

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
November 21, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
The atrium, 18 Jacobs Road

Present: From the Finance Committee, Tom Lively (Chair), Will Emmet, Bob McGahan, and Ned Wolf, and at 6:10 after joining the Select Board, Robyn Provost Carlson (Chair), Susan Lively, Elissa Viarengo, and Town Coordinator Hilma Sumner with Brian DeVriese visiting 6:30 – 7:00 and Alice Wozniak of the Finance Committee arriving at 6:45

Tom called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Members discussed the feasibility study by Cudnofsky & Associates on replacing the current salt shed at that site. Bob shared his analysis of the report concluding that it “continues to be biased in favor of moving the salt shed to Bray Road in spite of no compelling evidence to support this recommendation.”

Bob writes “What the report fails to note, but is really the crux of the issue, is that the current salt shed is structurally unsound. This is, after all, why we want to replace it.” He suggests that we ignore the report and rely instead on “common sense and our own best judgement.”

Ned said his 2 reasons for favoring the current site were that site preparation at the current site would cost significantly less than at the Bray Road site and that early in the morning town trucks could more readily load up with sand/salt at the current site due to their closeness to the salt shed.

Will said that putting a new salt shed at the Bray Road site would preclude selling the Bray Road property and would force future building there.

Tom noted that almost every town nearby has a salt shed similar to ours. Spotters are needed to help prevent equipment from damaging the top of the entrance.

The committee was unanimous in questioning the rationale for moving to the Bray Road site.

Members read the minutes of the November 16th meeting. Will moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

At 6:10 the Finance Committee left the atrium to join the Select Board in the cafeteria.

During the public comment period Pam Porter reported that the Building Use Committee had voted in favor of closing the Community Hall for the winter unless it can be shown that the savings in cost would be less than \$1000.

Brian DeVriese, who arrived at 6:30, reminded committee members of maps made when Cudnohufsky & Associates reported on the Bray Road site. A driveway would have to be made from Bray Road.

He spoke of the congestion that would occur at the current site if the proposed replacement salt shed were built closer to the road as recommended. Space would have to be found on the other side of the road for plows, equipment, etc.

Robyn said that she would try to find someone who would provide free estimates for the costs of site work at Bray Road and at the current site of the salt shed.

Brian left the meeting at 7:05 after giving Tom information related to the feasibility study.

The Select Board accepted the resignation of Alice as the Boards Clerk. She discussed with the Select Board the position of Boards Clerk.

The Select Board discussed the possibility of a Host Community Agreement extension for 11 Bellor Road. Robyn reminded us that we voted as a town to allow a marijuana growing operation at 11 Bellor Road. She said that they intend to go forward with a new application.

The Finance Committee returned to the atrium at 7:40.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, December 21st at 6:30.

Will moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:51. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf