

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Ian Ackermann, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, Frank Kampf, Fred Satink, Kelley Knotek, Aaron Celley, R. D. Eno, Kurt Steinert, Kathleen Hoyne, James Wolynetz, Dana Robinson, Chris Tormey; via zoom: Jenn Miner, Sandy Pond, Elizabeth Vitale, Susan Robinson, Allison Lafevre

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from Minutes from August 3 meeting – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian, motion carried, Mike recused himself as he did not attend the meeting.
4. Public Comment - Jenn asked if there has been any discussion regarding lower Cabot. It was requested that we move the speed sign to lower Cabot. Mike also wanted to let everyone know that this meeting is also on Zoom and only one person to speak at a time. If you have a comment or question, please raise your hand.
5. Town Property Insurance –We invited Fred Satink and Kelly Knotek from our insurance carrier, PACIF to explain the insurance liabilities and to answer any questions you may have regarding the rental of facilities from the Town. Fred stated that he did read some of the comments.

Mike – Could we have a waiver? Yes, you could for smaller functions, a higher risk function such as a wedding reception insurance should be a requirement, or functions such as yoga, dances, banquets – we would not recommend a waiver. It would be good to define a short list. Ian asked about meetings – that is the function of municipalities. If alcohol is involved, either by catering or byob – that is considered high risk. Alcohol changes the complexion. RD asked if we have asked VLTC regarding this or did they approach the Town. Fred stated that we did discuss this as a standard recommendation and Jim Carrien might have advised it. RD Eno there has never been a claim.

Fred stated that if you have a waiver the courts may not uphold this. If there is a claim of more than 10 million the Town would then be responsible. Kurt Steiner, Library Trustee Chair wanted to know how this would affect Library events. Most of these events are done on a volunteer basis. Fred stated that the Supreme Court has given libraries a lot of flexibility and it is best to work together for each event. What are the liability risks, and try not to circumvent the Town. They might fall under the guise of low risk. Need to define what is low risk, medium and high risk. We would be glad to work with the SB on this. Perhaps the Library could come up with some examples of their events.

Chris Tormey – they have a number of groups that use their facilities from yoga, early morning fitness. Town supported from Town – being careful about the risk – careful – complete a request form release the school from any liability – they do not ask for COI.

James Wolynetz – He wanted to know how many municipalities does PACIF insure? We insure approximately 240. There are many that have supplemental insurance. Why are we getting coverage for coverage? Fred stated the Town has insurance and we are suggesting is that the facility user get the coverage and more than half of these municipalities ask for this coverage. For example Wheelock has it and it is smaller than Cabot. Jim stated most events are for Cabot residents. Whether a resident or non-resident has no bearing on insurance coverage. Fred stated remember that there is personal liability – something may happen and it is very cheap to get a rider. It is a worthwhile preference. It does protect PACIF, and the 240 towns insured with PACIF. We are all in this together.

Dana – basically it boils down to if liability insurance is required it could limit use of the building. Cabot Arts – nonprofit – puts on concert – no profit margin and lose money – sometimes dancing occurs – may not be able to use the building. Fred – what kind of insurance. Dana responded that right now they have none. Fred responded that this is a problem. Dana said that Cabot Arts started about 5 years ago – if there would have been this type of requirement at that time I could not have done these programs, he is concerned about the wealth to Cabot.

Kathleen – it is not clear any activities are considered by high risk for years, zero problems, such as dances why that would be classified as a high risk activity. Fred - it as an unfortunate sign of the times. What worked in the 30, 40, and 50's and 60 does not work now? Basically municipalities have a target on their back. We protect the municipality. Can't always do what we always did. We live in different times, and people are ready to sue at a drop of a hat. You can keep it how it's going if you want. However, an example: Cyber issue may not qualify anymore for insurance coverage.

Sandy – is it as simple as signing a waiver. No. Any attendee can bring a suit against a town. Can be low risk events. If each participant signs a waiver, it is a good practice but it will not absolve you.

Dana – does it apply to the Village Common – Fred stated that is up to the SB – Town owns a rec field has pickup games not regulated, low risk. An Entity comes in and uses a field such a Men's softball fields – yes they do need proof of insurance. It is additional insurance to the Town. Times have changed. Scheduled to have a concert – they are covered – COI – may be 20-50 come do they have to provide activity - doesn't concern – provided the town – event free concert and open to the public. RD – Plainfield requires – no insurance. Fred - that is up to their SB.

6. Emergency Management Update – Jenn Miner – update Delta Variant – 61 new case 5 in Washington County, 25 in hospital, 9 in ICU – do anticipate the peak – 119 new cases last few days. Remains at 21. State 85% County as a whole is above 50-60% of the WC has been vaccinated. They are recommending universal action and some variation. There is more and more places asking for masking or zoom. We are on a roller coaster slide, but, he is not adding any restrictions.
7. EV Station Update – Jim – update Aaron and Jim met – to go over – amazing mock up. Approve the signs. Agreed on signs. What about EV parking instead of no parking. What about the paint. Ian is working on that. For some reason paint is not available. Need to outline the area. There is a concrete bumper and two poles – put signs on and we have not gone over budget. He does need to have someone that has a Tigg welder. What about cost and if people don't pay. To his knowledge they haven't had an issue. He is trying to get VT Trans to put up signs at Marshfield and at Walden and said that Cabot too far from Marshfield (4 1/2 miles and the maximum is 4 miles. Walden over 4 miles). He has now written to the governor. He showed us the design approved and the SB approved it. Mike wanted to know when 2 vehicles are charged – one person will only ½ but still pay .25 kilowatt.
8. Water/Wastewater – There was nothing to report.
9. Highway
 - a. Rusty grades roads – get dusty and they will chloride that afternoon next morning.
 - b. Working on Main Street – ordering 2 30" will have to close the road but it will not be for several weeks.
 - c. He is working on Allay May – we are talking about Mack Mtn. Road 2 years out. He asked Michelle if we could do a hydraulic study.
 - d. There is a possibility of grinding Old Route 2
 - e. There are possibly 5 dams at Gary Katz's place and he has called in help.
 - f. Recycle Center would like to get this tin on roof.
 - g. The 6 wheelers are running along with the spare truck is running. Aldo and Sid are looking into a new truck, but found they trucking companies are booking into August, 2022. If the voters pass for a new truck, it would cost around \$200,000 for six-wheeler 6-year warranty. He is not sure about leasing. We plan to rotate every 7-10 years. What about the skid steer – sell it and buy a sweeper for the loader and a culvert cleanout. They also need to purchase battery powered tools.
 - h. Other business - there was no other business.
10. Town Clerk's Office
 - a. Orders - signed
 - b. Common (The Green) – Portable Pavilion Sandy discovered that after the 4th of July it would be nice to have some type of structure. We need to look into what is the definition of permanent and non-permanent structure is. It would be shaded place small concerts, move to the ice rink in the winter. There is a lot of excitement and positivity and there have been responses by neighbors of their concerns every night of the week – number of questions – what does permanent and non-permanent mean – ideas of what it would look like, how much will be spent. What about size – 10x15 or 15x15. We could use the Trampoline aluminum could be used on put on wheels. Can be 3-sided or just a roof. Add to it with a greater design. Mike wanted to know if it is this could be used for all kinds of events. We could incorporate the statue. Possible walking path – garden around the perimeter learn how to grow vegetables. Faith in Action is very interested in using the space. What about Insurance? Interesting concept. RD said she should talk with Dana. This may be a possibility for next year
 - c. Late Payments from CCA to CCIF – Wednesday had not paid for 4 months and water and wastewater – Lori on Friday and she paid 4 payments and paid water and wastewater, and this has happened previously.
 - d. Health Officer – will discuss later
 - e. Possible new member for DRB – Susan Carpenter – She will be invited to next meeting to see if she is still interested.
 - f. Other business - There was no other business.
11. Other Business – There was no other business.
12. Adjourn Fred, Ian 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer