

Shaftsbury Select Board Special Meeting

April 29, 2024

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1) Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Present were selectpersons Martha Cornwell (vice chair, presiding), Brent Peacock, Tony Krulikowski, and Mike Cichanowski. Also present was temporary Town Administrator David Kiernan. Ms. Cornwell added a recreation committee appointment and a discussion of the Memorial Day parade to the agenda.

2) Conflict of interest statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3) Warrants

Check warrant #42, \$60,959.29. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

4) Announcements

On Monday May 20 at 4:30 p.m. a community pot luck will be held for Paula Iken, the new Town Administrator. The usual select board meeting will follow.

5) Public comments

There were none.

6) Public information meeting Hawks/Grandview sidewalk study

Kristin Hawkins from Dufresne Group Engineering introduced herself and presented the project's findings. The purpose of the project is to increase safety for pedestrians and improve connectivity with North Bennington. The preferred alternative is about 1400' of sidewalk, mostly with curbing but occasionally with a grass verge, on the west side of Grandview, with catch basins, speed tables, and crosswalks. One speed table will require a street light. Among the impacts: four utility poles will require relocating, minor permanent and temporary easements will be required, and possible disturbance and disposal of urban soils (which are defined as potentially contaminated) will be necessary. The total cost in 2027 is projected to be \$805,000, not including speed tables. Two programs through VTrans – Transportation Alternatives and Bike Pedestrian, offer funding opportunities. Both require a 20% match. Any local funding, including for the match, would require a loan from the bond bank. Ms. Hawkins laid out a possible schedule which included a grant application being submitted in June 2024 (a second opportunity is available in November 2024) and construction beginning in 2027. (An environmental review early in the process would take up to about twelve months.) A later-onset schedule is more likely.

Ms. Hawkins said residents would lose up to five feet of grass ditch but it would all be located in the road right of way. Other questions included: Will there be a crosswalk at Grant Street? Ms. Hawkins answered "Yes." Why can't the curb sidewalk be continued to the top? Ms. Hawkins said it could, but then drainage structures would need to be installed.

Does the Town intend to apply by June? Mr. Kiernan said the match for the grant would have to be bonded; there are no capital funds available for such a match. A special election would have to be held, or the Town could wait until the November or March election to hold a town-wide vote on the bond. The Select Board could choose to ask for a bond vote, or it could be petitioned by the citizens. For these reasons, the application would not be submitted until 2025 at the earliest.

Christine Graham noted that the section of the north-south street in front of her house is not called Grandview but rather Main St. The family opposite her is in the same situation. That should be noted in construction documents.

Ms. Graham asked whether the Town has considered applying for Congressional funding? Mr. Kiernan said such funding would come into play no earlier than 2026. Ms. Graham noted that non-residents of the Grandview/Hawks neighborhood might not be enthusiastic about voting for a such bond – for which reason alternatives should be sought.

Mr. Krulikowski moved that the Select Board accept the Grandview/Hawks Shaftsbury Sidewalk Scoping Study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cichanowski, and passed 4-0-0.

7) Recreation Committee appointment

Liz Duffee has expressed an interest in serving. The Recreation Committee has recommended her. Mr. Peacock moved to appoint her. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

8) Memorial Day parade

Ms. Cornwell said it is scheduled for Monday May 27. Marlene Hall, town clerk, is in charge but could use help from the Select Board. The parade starts and ends at the Veteran's Memorial at Cole Hall, with a stop in the cemetery. She asked for help contacting the school principal to ask about help from clubs, to contact Sue Greene re taps, to contact motorcycle vet riders (who may operate out of the VFW in Pownal), and anyone who has classic car contacts. Mr. Cichanowski moved to sponsor the Memorial Day parade beginning at 8:30 a.m. on May 27. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Cichanowski will speak to Mr. Johnson at SES. Mr. Peacock will reach out to Sue Greene. Ms. Cornwell will reach out to the combat riders and the VFW re a color guard. Mr. Krulikowski will reach out re classic cars. Jen Holley, webmaster, will post a notice about the parade on Front Porch Forum. Ms. Cornwell asked all citizens to send her names of veterans the Town should honor. Mr. Cichanowski will check in with Tim Scoggins for any connections to the 250th national anniversary celebration.

9) Action items

None. The next regular meeting will be held May 6.

10) Adjournment

Mr. Peacock moved to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.