - Adoption of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the April 24th Regular meeting were presented and accepted. Moved Bill Terry Seconded Beth Maroney Voted 4-0-2 Jonathan and Rich were not present at that meeting.

The meeting minutes from the April 24th Executive meeting were presented and accepted. Moved Bill Terry 2nd Kirk Stephens Voted 4-0-2

Agenda Item #3 - Payables

Jim Kuc submitted an Invoice for \$220.00 for work on the Laundry building and the electrical and blacksmith shops.

Kirk Stephens Moved to pay the Invoice Bob Rivard Seconded Voted 6-0-0.

Mr. Stephens discussed the conditions at the site. A tunnel entrance that needs addressing, the general situation with present demolition and the anticipated completion date of June 1st being extended to the 15th. A lot of building material is being removed and recycled.

Jonathan Spiegel asked if it would be possible to have the dozer on site scrape some of the undergrowth which could eliminate some brush hogging. It would perhaps improve the look of the grounds.

Agenda Item #4 - Additions to Agenda

Bill Terry said he had information to share with the Board and Jonathan Spiegel had a couple of items to discuss vis a vis NESFI and the Conservation Restrictions.

Mr. Spiegel informed us that he had a discussion with Ron Aponte about passing on the Conservation Restrictions around Foley Field on to Kestrel Trust. He noted that Town Meeting voted funds to move fields around down there, but he was not at all certain that the new Rec Director was even aware of the Conservation Restrictions currently in place. Apparently the Town never filed the Conservation Restriction at the Registry of Deeds when then were required to. Kestrel remains interested and Ron Aponte was on-board with that transfer.

Mr. Spiegel suggested that we formally Vote to thank Ron for his help as the Selectmen Liaison to BEDIC.

Mr. Terry asked for a Motion.

Mr. Spiegel Moved to formally thank Mr. Aponte in a letter of Appreciation for the strong support and service he provided BEDIC over the many years.

Mr. Stephens Seconded

Voted 6 – 0 – 0

Mr. Spiegel continued with a discussion of the Trail being proposed around Lake Wallace and the connection to the main campus. Doug Albertson named it the Heritage Trails Network; Lake Wallace Sensory Trail and secured a matching grant from MassDev of \$28,000 with a short window for a fund raising campaign to match that number. A website on Patronicity is up and running and three hundred letters seeking financial support for the Trail are being printed and sent to the supporters of Jessica's Boundless Playground. Mr. Terry commented that the June 15th deadline was fast approaching but that this was a good way to take the "temperature" of the Town with a bulk mailing. Mr. Terry also mentioned efforts toward an interagency agreement between Dept of Ag Resources and Fish and Wildlife to support the various stakeholders in these endeavors. Those interests range from hunting, to fishing to the snowmobile groups, to conservationists with the potential conflicts inherent in Public use. No one on the Board felt that hunting was a compatible use in this location.

Mr. Terry invited Pat Barry to distribute a printed appeal from the Friends of Lampson Farm a newly formed group seeking a wider voice of support for plans for NESFI. Mr. Terry re-iterated that she was welcome to return to the Board as her plans formalize for review and our support. Ms Barry said she was President of the new group and would be developing a time table and activity focus for supporting the Trails and perhaps opening more trails.

Mr. Spiegel voiced his support for all these combined efforts to enhance the area generally and to provide farming opportunity through land sub-leases. The discussion turned to the first parcel nearest the RR and its current condition. That parcel is about to be handed off to another farmer.

Mr. Spiegel discussed the changes being proposed to the Jackson St. entrance and how those changes will impact NESFI and that perhaps we should find an opportunity to discuss those changes with the Friends and NESFI with Ms. O'Neill and Mr. Williams. Mr. Terry will get a list together and open the discussion with MassDev and Mr. Williams and perhaps the Chief of Police Mr. Terry said that Chief Provost was at the pre-construction meeting and is taking an interest in how these roadways connect across the site. Mr. Spiegel thought a direct Q & A session with interested parties would be appropriate.

Agenda Item #6 - Development Status

Mr. Terry informed the Board of the status of the State St. improvements which are in the cue and at around 75% design level. The proposed changes were viewed in open meetings; public comments were solicited and submitted to PVPC for their review.

The Bid for Carriage Drive was awarded to Ludlow Construction. They will begin this year, shut down operations in early November and complete the project in 2019.

Front St. was formally accepted at Town Meeting.

Christopher Heights is scheduled to open mid-June for staff with an official ribbon ceremony in September. Walter O'Hanian is seeking Temporary Signage permits from the Building Inspector in coordination with Claire O'Neill.

An Arborist was to visit the site, treat for Gypsy Moths and do some tree identifications.

Agenda Item #7 - Security and Grounds

No further items were brought to the attention of the Board.

Mr. Terry Moved to close the Regular Meeting and Open an Executive Session

7:42 p. m.

Rich Kump Seconded

Voice Vote Mr. Kump Yes Mr. Stephens Yes Mr. Spiegel Yes Ms Maroney Yes Mr. Rivard Yes Mr. Terry yes



Respectfully Submitted
Bob Rivard, Director