

Board of Selectmen  
Minutes March 16, 2021

Convened at 6:03 pm

Present: Ken Christiansen, Chair  
Andrew Artimovich  
Robert Mantegari  
Jon Morgan  
Jonathan Frizzell

Artimovich called the meeting to order. The board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mantegari made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Artimovich for Christiansen to be the Select board Chair. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye and Frizzell – aye. Christiansen – abstained. The motion for Christiansen to be Select board Chair carries.

Artimovich made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christiansen for Mantegari to be the Select board Vice Chair. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Christiansen – aye, Frizzell – aye and Mantegari abstained. The motion for Mantegari to be Select board Vice Chair carries.

The Board met and reviewed payroll, accounts payable and signed the register. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the recreation register that consisted of one deposit and two checks.

Christiansen gave thanks to Artimovich for his service as Chair last year and welcomed the two new Board members.

Jonathan Ellis was in to present the weekly Treasurer's report. Please see last page to view the report.

Mantegari made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Artimovich to approve the public minutes of 3/9/2021 as written. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – abstain, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – abstain and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

Mantegari made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Artimovich to approve the non-public minutes of 3/9/2021 as written. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – abstain, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – abstain and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

Kip Kaiser, Building Inspector, had the following building permits to be approved this week:

- Robert Lang, 2 Kadra Street, 11' addition & renovation of existing structure: signed by Board.
- Paul Breagy, 21 Longmeadow Drive, wiring for finished basement: signed by Board.
- Erica Gibb, 6 Fellows Road, strip and re-roof: signed by Board.
- Florent Martineau, 366 South Road, demo and rebuild 16x24 shed: signed by Board.
- Garrett Lasewicz, 58 Fellows Road, strip and re-roof: signed by Board.
- Phil Dudley, 24 Ladd Road, master bathroom renovation: signed by Board.
- Densen Construction, 113 Crawley Falls #2, wiring and plumbing of new dwelling: signed by Board.
- Brian Ross, 79 Mohawk Lane, finished basement with electrical added: signed by Board.

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- Sunrise Farms, 195 Route 125, LED lighting upgrade in walk-in cooler & walk-in freezer: signed by Board.
- Kris Magnusson, 1 Wendell Drive, plumbing for new kitchenette and 3/4 bath: signed by Board.
- Michael Laham, 81 Rowell Road East, plumbing for kitchen sink, dishwasher and washing machine: signed by Board.

Artimovich apologized for technical problems at tonight's meeting.

Christiansen read this week's notes:

- 1) Christiansen designated representatives for each committee:

Planning Board:	Jon Morgan
Conservation:	Jonathan Frizzell
Budget:	Andrew Artimovich
School Board:	Ken Christiansen
Library:	Robert Mantegari

- 2) The Spring and Summer meeting schedule will begin 4/6/21. Clement asked if the board wanted to post a meeting at 4pm on the "off" weeks or sign a consent agenda to authorize payroll with no official meeting? Christiansen stated that Board members would come in to sign the register and there will not be an official meeting.
- 3) Clement said chief Bird is looking to schedule Full time firefighter interviews on 3/25/21 in the am. Clement asked who will be the designee? Christiansen will be the designee. 8am start.

Clement read out the documents to sign:

- 1) Delegation of Deposit Authority. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to sign and approve the Delegation of Deposit Authority. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.
- 2) MS 232: Report of Appropriations Actually Voted. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to approve the Report of Appropriations Actually Voted. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.
- 3) Intent to cut for 89 Prescott Road. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to approve the intent to cut. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.
- 4) Financial Audit. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich for Christiansen to sign the letter of engagement with Plodzick and Sanderson and to authorize Clement to be the designee for this week's Audit. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

Jim Michaud was present to request a Large Event Permit for the Bash for Nash event he has planned at the New England Dragway on March 27<sup>th</sup> (rain day March 28<sup>th</sup>.) He explains that this is a fundraising

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event for the Rogers family on North Road who's 8-year-old son has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. There are expected to be 1000 – 2000 people in attendance and they have the appropriate insurance for the event. There will be Police detail from Epping and Brentwood PD and a small procession for the family before the event. The intent is to raise money for this family and future families going through this. Michaud asked for the blessing from the town to authorize the Large Event Permit. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to approve the large event permit. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries. Michaud went on to say that you can also donate on the Facebook page “bashfornash” if you cannot attend the event.

Kip Kaiser, building inspector – site visit report for 335 Rt. 125 – David Roberts regarding non-compliance. Christiansen suggested Morgan bring that to the Planning Board next week. No further action until then.

Chief Arcieri and Lieutenant Wicks presented the New Hampshire Highway of Safety grant to be signed that was previously approved by the Board. Wicks will be sworn in as the new Chief of Police at next week's Board of Selectmen meeting. The subject of the Police matrix is now tabled until next years budgets are being discussed.

Brentwood Newsletter (BNL). Christiansen asked who had asked for this subject to be put on the agenda and was advised that Suzanne Austin, South Road, (zoom) would speak to that. Austin explained that she had read the article by Richard Gagnon and she believes it to be racist, and objects to the fact that racism is not an opinion – that it causes direct and immediate harm to our community. Austin goes on to say that anyone can express racist views, just not in a Newsletter, as it appears that the Town is in agreement, and as taxpayers it should not be used in this way.

Mantegari said that the Town seal is not trademarked, and the Town name is not trademarked so we have no control over that. We do, however, allow the BNL to be on our website. Christiansen said that it is funded by the Town, however, we have never taken a position in the past. He said he appreciated the input and thanked Austin.

Jim Johnson, 31 Shannon Way, asked what part of the BNL does Austin find racist? Austin replies the entirety of it, specifically the center column at the bottom paragraph, discussing systemic racism.

Artimovich, Christiansen and Mantegari expressed that they had received emails and letters from residents regarding the BNL following this article.

Steve Dawson, 1 Ladd Road, expressed his concerns to be the same as Austin and that he had written to the Editor of the BNL. Dawson asks for a review on how it is governed, edited, selected, has an internal Board, what are the standards? He said there is no disclaimer stating this is not part of the town. Dawson said this is reasonable given the perception that this is the towns newsletter. We should be more transparent, that the accountability will be clear, more policies, more procedures.

Mantegari read the definition of an “op-ed” (opposite the editorial page), explaining that this is the opinion of an author and usually not affiliated with the publications editorial board. 1600+ mailing subscribers and 44 online subscribers. Morgan asked Mantegari to read the top of the BNL and Mantegari said it read “editorial by Richard Gagnon”, and therefore it is an editorial, not an op-ed.

Lois DeYoung, 105 Crawley Falls Road, said this is our first amendment right, it is written by a private corporation, a nonprofit private entity. We do not have the right to tell them what to say. It is

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someone's personal perspective. The Town voted on the budget last Saturday and was voted by the people. We should be allowed to make the payment to the BNL.

Edie Shipley, 229 Pickpocket Road, (zoom) said it is completely disingenuous to say this is not a town publication. They have over \$10k of taxpayer's money. Take off the Town website and let them be their own entity.

Alexandra Aldred-Cheek, 100 Lake Road, (zoom), says she has written for the paper for the school for years. We are paying for this newsletter and it appears to represent people in this town.

Bill Dunham, 9 Block Drive, asks are we here because of one person who disagreed with the article? Christiansen said no, many disagreed. Dunham asks for the funding or the article? Christiansen answered the funding. Dunham went on to say that he read the article and it was all factually correct, it is a political argument.

Christiansen stated that there will be no decisions made today, we are here to talk about it.

Artimovich said we need to have another discussion on this as a board and then post to hold another meeting in a bigger place, Brentwood Rec.

Rebecca Dunham, 9 Block Drive, agrees with Christiansen, this is not the evening for discussion. We need to develop the history and policies that have been in place in since it started in 1977.

Johnson asks the board to do due diligence in reading the BNL. He states there is no malice in this newsletter, all facts. The editor of the BNL did the right thing.

Michele Siudut, 287 Middle Road, spoke to the audience regarding her views on the BNL and that it is a bulletin board of things to come and a history book of things that have happened – like a town diary. She said that there was an opportunity for the town to discuss this at the Town meeting 3 days ago and she hopes the Board continues to support the BNL. We should be celebrated, tolerated.

Robin Wrighton, 102 Middle Road (editor of BNL), said that space is always limited in the newsletter, that she responds to all questions and listens to constructive feedback. The BNL evolves with every issue that is written by, and for, all of us. Wrighton went on to say the BNL grows with constructive feedback, not reflection of her. Guidelines can be found on the website: [brentwoodnewsletter.org](http://brentwoodnewsletter.org). Wrighton said that she talks to Linda Rousseau often and they do not always agree on issues, however, Rousseau had said how deeply proud she is of Wrighton's work.

Christiansen thanked everyone for their patience. Artimovich explained that this is a public meeting, that means that the public are allowed to listen but not necessarily granted an option to speak. There are about 80 people on zoom and with about 1000 chat messages, the hot spot cannot support the connection much longer. He suggested the chat messages to be printed out for the board members to view and continuing this another time.

Harriett Ward, Chair of Trustees of the Pilgrim United Church in Brentwood (zoom) asks to speak as a non-resident at the request of Rev. Tara Olson-Allen, Pilgrim United Church, Middle Road. Ward stated that this was a rule of the Church as she is not a resident herself. Christiansen said no, he does not understand the comment and has no history in this regard. The Board will research Ward's presentation and if it is different, we will notify her for the next meeting.

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Ward Burn, 55 Rowell Road East, explained that we should not be having this discussion as it should have been addressed at town meeting. Otherwise, we can change any line item in the budget at any time. He reiterated that it should have been discussed at town meeting.

Kristen Aldred-Cheek, (zoom), says there's a difference between journalism and something that is taxpayer funded. She asks do we want an opinion piece or informative announcements? We need to talk about this for the future.

Christiansen explained that it was not addressed at town meeting on Saturday. No decision will be made tonight. At this point this matter is now closed.

Kim Leo, 23 Lebreux Street, said she was upset because she was concerned that the people on zoom were not being heard. Christiansen explained the internet issues and thanked Leo for her opinion.

At 7:35pm a motion was made by Artimovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christiansen to recess the meeting. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

At 7:41pm a motion was made by Artimovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christiansen to resume. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

Bill Faria, 209 South Road, has two issues to discuss in upcoming meetings. Trash contract – ask Casella to attend a meeting to explain to us what they are doing. Are they recycling? What do they do and how are they doing it? Are they making money? Get them in to discuss and on the record. The second issue is the make-up of the planning and zoning boards – this issue needs addressing as we need to be in compliance with regulations. Christiansen explained we will look into these.

Morgan explained that a considerable number of peoples voices were not represented tonight, and that we must hold a second forum so that all of our residents have a voice, both in person and on zoom, regarding the Brentwood Newsletter. There were a lot of people that could not participate today. Mantegari confirmed that we have Wi-Fi at the Rec now. Morgan reiterated that many people were very upset, and he empathizes with them.

Stephanie Lewendon, 58 Lyford Lane, said she finds it very hard to figure out how to get involved in the town. We need better communication in what is being discussed. Interested in learning about the community, not political.

At 7:49 pm a motion was made by Mantegari, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Morgan to adjourn. Artimovich – aye, Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, Frizzell – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parkhurst

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WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE:

**3/16/2021**

**Citizens General Fund:**

Previous Balance:	14,929.15		
Deposits:	39,575.54		
Payroll:	23,177.46	DD: \$21474.47	CK: \$1702.99
FICA:	5,247.31		
to Impact Fees			
A/P: Regular	\$280,963.46	Swasey: \$205,000*	*VIA ACH
Non-A/P			
void checks	885.00		
From MMA	270,000.00		
TO MMA			
Account Balance:	16,001.46		
Interest Earned YTD:	2.75		
CD's			
<b>MMA:</b> Unrestricted Balance:	4,201,259.67		
Total Invested			
Funds:	4,201,259.67		
Interest Earned YTD:	961.27		

Jonathan Ellis, Treasurer

Joyce A. Gallant, Deputy Treasurer