

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting
Town Council Chambers

MONDAY, March 11, 2019

5:30 P.M. Finance Committee Budget Workshop

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

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

Excused: Councilor Stiles

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Turner, to accept the February 25, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Councilor Storey-King said that every year, her 7th grade class enters Maine Municipal Association's essay contest "If I Led My Community". They have entered 4 out of the last 5 years and every year, they have had a winner. This year's winner is Lucie Noonan.

Lucie read her winning essay, "If I Led My Community".

If I lead my community, I would not make many changes. If I were a leader here, I would continue to promote our sense of community, sustain the amount of funding going into our school system, and decrease suburban development here a substantial amount. Although I already think of Cumberland as the perfect town, here are three small improvements that could be made to make it just a bit better.

One thing I would do is continue to promote our sense of community. Our community here is open to all and welcome to new individuals. When I first moved here I did not know anyone, but I quickly made many new friends and I felt more at home than ever. If I had the power to, I would promote and financially support events, such as the annual tree lighting, that gather a lot of people. I would also bring forward new ideas for community gatherings. This would help to sustain our feeling of togetherness as a town. In short, if I led my town I would continue to strengthen the bond in our community.

Equally important, if I were a leader in my town I would sustain and possibly increase the amount of funding that goes into our school system. Our school system has an extensive curriculum and makes great use of its resources. The school system uses its resources well, but they could use a bit more funding. Although some people may think that pumping cash into our school system is not needed and the money could be misused, I know and would trust that they would put the money in the right places. To reiterate, if I were a community leader I would sustain and perhaps enlarge the amount of money spent on our schools.

Lastly, if I were a leader, I would prevent the town from cutting down too many trees for increased development. Cumberland is not a large town, and I am not opposed to some expansion here. However, when the town sells beautiful, untouched land for building more houses, it makes me upset. To see trees being cut down for very little reason unsettles me a bit. If I had more power in this town, I would still allow

the town to sell land to companies to build on, but it would be less land and fewer lots. To restate, if I were a leader I would slow the development here a fair amount.

To conclude, if I led my community, I would make few changes. I would simply continue to strengthen our community by promoting events, introduce a slightly larger budget for our schools, and slow the expansion of the town by selling off fewer, smaller lots to builders. I love it here, and these changes are the only ones I could really think of as I definitely think of this town as the perfect place to live already.

Councilor Storey-King presented Lucie with a certificate and Visa gift card.

Town Manager Shane reported that he and members of the Climate Action Team met with ReVision Energy last week and they informed us that our project is in the queue and they are getting ready to order the solar panels for our solar array that will be constructed on the closed landfill site on Drowne Road. It should be up in running by the end of June. In the past, communities and organizations were allowed to generate a power purchase agreement for up to 9 CMP accounts and up to .6 megawatts of power. If the current legislative proposal passes, the 9 accounts will expand to up to 200 accounts and the .6 megawatts of power will increase to 2 megawatts of power. This is important because our school currently uses approximately 2 megawatts of power, so in the future our schools could be powered by solar energy.

The Town Council will hold its final budget workshop this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. The budget article that was reported in the Forecaster a few weeks ago stated that we were looking at an increase of approximately 2.5%. The Town Council has cut that in half and the budget increase is now down to 1.27%. He feels that we are bringing a very responsible budget to the finish line.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Bruce Flaherty of Augusta said that he is very involved with the Spirit of America Foundation, a volunteer recognition program. He explained that during the month of June a recipient is chosen and will be honored at a function hosted by Cumberland County Officials. He urged the Council to choose a person, program or group for their outstanding community service to be honored at their award ceremony in June.

Cathy Wright of Skillin Road thanked the Council for the service that they do for the community. Mrs. Wright announced that there would be a meeting with West Cumberland residents and Councilor's Copp and Stiles for the purpose of discussing the concerns and dreams of West Cumberland. The meeting will be held on March 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the West Cumberland Community Hall.

David Goldman of 15 Bradbury Way asked if there was an update to the methane discovery at the Public Works facility that affected a few of the homes in the Village Green neighborhood.

Town Manager Shane said that it was discovered that in one of the 3 homes affected, the foundation drain went through the landfill area, causing the methane beneath the ground surface to escape through a perforated pipe and into their basement. The pipe was cut back, capped, and a solid pipe was installed in its place. We feel that we found the source of methane in that home and the vents that were installed at Public Works seem to be working. We will continue to monitor the area on a regular basis.

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

19 – 036 To appoint Peter Bingham as Recreation Director.

Town Manager Shane said that it is with extreme pleasure that he recommends for the Council's consideration, Peter Bingham as our next Recreation Director. Pete is somebody that puts everybody ahead of himself and he has been an outstanding team player in everything that he does. The After School Program that Pete developed is the most successful program that we have ever run in our Recreation department. Last year, the department more than paid for itself.

Chairman Copp asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to appoint Peter Bingham as Recreation Director.

VOTE: 5-0-1 (Bingham abstained) MOTION PASSES

19 – 037 To appoint Helene DiBartolomeo as Finance Director.

Town Manager Shane said that Helene previously worked for a school district in Florida where she had to interact closely with school officials, which is very close to what she will be doing here. Helene is a CPA and brings a lot of experience with working with budgets and capital planning.

Chairman Copp asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Turner, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to appoint Helene DiBartolomeo as Finance Director.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

19 – 038 To reappoint William Longley as Code Enforcement Officer and Dan Small as alternate from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Town Manager Shane said that this is an annual appointment and staff is recommending reappointment of both.

Chairman Copp asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

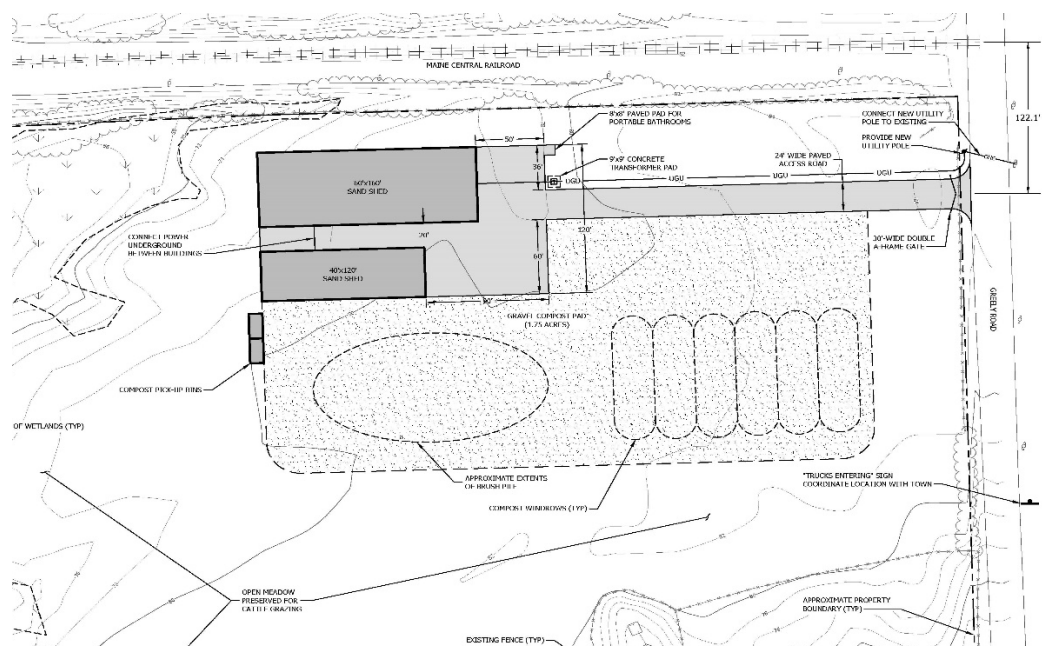
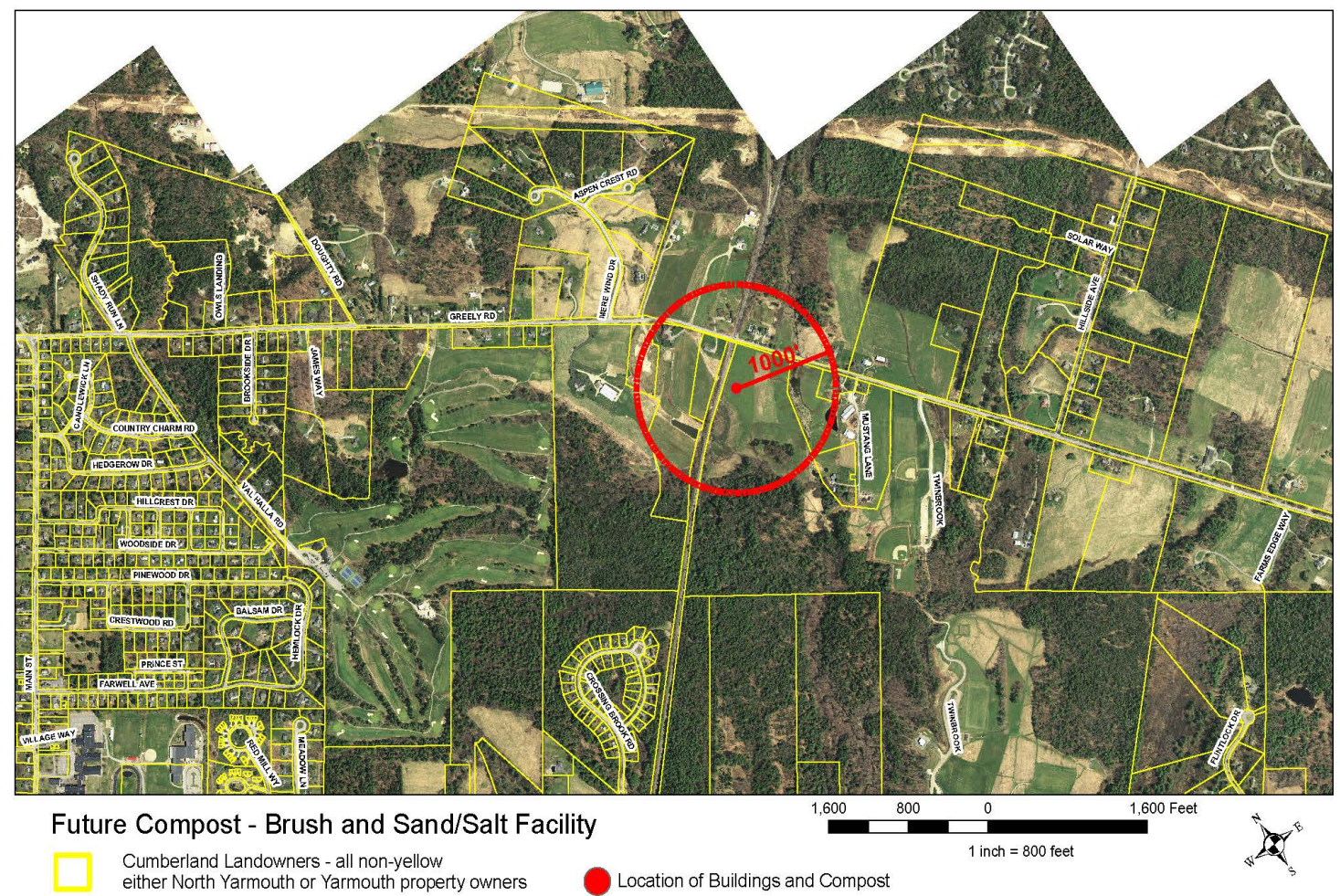
Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to reappoint William Longley as Code Enforcement Officer and Dan Small as alternate from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

19 – 039 To set a Public Hearing date of March 25th to consider and act on sending an application to the Planning Board for a new compost, brush facility and salt shed to be located on Greely Road near the railroad tracks.

Town Manager Shane referred to the map below. The section in the red circle is next to the railroad tracks on Greely Road, which is the proposed new location for the compost, brush facility and sand/salt shed. The buildings would be located approximately 400 feet back from Greely Road. This location is on the side of Twin Brook that is not used. The proposal includes a 60x100 sf sand shed and a 40x120 sf salt shed. Some of the existing frame

work from Drowne Road would be used. We would go to the Planning Board in April for approval to begin constructing the new compost pad and brush storage area.



Motion by Councilor Bingham, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to set a Public Hearing date of March 25th to consider and act on sending an application to the Planning Board for a new compost, brush facility and salt shed to be located on Greely Road near the railroad tracks.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Bingham – none

Councilor Gruber – there was a neighborhood meeting last week with the Route One neighbors of Heritage Village in regard to their Contract Zone Agreement amendment request. There was a lot of good feedback received and it was a very productive meeting.

Councilor Edes – condolences to the Dews family on the passing of Chuck Dews. Chuck started Dews Doors and was a longtime member of the Cumberland Fire Department.

Councilor Storey-King – congratulations to Greely boys and girls basketball and Greely boys hockey who all won state titles.

She attended a meeting earlier today regarding elementary kindergarten and pre-kindergarten, school capacity and what the future might bring. One of the interesting things is that a 2009 study was 250 pupils off and another study was over 300 pupils off from today's projection.

If you see Carol Storey out and about this week, wish her a Happy Birthday. She turns 86 on Friday.

Chairman Copp – he also sent condolences to the Dews family. Chuck was a lifelong friend and a good businessman. The Dews are a good family and Chuck did many good things for this community.

Councilor Turner – Pete Wilson lost his mother this week. Doris Wilson was Mabel I. Wilson's daughter and if it hadn't been for Doris, we wouldn't have the affordable housing development on Morrison's Hill. She was a very interesting lady who was a Sergeant in the Army and worked as a military nurse. She was a good friend and he will miss her.

Town Manager Shane – this Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. there will be a budget workshop in the Council Chambers. The Council will be reviewing the budget one last time from beginning to end.

Nomination papers are available now in the Town Clerk's office and are due to be returned by April 15th. There are 2 Town Council and 2 School Board seats.

There will be a joint meeting with the Town Council and Planning Board to discuss a Contract Zone Agreement amendment for Heritage Village on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:00 p.m.

With a little over a minute left in the boys basketball playoff game, Coach Seaver called a time out and every senior came off the bench. Coach Seaver made sure that every senior had an opportunity to play. Coach Seaver knows what it means to be a good coach.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary