

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting
Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98762048076>
MONDAY, April 27, 2020

6:00 P.M. WORKSHOP with Town Attorney re: solar array on Route 100

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Gruber, Stiles, Storey-King, Turner and Vail

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Turner, to accept the April 13, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Shane said that per Executive Order, the election will be moved to July 14th. Town Clerk, Tammy O'Donnell will explain later in the meeting under item number 20-023. We will be ready to open Town Hall when the Governor re-opens the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and ends the stay at home order.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

20 – 021 To authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement between municipalities in Cumberland County to provide mutual aid.

Police Chief Rumsey explained that this document has been updated since the last one was signed, mainly due to turnover in Police Chief's in Cumberland County. It has been reviewed by the City of Westbrook's attorney, which happens to be the same as our Town Attorney.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Copp, to authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement between municipalities in Cumberland County to provide mutual aid.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

20 – 022 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mass Gathering Permit for Binnie Media's Maine Ultimate Yard Sale to be held on June 13th at the Cumberland Fairgrounds. *TABLED BY APPLICANT*

Town Manager Shane explained that the applicant requested that their application be removed after this item was advertised. Staff is recommending tabling this item indefinitely.

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Turner, to table.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

20 – 023 To consider and act on rescheduling the June 9th Municipal Election to coincide with the State Primary Election on July 14th.

Town Clerk, Tammy O'Donnell explained that the Governor has passed legislation to move the June 9th State Primary Election to July 14th and said that the Municipal Officers must vote in order to move the June 9th Municipal Election to coincide with the State Primary Election on July 14th.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to reschedule the June 9th Municipal Election to coincide with the State Primary Election on July 14th.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

20 – 024 To set a Public Hearing date of May 11th to consider and act on forwarding to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and recommendation, a zone change request for a solar array on Route 100.

Town Manager Shane said that this parcel is in the MUZ (mixed use zone) and the 19.5 acres that the solar array will use are the only useable acres in the entire 50 acre parcel. For him, it would be a hard sell to give that up for a solar farm when we only have 8% of our land in commercial zones. Commercial properties bring in quite a bit in tax values. This is not anything against the use, solar is a great use, but he doesn't think we want to give up an entire zone for solar panels.

Councilor Copp agreed. He is not in favor of this project and we should stop this now and tell the developer that we are not interested in this project.

Councilor Turner said that it seems obvious that the entire Council agrees with Councilor Copp. The idea of having the Planning Board go through the motions and put in the work on this just to send the Council a recommendation that we would refuse. It seems silly. We should send a clear message to the developer now.

Councilor Vail said that he would like to have a workshop in the future with the Town Planner to talk about what this parcel could be used for.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Turner, to **not** set a Public Hearing date of May 11th to consider and act on forwarding to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and recommendation, a zone change request for a solar array on Route 100.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

V. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Stiles – his new business is staying home and trying to stay healthy. He has some family members who are recovering from COVID-19 so he and his wife are weary.

Councilor Gruber – the food pantry served 68 families last week and the numbers are increasing. Our volunteers are simply amazing! We have been recognized by many organizations for our safe practices in distributing food.

A shout out to Councilor Copp for the use of a van for the food pantry to pick up food. Ron also assisted him last week when he had a flat tire on Route One. Thank you Ron!

Jim Guidi is doing a fundraiser for our food pantry. He is selling shirts that recognize many organizations that are contributing to our community.

He is looking into funding available through Community Development Block Grants and we have an opportunity for potential funding for our food pantry.

Councilor Copp – he hasn't been able to make his donation to the food pantry due at every Council meeting because of social distancing, but he will make it up when we are able to be back together.

Councilor Turner – he said that he appreciates the fact that Councilor Stiles is staying home and doing what he is supposed to do as far as social distancing. He is proud of Cumberland. Everybody seems to be doing the right thing.

Councilor Edes – none

Councilor Vail – he is concerned about the recent closures of meat packing plants around the country. He wants us to do an inventory of our agricultural land and proposes that we have the Lands and Conservation Commission inventory it for us. He feels that this is important to know what it would take to feed our community if need be.

Chairman Storey-King - She attended a GPCOG meeting regarding where municipalities were with their budgeting process. She is proud of our Town Manager, staff and the Finance Committee who realized early that we needed to make cuts to our budget. A lot of Towns are still working on their budgets. There was another GPCOG meeting today about regionalization around decision making. The five areas that people want to discuss further are: the mandatory use of masks, allowing construction (or not), use of parks and trails, requiring that all dogs be leashed, and the opening of municipal buildings and facilities. It was a very interesting meeting.

Town Manager Shane – we will be updating the map with the inventory of agricultural lands per the recent Comprehensive Plan. We are trying to make sure that these lands have not been developed so they can be counted as agricultural land.

The Finance Committee will meet next week to review the new budget. The new budget is approximately \$900,000 lower than it was a month ago.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Vail, to adjourn.

Roll call vote: Councilor Copp, yes; Councilor Stiles, yes; Councilor Vail, yes; Councilor Gruber, yes; Councilor Edes, yes; Councilor Turner, yes; Chairman Storey-King, yes. UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary