



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Thursday, June 29th, 2017
Captain Samuel Douglass Academy Cafeteria*

Selectboard members present: John Carr, Brendan Denehy, Tom Humphreys, Val Ogden and Eddie Arnold along with Town Administrator Tad Putney.
Also Present: Approximately 80 Brookline residents.

6:30 John opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Public input, discussion and re-evaluation of “TAP-2” sidewalk/bridge project

John read a prepared statement, which he had issued on June 23rd, and then discussed ground rules for residents addressing the agenda topic at the meeting.

Tad reviewed the content of a two-page handout, which provided background on the Town’s recent sidewalk construction projects.

Public input

Peter D’Agostino referenced a transparency petition signed by 86 people and requested that the Board reinstate TAP-2.

Michael Carr said he supports the TAP-2 project and thanked the Board for calling the meeting. He stated it is the Board’s job to consider all voters and urged them to vote on everyone’s behalf not just town meeting voters. He added that the Board needs to be mindful of Robert’s Rules going forward. ~

Tom Solon, Coop School Board member, stated that there are no large sums of money slated to be brought forth to Brookline voters from the schools in the next year.

Jason Kramarczyk, speaking on behalf of the 2017 Sidewalk and Trail Planning Group, said that 9% of the sidewalk survey respondents were non-residents, but included some non-resident business owners who pay taxes. He said he is in favor of TAP-2. He also stated he does not agree that Brookline cannot afford the sidewalks as we have already paid for it and we want our voice to count.

Melanie Levesque said she is in favor of TAP-2 adding that sidewalks provide safety for pedestrians and drivers and feels it is a good return on investment to build business

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and reduce the tax burden. She also broke down the \$7,200 cost overage for TAP-1 to approximately \$3.60 per household.

Peter Webb said while this is not a pure democracy, he considers it an abuse of the Board's authority to defy the voters from town meeting. He also expressed concern about conversations happening privately, between Board members, outside of meetings, which is not permitted per NH RSA 91-A. He asked the Board members if there were any discussions outside of the public meetings about this subject matter. Eddie said "yes", Val said "yes", Tom said "yes".

Drew Kellner referenced prior meeting minutes to suggest the expense issues related to Tap-1 had been discussed. Going forward, he suggested tightening of Robert's Rules to ensure all votes are accurately recorded. Drew asked the **Board** to vacate the decision to cancel TAP-2.

Jillian Ketchen thanked the Board for calling the meeting and spoke about what rural character meant to her. She also expressed how she feels about all of the hours the people on boards and committees have put into the sidewalk project just to be silenced. To allow the vote to go forward at the June 19th meeting without hearing from the people in the room was wrong.

Jack Flannagan expressed concern for coming expenses with the departure of the Road Agent. He said he supports the Board because they are doing the work. **John** said it was a culmination of so many things coming at once, but the vote is not final until he signs a letter officially cancelling the grant.

Dana Ketchen said this is less about the sidewalks and more about the trust of the town in the Board. She asked if anyone could recall a town meeting vote being overturned. None was identified.

Peter Webb asked about the legality of the Board overturning the vote of town meeting. **Tad** said he reached out to the staff attorneys at the NH Municipal Association prior to the vote and asked about the Board's ability to decline the grant despite the town meeting vote. He read the answer he received, which noted town meeting "authorizes" the Board to spend money, but it is up to the Board if they actually "allow" the expense. **Peter** responded that the people have given the Board a directive and the Board should follow the directive from the people.

Eric Broadhurst asked about the six-day frenzy where the Board thought it would need to come up with \$155,000. He asked if anyone asked the police to reduce their budget to pay for the sidewalk. **Tad** said he had attended a Department Head meeting during that six-day period where there was discussion about what the various departments could do with their budgets the help cover the costs, but it turned out the need to do so did not come to pass. **Eric** said that having been the victim of a burglary recently, he appreciated the Board "pumping the brakes" before taking money from the police budget to pay for a sidewalk.

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Jordan Bailey asked why the Board eliminated \$150,000 from the Capital Improvements Plan for sidewalks in 2019. **Eddie** said he had suggested it given other expenses that are on the horizon. **Jordan** said she uses the sidewalks and trails on a daily basis and hopes the board decides to accept the TAP-2 grant.

Loring Webster said he is in favor of the sidewalk projects and walks every single day on them. As for the care of sidewalks in winter, he has never felt unsafe. If there is ice on the sidewalks, they get sanded. He noted concerns for the safety of pedestrians crossing the current bridge on Mason Road.

KD Philpot thanked the Board for holding tonight's meeting and expressed concern that if the Board cancels TAP-2 it would adversely impact our ability to get grants in the future.

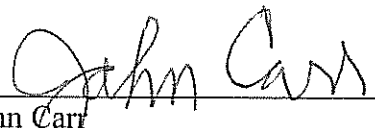
Buddy Dougherty said that Mason Road lost its rural character when Parker's Maple Barn opened years ago. He asked the Board to reconsider its vote from the last meeting so everyone could go home.

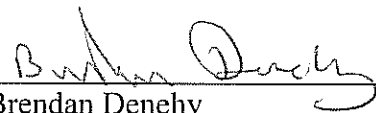
Val moved, seconded by Eddie, for the Town to proceed with TAP-2, as approved by the Department of Transportation, including safeguard measures to protect against cost increases; Voted Yes 5-0.

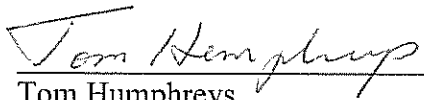
Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to authorize John to sign both the Substantial Completion Form and Certificate of Final Completion for TAP-1; Voted Yes 5-0.

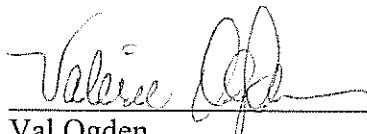
Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm.

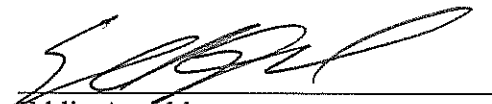
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.


John Carr


Brendan Denehy


Tom Humphreys


Val Ogden


Eddie Arnold