

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
April 23, 2024**

Present: Benjamin Eastman, Chair; W. Thomas Griffin; Emily Thurber

Others Present: Michael Shuipis, Town Administrator Search Committee; Elizabeth Erickson, Pollinator Committee; David Greenberg, Wood Bank; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair Ben Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm.

Appointments:

Michael Shuipis Ad-Hoc TA Search Committee Chair – Update on TA Search and Discussion with Selectboard RE: Scheduling Public Interviews with Recommended Candidates

Michael Shuipis updated the Board that the Committee received 15 applications of which three were interviewed, each with a standard list of questions. The Committee recommended all three to the Select Board for final interviews and is requesting to schedule them next week. The Board agreed to schedule all three interviews and Michael will contact the candidates and let Kevin know the schedule in order to post the meetings by Thursday.

Old Business:

Review and possible approval of HCA with Atlantic Farms LLC

Atlantic Farms has signed the agreement and both Town Counsel and Atlantic Farms counsel agreed on the HCA.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Host Community Agreement between the Town of Colrain and Atlantic Farms, LLC as written on the 23rd day of April 2024.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Unanticipated:

Jacksonville Road Washout Update

Kevin Fox received the bid paperwork late last week and has sent it to FRCOG to start the bid process. Construction can't start until 7/15 per Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife due to the long-nose sucker migration period.

Minutes:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board for 4/9/2024 as written. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments:

Elizabeth Erickson – Pollinator Project Proposal

Elizabeth Erickson read a proposal from the pollinator committee regarding planting a pollinator garden at the Veteran's Memorial Park, presented two preliminary designs, and requested the Board approve the project in order to apply for a grant from the Franklin Conservation District and proceed with the project. Discussion regarding concerns surrounding maintenance of the garden and relying on volunteers, and the prior work done to design and create the Veteran's Park. Discussion between the pollinator committee

and residents regarding the proposed location at the Veteran's Park and possible other options, the ongoing maintenance of the garden, proposed plants included in the design, and how many Veterans in Colrain feel about the current park and don't agree with the location of the garden at the Park. Jocelyn Demuth, Pollinator Committee member, explained that the committee does this out of respect for the Veteran's Memorial, doesn't want it to look messy, and the members were very cognizant of the current design and feelings surrounding the park and is willing to meet with residents with concerns about the proposed plan for the project.

Marty Dagoberto Lydgate-Driggs, Pollinator Committee member, further explained that Select Board approval would allow the committee to work with FRCOG to get the Franklin Conservation District in place to get the design together and the Board would sign-off on the final design plan later in the process before any ground is broken.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the pollinator project proposal that is off to the side with the understanding that our approval allows them to proceed with funding and design however, we reserve final approval of the plan.

Emily Thurber seconded.

Further discussion on veterans' concerns surrounding the placement of the garden at the park.

Motion withdrawn by Thom Griffin.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the pollinator project that is off to the side so they can procure funding and come up with a solid plan to submit to us for final approval.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

Wood Bank – Next Steps

Emily Thurber explained that at this point the Board isn't able to get more involved with the wood bank and would the Valley Community Land Trust (VCLT) be willing to get involved. David Greenberg further explained that there are grants available to the Town for wood banks, however, there needs to be an official committee in order to apply for them. David will bring the idea to the VCLT and will report back to the Board.

Consideration of Submitting Site Assessment Request Form – FRCOG Brownfields Program

Discussion tabled to a future meeting.

Unanticipated:

ATM Warrant

Emily Thurber questioned putting citizen's petitions on the warrant. Kevin Fox explained that all citizen's petition articles must go on the warrant. Discussion of the petition article regarding the busts at the library. The Board agreed to discuss and put forth their recommendations on each warrant article at the 5/14 meeting.

Betty Ringwood – Disabled American Veterans

Betty Ringwood is on the Disabled American Veterans committee and has asked to store used medical equipment, like wheelchairs, walkers, etc. at the fire station for seniors. Ben requested the item be placed on the agenda for the 5/14 meeting and to invite the Fire Chief. Kevin asked Betty to have Arthur Geary email him for an appointment.

Town Election Warrant

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the 2024 Annual Election Warrant as submitted.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Library Property Lines

Abutter is getting their own survey done on their property and Kevin is waiting to hear the status.

Town Administrator Updates:

None

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:59pm.
Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

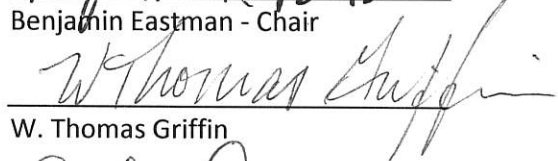


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 5/7/2024



Benjamin Eastman - Chair



W. Thomas Griffin



Emily Thurber

Documents Distributed to the Select Board Before the Meeting in a Packet or at the Meeting:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Michael Shuipis to Kevin Fox, Town Administrator, dated 4/16/2024 re: Appointment for Town Administrator Search Committee

Email from Elizabeth Erickson, Pollinator Committee, to Kevin Fox, Town Administrator, dated 4/16/2024 re: Appointment for Pollinator Committee and Project Proposal

Copy of 7/11/2023 Select Board Minutes re: Ad-Hoc Pollinator Planning Committee

Email from Emily Thurber, Select Board Member, to Kevin Fox, Town Administrator, dated 4/14/2024 re: Wood Bank

Information for Firewood Banks Funding from www.firewoodbanks.org/applynow

Guidelines for Firewood Banks Receiving Funding from the Alliance for Green Heat as of 11/2023

Email from Jessica Atwood, FRCOG, to Kevin Fox, Town Administrator, dated 4/9/2024 re: Brownfield Sites in Colrain

FRCOG Regional Brownfields Program Site Assessment Request Form

Host Community Agreement Between the Town of Colrain and Atlantic Farms, LLC

2024 Annual Town Election Warrant

Draft 4/9/2024 Select Board Meeting Minutes