

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

West Cumberland Hall

MONDAY, November 11, 2019

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

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

Excused: Councilor Stiles

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Copp, to accept the October 25, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

The moving of the historical society building has been postponed to December 10th. The reason is because materials needed for the job and equipment the moving company had reserved and counted on for this move, have been delayed. We will be proceeding with the foundation and having our surveyor lay out the walls on top of the footings to be sure the building fits. If for some reason the December date gets cancelled, it will likely have to wait until spring.

Town Manager Shane introduced Stephanie Copp, who reported that the Randy and Elvin Copp have submitted a sketch plan for a new 60 acre quarry operation in Windham, very close to the Cumberland Town line and Forest Lake. Access to the operation will be from a new access road from Goose Pond Road.

Town Manager Shane added that he and Chairman Storey-King were very successful in working with the Town of Windham in tightening up their ordinance back in April, when the Copp's submitted a similar plan. The old ordinance prohibited access to Lakeside Drive, which is the main road that goes around the lake. Most people assumed that the prohibition that Windham enacted would have ended the Copp's application. The new plan proposes a road through private property, which is owned by many landowners and referred to as the Copp heirship land in Cumberland and Windham. It will be very interesting to see how the Windham Planning Board will determine right, title and interest of that land. We will be expressing our concerns to our attorney's because the access road will be off Goose Pond Road in Cumberland.

Email from Cathy Wright of Skillin Road:

I was surprised to see in Forecaster that SAD51 is searching for a location for a Pre-K and K school. I thought they were planning to add to MIW School. Now it seems there is no room. There would be if there weren't so many people parking there. That lot is full of cars and certainly elementary age and middle school age children don't drive. Perhaps they could consider expanding there and having a rideshare lot elsewhere or perhaps relocating the Superintendent's office and expanding there. After all the ONE CAMPUS was the trend. As you ponder all this remember that their predictions of declining enrollments were off causing voters to agree to close Drowne Road and Memorial Schools. It is just as likely, they are off again. But this is all a discussion for a later time.

One of the locations you are considering for this new school appears to be by the railroad tracks on Tuttle where the new sand and compost pads are being relocated. PLEASE look at the long view. Traffic is already a nightmare at the high travel times in the morning and afternoon. You have a unique opportunity to be forward thinking and use that location for a train depot as Amtrak expands its routes. If you recall about 10 to 15 years ago, Pineland was investigating getting a train line from Portland to New Gloucester again for its workers. This is the wave of the future, and Cumberland is uniquely positioned to take advantage of it with the Tuttle Road location which could be used for an Amtrak and Breeze depot, a rideshare for commuters and school staff, as well as the final relocation of the Town Garage and reclamation of the current Town Garage location to complete Phase 3 as promised to the homeowners there. I travel 3 - 5 days a week to the Freeport Y. Frequently, in even good weather, the traffic is at a near standstill on 295 and rerouted to Route One. I used to use both those routes to get to work in Portland and it was bad in 2012 when I retired. It is an ordeal to make it to Portland these days for doctors' appointments in morning. I pity the folks that must do it each weekday. Instead of being myopic, look at the broad picture and for the future. Cumberland is a growing town for sure. There will be a need for new schools and new transportation accommodations in the not so distant future. As you contemplate what you want Cumberland to look like in 25 years when we are all gone, I think you just might make the right decision.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was an open discussion with the Council members and those in the audience regarding the budget, taxes, and a new elementary school that may be built.

Councilor Copp excused himself and left the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

19 – 131 To consider and act on amending the Conservation Easement to add additional land to Rines Forest.

Penny Asherman of the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust explained that an additional 52 acres was purchased from the Rines family. Closing on the property is coming up next week and the additional acreage will have to be added to the existing Rines Forest Conservation Easement so it can be protected in perpetuity. Rines Forest is truly a gem in our Town. The Land Trust raised \$110,000 for the purchase of this parcel as well as a \$125,000 grant from the U.S. Forestry Service, which is more than half of the purchase price.

Town Manager Shane reminded the Council that action on this item is to add the 52 acres to the Rines Forest Conservation Easement. Council approval of the purchase has already occurred.

Chairman Storey-King asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to amend the Conservation Easement to add additional land to Rines Forest.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

19 – 132 To authorize the Town Manager to enter into a 6-year lease agreement for golf carts at Val Halla.

Town Manager Shane explained that every 5 to 6 years, we enter into a new lease agreement for golf carts at Val Halla. The carts generate approximately \$25,000 of annual net revenue. This lease will be \$87,300 annually for six years and rentals and advertising have consistently exceeded \$105,000 annually. The cost of cart rentals with this new fleet will increase by approximately 10%

Chairman Storey-King asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Turner, to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a 6-year lease agreement for golf carts at Val Halla.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

19 – 133 To award the bid for construction of a new compost pad and salt shed area.

Town Manager Shane explained that last Thursday, we opened bids for the new compost pad and sand/salt shed, and Storey-Brothers was the low bidder. Staff is recommending acceptance of Storey Brothers bid of \$535,638.00. Work will have to be completed by December 31st. The DEP order states that all the material that is currently located at the Drowne Road facility must be removed by December 31st.

Chairman Storey-King asked for any public comment.

Cathy Wright asked how many acres this project will take up on the land adjacent to the Town Forest.

Town Manager Shane said that it will occupy approximately 3.5 acres toward the rear of the parcel.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Vail, to award the bid for construction of a new compost pad and salt shed area to Storey Brothers.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Storey-King abstained) MOTION PASSES

Councilor Copp returned at 8:30 P.M.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Vail – he would like to give some consideration to term limits to the 2 At-Large Town Council seats. He appreciates the institutional memory of long-term Council members, but he feels that some turnover would be a good thing. He is concerned about the lack of institutional memory on the School Board. School Board members typically only serve as long as their children are in school.

He would still like to have a discussion about having a nursing home in our Town such as Portland's Barron Center.

Councilor Gruber – the Aging in Place (AIP) forum was held on Saturday at the Performing Arts Center. It was very well attended. Thank you to the AIP committee for a very good job organizing the event.

The annual Fill-a-Bus, Fill-a-Belly event to provide food for the Food Pantry was another huge success. The school collected over 6,000 pounds of food for the Food Pantry.

On Election Day, we collected 6 grocery carts of food for the Food Pantry.

His very dear friend, Roger Young passed away recently. Roger and his family are all very good people and he will be missed.

Councilor Edes – condolences to the Burr family. Peter Burr passed away recently. Peter was a good man.

Councilor Copp – he had to leave the meeting this evening to help a vehicle that slid off the road. He donated the \$100 that he earned for this and donated it to the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving.

Chairman Storey-King – she attended the funeral services for Roger Young and Peter Burr. Both were from wonderful families and their services were very well attended.

Councilor Turner – none

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary