Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

 Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2020

Via Zoom – Chairman Boisseau, Selectman Moore, Selectman Moritz, Selectman Caplain, Selectman Jensen.

Meeting opened at 6:00. Selectman Boisseau opened the meeting. He explained a quote from the Caledonian Record *that the process of selling the golf course has not gone well* was not something he said. He explained he did say it has been a challenging process, but the Board has worked very hard on this for 4 years. He also said it has been difficult for the Board to do this during a pandemic and wants to commend the Board for all the work on it.

**Story Brook Trail** - Hilary from the friends of the library said years ago they talked about doing a storybook trail and it wasn’t possible, but they decided to look into it and found it is possible with some cleaning up. She looked to see that it is on town property which it is and met with Sue Greenlaw to see if the kids could get to it from the school without having to go onto the road and they can. She met with other parties who are all supportive. The last step is to get input from the Board. Selectman Caplain asked if it crosses any snowmobile trails. She asked if there is a map that shows where they are. Selectman Caplain said he would have Scott Himmer get in touch with her. **Selectman Moritz moved to approve the Story Brook trail. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**Elections** – Moderator, Mary Lou Krambeer – She did a slideshow presentation. She said there are meetings online every week with the secretary of state, the AG’s office, moderators, Town Clerks, etc. Also, Bethlehem Election officials and Jack Anderson are meeting every 2 weeks. Ms. Krambeer explained the process of voting. People will be asked a series of health questions prior to entering Town Hall and masks will be provided for those that do not have any. Workers will be spaced out. She said they are waiting on more info about a guidance document about absentee ballots. Rules for preprocessing them are being figured out. Also waiting for more information on curbside and outdoor voting. She said everyone will be able to vote but just need to figure out how to make sure everyone stays safe. Ms. Krambeer explained the absentee ballot application process. She thanked the Board for allowing Nicole to help with absentee ballots in Mary’s absence.

**Trash/Furniture Dumping** – Selectman Caplain said someone came to him and said garbage and furniture has been thrown on the side of the road and asked that the Board do something. Selectman Moore said she talked with Chief DeMoranville about it and putting up cameras. She said they also talked about getting some signs put up. The Chief said the fine amounts are significant. The Board discussed the amount the fines should be. They will have a public hearing at the next meeting. April will reach out to Demo to create an ordinance and determine the maximum amount of the fine. Peter Roy said the state law fine is up to $1000.00 and the law is only good if it is enforced. He said maybe people charged with things should be published in the paper. Selectman Moore said it has been up to the Police Chief. Cheryl Jensen said there should be more transparency. There were multiple comments on opinions on making arrests public or not. Chairman Boisseau said it would be a future agenda item. Selectman Moritz said she would reach out to Chief DeMoranville.

**Solar Array** – Dan Crosby – Bethlehem Energy Commission (Mark Koprowski, Melissa Elander, David Van Houten, Mary Lou Krambeer, Bruce Caplain). Mr. Crosby Encouraged the Board to collaborate with schools to develop a solar project to offset current electricity costs. They would like the Board to apply for a grant to help pay for it. The committee would write the grant and submit it. He explained they do not have to accept funds if they decide not to go forward. Profile School solar project has financial benefit and environmental benefit. Town solar project could save over $600,000 over 30 years. Approximate cost of project $475,000. Grant could be up to $165,000. Cost to town could be $310,000. Savings on electricity is more than cost of loan so it is cash positive. It would be town land and town owned and would be at Bethlehem Elementary School. Mr. Crosby said he thinks they could have the grant written within a week. Ms. Krambeer said the amount of the grant is substantial and the money will be gone if they wait too long. She said they are only looking for approval tonight on pursuing the grant and said they will be looking for other funding options as well. Selectman Moritz asked how long they can use the funding if they are awarded it and was told 3 years. This project would help the elementary school, the library, and a good portion of the town buildings. Selectman Caplain said he thinks it is a great idea to submit for this and see where they can go if they get the grant. **Selectman Moritz moved to go forward with applying for the USDA grant for renewable energy. Selectman Jensen seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried. Melissa Elander will get the grant to the Board by Friday.**

**Other** – Request for April to take August 17 – 21 off for vacation. Board agreed. Selectman Jensen said Vivian W. asked about putting signs in front of town hall and heritage **encouraging people to fill out the census**. Selectman Jensen asked if anyone put in for the grants committee and was told no. The Board extended the deadline until the 24th of August.

Minutes – 27th – lost – tabled.

**At 7:05 Chairman Boisseau moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91A:3 II (a) (l) (d) (c) for Personnel, Legal, Real Estate, Reputation. Selectman Caplain seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

The Board discussed the sale of the country club.

**Selectman Moritz moved to approve the elderly exemption. Selectman Caplain seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

**No discussion on personnel.**

**At 8:02 Chairman Boisseau moved to adjourn. Selectman Caplain seconded. Roll call – all – motion carried.**

 Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant