

**Town of Sunderland Selectboard Meeting
Monday June 24, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance:

Dixie Zens
Todd Lawrence
Marty Nadler
Andrew McKeever
Bruce Mattison

Others in Attendance:

Rob Zeif (Planning Commission)
Dave Kiernan (Zoning Administrator)
Susan Whitney (Town Clerk)
Kim Knapp
Rick Timmerman
Maria Timmerman
Thomas Dykeman
Linda Dykeman

1. Call to Order by Dixie Zens at 7:00 pm.

2. Introduction of Board Members: Todd Lawrence, Marty Nadler, Dixie Zens, Bruce Mattison, Andrew McKeever. Zoning Administrator David Kiernan, Rob Zeif (Planning Commission).

3. Approval of the minutes of June 10th, Selectboard Meeting

Mover: Marty
2nd: Andrew
Result: Passed

4. Public Comment- None

5. Sunderland Church Restoration Update – Marty
 - BCRC contracting with Stevens and Associates for assessments
 - Environmental Study
 - Legal assessment
 - Still trying to clear ownership questions
 - Northshire Community Land Trust ready to vote on acquiring property once ownership questions have been cleared
 - Rob Zeif - Thompson Trust from Boston awards grants to projects involving historic churches in New England due to their limited alternative use

6. ARPA Funds Update – Marty

- Next ARPA Meeting Sunday June 30th at 7pm
- New additions to possible ARPA funding list
 - Window Dressers grants
 - Funds to finance environmental study for town office land regarding pavilion
- Agenda for upcoming meeting posted on town website
- ARPA list will be presented to Selectboard in one of the July meetings

7. Road Liaison Report – Bruce

- Marc and team finishing up mowing, and back road repairs
- Paving of Sunderland Hill Rd beginning next week up to Bacon Hollow
 - Thomas Dykeman inquires about continuing of bike path construction
 - No new info but possible grant from Safer Roads Committee in the future

8. Emergency Management Coordinator's Report – Todd

- Discussed the latest severe storm + tornado warning. No reported damage
- Looking at options to utilize social media or other formats to distribute information to the public
- Mentioned with the recent heat wave, the state has begun promoting cooling sites. Sunderland does not have one. Todd mentioned that if the energy committee is still exploring mini split units that cooling site at Town Office is another positive
 - Rob Zeif asked about state grants. Todd will look into it.
 - Thomas Dykeman inquired about what a cooling site is. Todd explained
 - Maria Timmerman mentioned about local libraries as cooling sites

9. Energy Committee – Andrew

- Window Dressers project kickoff in September
- Energy forum possible in the fall -more information to follow
- Looking for additional committee members since a couple have moved from town
 - If interested please reach out

10. CUD Update – Andrew

- Next meeting Wednesday 06/26 at 6pm
 - Discussing staying with the Vermont CUD

11. Community Visit - Andrew

- VCRD emailed regarding April 2025 instead of January 2025.
- VCRD offered to send reps to Selectboard meeting to discuss visit and the process
- Maria Timmerman asked if it is possible to combine visits with other communities?
 - Rob Zeif discusses process further and how it's really localized to one community
- Todd provides additional information gathered from VCRD website regarding other towns in the community visit process

12. BCRC, BCSWA Update – Dixie

- BCRC continues to work on church issues
- BCSWA reiterates state law for composting and not in the trash

13. Zoning Administrator Report – David Kiernan

- Casella hearing on Wednesday 06/26 regarding adding two maintenance bays at transfer station
- STR moving from bylaw to ordinance per advice of town attorney
 - Changes enforcement action and allows for residents to file complaints instead of only Town Zoning Administrator or Town Health Officer
- New ordinance hearings will most likely be in August and Bylaw hearings will then cease
- New ordinance revisions posted in town office for review
- Linda Dykeman asked question if cap on amount of STR's in town has been proposed
 - Dave Kiernan states that there are no current limits at this time and has not been proposed
- Rob Zeif asks if the Town Attorney signs off on changes does that mean we have to start the process over again?
 - Dave Kiernan states that we need to start process over with Selectboard but not the Planning Commission portion
- Motion for Dave Kiernan (Zoning Administrator) to switch from STR Bylaws to Ordinance

Mover: Todd

2nd: Bruce

Result: Passed

14. Old Business- none

15. New Business-

- Approval of payroll allocations for fiscal year 2024-2025

Mover: Marty

2nd: Bruce

Result: Passed

- New Childcare tax beginning July 1st: Discussion and motion for Town to pay full portion of the .44% employee payroll tax. Amount is fully budgeted

Mover: Marty

2nd: Andrew

Result: Passed

- Declaration of Inclusive survey. Dixie will fill out form and submit to Clerk
- Invoice from Merrill Bent for church legal work

- BCRC has grant
 - Invoice should be sent to BCRC to pay from grant funds
- Quote to upgrade garage wifi/cell
 - Will be discussed with Marc
- Selectboard volunteer needed for signature for the Town bills
 - Todd volunteers to sign for bills this Thursday at Town Office

Result: Passed
- Rob Zeif discussed town get together. Suggests that idea stays simple.
 - More information to follow
- Welcome Signs discussed and 5 signs will be built and installed
 - Price \$400 per sign and includes message on back of sign as well
 - Funding from ARPA
 - Volunteers from Planning and Selectboard to choose locations with assistance from Town Highway Foreman
 - Susan Whitney asks about legal placement on Rt7A
 - Rob Zeif has spoken with state and has approvals
 - Motion to have sites selected and process begin for the purchase and install

Mover: Andrew
2nd: Bruce
Result: Passed

16. Executive session

Entered at: 8:01 pm

Mover: Todd

2nd: Andrew

Result: Passed

Exited at: 8:54 pm

Mover: Todd

2nd: Bruce

Result: Passed

Motion for Dixie to look at town policies and an external audit firm

Mover: Todd

2nd: Andrew

Result: Passed

17. Review of Correspondence/Signing of warrants.

18. Next Business Meeting for the Sunderland Selectboard will be July 8th, 2024 7PM

19. Adjourn at: 8:55 pm

Mover: Andrew

2nd: Bruce

Result: Passed