

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

Monday, September 11, 2023

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Douglass, Edes, Filson, Storey-King and Vail

Excused: Chairman Segrist

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to accept the August 28, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Shane reported that the gravel work in the parking lot of Town Hall is complete. Around the end of the month, paving the entire surface will take place. It looks like we may have to close Town Hall on the Thursday and Friday that the paving will happen. With the tack that goes down on the surface and the potential of it getting tracked into the building, would be an absolute mess. The problem is there will not be much advance notice since paving is weather dependent. The Farmer's Market will also have to be moved or cancelled.

In regard to the Request for Proposals for the affordable housing project, he is waiting for the opinion of the Town Attorney regarding the Drowne Road property. The property was gifted to the Town from Elizabeth Drowne, and everything we do on the 100-acre parcel is reviewed by legal counsel. It should be approved and back by tomorrow and the final RFP will be posted on the Town website.

Construction on Main Street continues. This has been a very slow project. If the curbing portion of the project is delayed, it will have to wait until spring.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Heather Goddu of Kerry Drive said that she is the head of Foundation 51, which is a non-profit within our school district and is best known for awarding grants to enrich student learning. They also fund innovative ideas in teaching and learning, as well as discreetly working behind the scenes through the student assistance committee. They are also known for their very fun filled fall flings, and that is why she is here this evening. Tickets are now available for the Fall Fling that will be held on Friday, September 29th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Skyline Farm in North Yarmouth. You can purchase tickets online at www.foundation51.org or if you see any of the posters around town you can scan the QR code, and it will take you right to the website to purchase tickets. All of the proceeds fund their mission.

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

23 – 099 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mass Gathering Permit for Fiesta Shows Maine Celebration of Lights to be held from November 24th to January 2nd at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson explained that this will be the 3rd year that this event has happened at the fairgrounds. All the paperwork is in order and staff is recommending approval.

Councilor Storey-King said that when this event first came to the Town, she opposed it because it is a for-profit organization. Since they are paying the Farmer's Club, which she does support, she is in favor of it. She also heard a lot of positive comments about this event.

Vice Chairwoman Filson opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Vice Chairwoman Filson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Douglass, to approve the Mass Gathering Permit for Fiesta Shows Maine Celebration of Lights to be held from November 24th to January 2nd at the Cumberland Fairgrounds.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 100 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Principals Association Boys and Girls (Class A, B & C) South Regional Cross Country Championships to be held at Twin Brook on October 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Town Manager Shane said that this event has been happening for over 2 decades. Parking is at the school campus, which takes a lot of stress off Twin Brook. We are waiting for the updated insurance certificate, which will arrive any day now. Other than that, the application is complete, and staff is recommending approval. Recreation Director, Pete Bingham does a great job organizing this event every year. The basketball boosters will be doing the concessions.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Vail, seconded by Councilor Copp, to approve the Mass Gathering Permit for the Maine Principals Association Boys and Girls (Class A, B & C) South Regional Cross Country Championships to be held at Twin Brook on October 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 101 To adopt a new Town Council policy for Twin Brook Recreation Area re: endangered bird nesting.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson explained that there is still some ongoing dialogue between the Lands & Conservation Commission and the Forestry Subcommittee around the language in the policy. She suggested tabling this item until the policy is complete.

Motion by Councilor Douglass, seconded by Councilor Edes, to table.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

V. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Copp – Brenda Moore is absent from the meeting this evening, and it is her birthday today. He wished her a very happy birthday.

He noticed that there is a piece of bittersweet on display outside of Town Hall. He thinks the display is a great idea so everyone can identify the plants and see what the invasive species can do to a tree.

He donated \$20 to the 4-H fund that benefits the food pantry, as he does at every meeting.

Councilor Vail – every Sunday he takes his dogs for a hike in the Town Forest. Yesterday, while on his hike, he noticed something up in a tree. It was a gray owl. It was magnificent to see. There is a lot of wildlife out there.

Councilor Douglass – no new business.

Councilor Edes – his road was paved recently, and it looks great. It hadn't been paved in 36 years.

Happy birthday, Brenda.

Condolences to the Plummer family on the passing of Randy Plummer. He has known the Plummer family for 40 years and Randy was a great guy who gave back to the community. He will be sadly missed.

He recognized the passing of Jimmy Buffet. He was a fan and Jimmy was the best.

Councilor Storey-King – she sent her condolences to Nick and Christian Plummer for the loss of their dad, Randy. He always had a smile and a friendly greeting for everyone. She had known him since college. Randy was a stand-up guy.

In remembrance of 9/11, she would like to thank our first responders and public safety employees. They give of themselves every day, and this is an important day to remember.

She encouraged everyone to sign up to receive the library newsletter. They have a lot of great programs going on. They also collaborate with our Recreation department, the Land Trust, and the Historical Society.

She recently heard about a Maine Affordable Housing Conference taking place in October. She thinks it might be a good idea if a couple of our Town Council members attended.

Congratulations to Megan Grover and Ben Storey who got married this past weekend.

She wished good luck to Greely Football who play their first home game this Thursday night at 8:00.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson – there was a Lands & Conservation Commission meeting last Wednesday evening. The Forestry subcommittee is inviting the Town Council to do a site walk through the Town Forest on October 7th at 7:30 a.m. We will be looking at the areas that are being remediated for invasive plants and how that work in the Town Forest is different from some of the other work that's planned on other Town owned property.

The Lands & Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to help with the community orchard.

There was a story in the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust newsletter about using goats to help remediate poison ivy. It was an interesting article and she encouraged everyone to check it out.

- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841(2) to consider and act on an application for tax abatement based on hardship.
Motion by Councilor Douglass, seconded by Councilor Edes, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841(2) to consider and act on an application for tax abatement based on hardship.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:41 P.M.

Reconvene to regular session at 7:50 P.M.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Copp, to approve the property tax abatement request for case number 2023-001HA in the amount of \$7,198.46 for tax year FY2024, per the finding of fact and conclusions as discussed in Executive Session.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary