

# MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

**MONDAY, September 9, 2019**

## 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 Copp, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to accept the August 26, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

### II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Paving in West Cumberland and Tuttle Road will begin in the next few weeks.

Some drainage work will be done on the Winn Road end of Range Road beginning tomorrow. This will only take a couple of days.

The Route 100 waterline extension will be done later in the fall.

### III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

### IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

#### **19 – 113 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on forwarding to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and recommendation, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to create an Institutional Overlay District for LED signs, as recommended by the Ordinance Committee.**

Town Manager Shane said that this is our second attempt to allow LED signs in a small area of Town, from the Congregational Church to the Middle School. The signs would only be allowed to have a black background with white letters. The action this evening is to send this to the Planning Board for the technical requirements to be considered and send a recommendation back to the Council.

Chairman Storey-King opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: None

Chairman Storey-King closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Storey-King said that the first time that the Council considered this, we tried to keep it simple. When it went to the Planning Board it got to be more inclusive rather than restrictive, and we ended up abandoning the whole process. It is back again with a small number of institutions being allowed to use a small LED sign.

Councilor Vail said that he would like to remove the reference “LED” sign because it represents a technology today that may not be relevant tomorrow. He would rather use the term “lighted”.

Town Manager Shane agreed and said that the definition in the ordinance would be “electronic message center sign”.

Councilor Stiles said that he would be comfortable with a sign that doesn't change or move rapidly. He also wouldn't mind allowing different colored lettering.

Councilor Turner said that the Town of Windham also struggled with this issue and how often the message should be allowed to change. They decided to restrict it to once a day. When we discussed this issue the first time, the Council decided that we don't want these signs all over Town, but if we do want to allow them on a restrictive basis, what legal ramifications will there be to restricting them? This current proposal doesn't run a foul with the law and it gives us an opportunity to make the decision over time to allow more of them if we choose to.

Councilor Copp said that he has no problem forwarding this to the Planning Board for their recommendation, but he does not think that it is fair to only allow the schools and a church to use the signs. They don't pay taxes. There are taxpayers in this Town who might want an LED sign and it won't be allowed for them. Let's do this right and do it once. It needs to be fair for everybody. He suggested putting one outside Town Hall and see how it goes.

Councilor Edes said that he supports this and it will give us a good template to work with. He thinks that we can look at it in 6 months or a year and possibly add other business.

Councilor Gruber said that he is in favor of this and he agreed with Councilor Edes that we can look at it later to see if the area where it is allowed should be expanded.

Councilor Vail agreed with Councilor Copp. If we are creating something for a very small minority, he feels that some further discussion on the Council's part is warranted.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Edes, to forward to the Planning Board for additional technical specifications, a Public Hearing and recommendation, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to create an Institutional Overlay District for Electronic Messaging Signs, as recommended by the Ordinance Committee.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**19 – 114    To authorize the Library/Historical Building Committee to begin fundraising for the Library and Historical Society renovation project.**

Town Manager Shane said that we are hoping to raise between 4 and 6 million dollars for an addition to the Library that would also connect to the Historical Society building. There are folks in town who have expertise in fundraising and they could be instrumental in a successful fundraising campaign, but he is not sure that they would want to be permanent committee members. He would like to advertise for a fundraising committee and the Nominating Committee could interview the applicants and make appointments in October. This is a significant capital campaign and it will take 3 to 5 years to get us there.

Chairman Storey-King asked for any public comment on this item.  
No public comment.

Councilor Turner said that a 7 member committee sounds reasonable to him.

Councilor Stiles said that he strongly urges that the nucleus of this fundraising committee be some of the members of the Library/Historical Society Building Committee. The Nominating Committee could appoint up to 7 members to the fundraising committee. He recommended approaching Jennifer Robinson, Paul Draper, Jerry Benezra and Linda Fulda as initial members of the committee, as they know the project and have fundraising experience.

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Turner, to authorize the Library/Historical Society Building Committee to begin fundraising tax deductible donations for the Library and Historical Society renovation project. Further moved to appoint Jennifer Robinson, Paul Draper, Jerry Benezra and Linda Fulda as original committee members to serve on the fundraising committee, if they are so willing.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**19 – 115    To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Principals Association Regional Cross Country Championships to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Twin Brook.**

Chairman Storey-King opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: none

Chairman Storey-King closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Copp, to approve the Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Principals Association Regional Cross Country Championships to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Twin Brook.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**19 – 116    To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Principals Association State Cross Country Championships to be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Twin Brook.**

Chairman Storey-King opened the Public Hearing.

Public discussion: none

Chairman Storey-King closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Edes, to approve the Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Principals Association State Cross Country Championships to be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Twin Brook.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**V.        NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilor Vail** – he would like to start a conversation regarding building a nursing home in Town, much like the Barron Center in Portland. We have assisted living facilities and we have senior housing, but the time is long overdue for a nursing home.

**Councilor Gruber** – none

**Councilor Edes** – none

**Councilor Stiles** – the Cumberland Fair is coming up and he reminded the public that he continues his efforts to collect money for the 4-H auction that will benefit the Food Pantry.

**Chairman Storey-King** – she thanked Councilor Gruber for his regular visits to the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough through the Vet to Vet program. He has been making weekly visits to her dad, which she and her family appreciate.

She received an email from a citizen regarding the cross walk at the Library. There is a blind spot there and we should take a look at making it safer.

There will be a site walk this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the proposed site for the compost pad and sand/salt shed on the town owned land adjacent to the Town Forest. The public is welcome to attend.

**Councilor Copp** – with all the construction going on around Town, Range Road has become very busy with detour traffic. Everybody should be conscious of the people who live on Range Road, mind the speed limit, and be aware of the increased traffic.

**Councilor Turner** – there have been a lot of complaints about the railroad crossings in Town. He agrees that they could be a little smoother, but they are definitely better than they were.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore  
Council Secretary