

**Town of Epsom  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM**

Virginia Drew – Chair  
Cheryl Gilpatrick  
Meadow Wysocki

Approved: **Gilpatrick / Wysocki**  
Vote: **3-0 In favor**

**Call to Order**

Ms. Drew called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Staff present: Andrea Novotney, Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Others present: Seth Little and Len Gilman

Mr. Little led the pledge of allegiance.

**Review and Accept or Amend Agenda**

Ms. Drew added an item concerning Board emails for discussion and Ms. Gilpatrick added a non-public for reputation.

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to accept the Agenda as amended. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously:** 3-0.

**Discussion**

**Town Hall Renovation Project**

Ms. Drew stated she had informed Milestone Engineering & Construction, SMP Architecture, and Laura Black at the Division of Historical Resources that Warrant Article #2 had passed. Ms. Drew informed the Board that the Town Hall Renovation Committee will have their last meeting this week and there are some Committee members interested in assisting the Board in an advisory capacity. Ms. Drew noted that the septic design will be a major factor in the timeline of the project. The Board discussed reaching out directly to the septic designer, Matt Moore, if George Carlson does not have an update at the upcoming Committee meeting. There will be a meeting this Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, with Milestone and SMP and the Board made the decision that all three members will attend. It was decided that the entire Board will be involved with the process and if needed certain tasks may be assigned to a specific Board member. Ms. Gilpatrick will reach out to the Planning Board Chair to see if a site-plan needs to be filed and Ms. Drew will reach out to the Zoning Compliance Officer concerning zoning permits. The Board discussed having Committee members Keith Cota and George Carlson assisting as project plan advisors due to their backgrounds in engineering and septic design. The Board also decided that Ms. Novotney will be the Town Office point of contact.

Ms. Drew stated she has been researching the history of several items stored at the Town Hall (piano, organ, Merrimack County map) and Mr. Gilman provided the information he had concerning those items. The Board discussed where those items would be stored.

### **Board Emails**

Ms. Drew informed the Board that Mr. Curley has requested to keep his Town issued email because of the BCEP emails stored there and his seeking appointment as the BCEP Citizen Representative. The Board discussed posting an announcement of the open BCEP appointments and asked that Ms. Novotney proceed with that. The Board will do an additional meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> where they will review the interested candidates. The Board also instructed Ms. Novotney to reach out to the current appointees to inform them as well. Ms. Drew noted for the Board that previous Selectmen no longer had access to their Town issued email after their term ended. Ms. Novotney noted the Town's Cyber Risk Policy states that former employees will have their user access rights terminated and as the account Administrator she can access any information stored in the email account, if needed. The Board instructed Ms. Novotney to terminate access rights to the email account and setup an away message.

Per a request by Len Gilman, the Board entered into a non-public session.

### **Non-Public Session #1**

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to enter into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 6:55PM. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Drew – Aye, Ms. Gilpatrick – Aye, Ms. Wysocki – Aye.

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to exit non-public at 7:13PM. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Drew – Aye, Ms. Gilpatrick – Aye, Ms. Wysocki – Aye.

It was determined by the Board that the discussion was a public discussion. The Board spoke with Len Gilman regarding concerns regarding the public perception of Ms. Drew's involvement as an employee of the State versus the work being done for the Old Town Hall and the Meetinghouse. He expressed his concerns of her ability to get the Citation for a previous Selectman upon his departure. Although he appreciates the work this past Selectman did for the Town, he felt that there was possibly a correlation between Ms. Drew's status as a State employee and the ability to get such a Citation. Ms. Drew explained that anyone can request these Citations and in no way does she feel her employment with the State either gives her an advantage to obtaining these Citations. She also noted that she does not work for the Governor, but is a legislative staff member. Ms. Drew feels that working for the state does not give her an advantage with the Meetinghouse or the Old Town Hall being passed by the Town's voters, which Mr. Gilman also expressed he and others had concerns with. Ms. Wysocki asked a few questions about the perception and Mr. Gilman clarified. Ms. Gilpatrick noted that the Board appreciates Mr. Gilman bringing forward his concerns. However, she felt that while the perception may have been a concern for Mr. Gilman, she disagrees regarding the correlation between Ms. Drew's job and the Meetinghouse and Old Town Hall projects. She was appointed by her other Select Board members to be the spokesperson and point person for these projects. She also noted that while Ms. Drew definitely wears her enthusiasm and pride in her work for these two projects on her sleeve, she does not see how this swayed the vote for these items to pass.

### **Non-Public Session #2**

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to enter into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 7:15 PM. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Drew – Aye, Ms. Gilpatrick – Aye, Ms. Wysocki – Aye.

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to exit non-public at 7:36 PM. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Drew – Aye, Ms. Gilpatrick – Aye, Ms. Wysocki – Aye.

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to seal the minutes. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Drew – Aye, Ms. Gilpatrick – Aye, Ms. Wysocki – Aye.

No decisions were made.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Drew and Ms. Gilpatrick suggested some documents that Ms. Wysocki may want to have to help her get acclimated. They also reviewed the AP and Payroll schedule with her and suggested some classes she may want to take. Ms. Drew noted the next meeting will have a discussion concerning liaisons for the different Departments, Committees, and Boards and asked the others to bring their ideas concerning what they would like to do.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board at this time,

**Motion by:** Ms. Gilpatrick to adjourn at 8:11 PM. **Second by:** Ms. Wysocki. **Motion passed unanimously:** 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Novotney  
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board