

Town of Sorrento
Board of Selectpersons Minutes
Town Office
5/1/24

Attending: Hilly Crary (chair), Rob Wilpan (deputy chair), Diana Gazis, 7 people in person, 4 on ZOOM.

Call to order, good news report. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. The good news was that the Earthday Roadside Cleanup on April 21 was a success, with 14 residents and 1 dog participating. Among the roadside trash were \$31 (donated to the pollinator meadow) worth of returnable cans and one cell phone. The other good news was that 2 American chestnut saplings have been donated to the town and planted in the pollinator meadow near the town office.

Adjustments. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Minutes of the 4/17/24 Selectboard meeting. The minutes of the 4/17/24 selectboard meeting were approved and then signed. The motion to approve was made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Hilly Crary and passed, Wilpan aye, Crary aye, Gazis aye.

Disbursement warrant #21. A motion to approve disbursement warrant 21 was made by Diana Gazis, seconded by Hilly Crary, was passed unanimously, and then signed.

Animal Control Officer. A motion was made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Hilly Crary, and passed unanimously to hire Carleton (Pepper) Mitchell as Animal Control Officer (ACO). The Animal Control Agreement with Pepper was signed by the selectmen and will be given to Pepper to sign. Pepper has 6 months (starting from the end of December) to complete on-line training and will then become a certified ACO.

Safer railings Town Pier walkway Mike and Heather Parker have offered to pay for the installation of a guard (designed by Henri of Custom Float, who built our new walkway and float) on the bottom portion of the railing on the town dock in order to protect children and pets from accidentally falling through the railing. Rob Wilpan proposed and Diana Gazis seconded a motion to approve the Parkers' proposal and the motion passed unanimously. Because the dock is town property, the town instead of the Parkers must make the actual payment to the contractor. The Parkers will then reimburse the town for the expense.

Town Pier power and Webcam updates The town has only been able to obtain two quotes for repair to the Town Pier power supply. Rob Wilpan proposed and Diana Gazis seconded the motion that the town accept Bud Lee's quote for repair of the power supply. The motion passed unanimously. For webcam surveillance of the harbor, it was proposed that the town install 3 web cameras on a pole by the dock for surveillance in different directions. These cameras would make digital recordings which could be accessed on the internet by selected people. Funding for webcam surveillance may be placed on the warrant for the town meeting.

Sand and Salt Shed electricity update. Our last bill for Sand and Salt Shed electricity was \$248, which seems inappropriately large. To determine whether the problem is due to a faulty meter or a fault in the shed's electrical system, electricity will be completely shut off in the shed for a month to see whether the bill for that month stays high or decreases to the small monthly maintenance charge.

Ooma Phone update. The Ooma phone installation in the Firehouse and Community Building is an internet-connected phone service for which we pay \$7 per month. It replaced a previous service that cost \$100 per month. In the Community Building, this phone has been used in the past during voting. However, it is not currently used for this purpose and the Fire Department says it does not need this service. Hilly Crary proposed and Rob Wilpan seconded a motion to terminate this service. The motion passed: Wilpan aye, Crary aye. Gazis abstained from voting.

Midden protection update The town has received signs from the MHPC (Maine Historical Preservation Commission) to post at the Middens near the Village Green saying "Posted: No Ground Disturbance" There is a \$1000 penalty for violations.

Meet the candidate. Myles Bierman, the candidate for selectperson, does not want to participate in a 'meet the candidate' session such as the town has had previously so that voters can learn more about a candidate's background and views. He said he would be available by phone (669-2364) to answer questions.

December storm FEMA update Joey Clark and Hilly Crary have been meeting regularly with a representative assigned from FEMA for help with the paperwork needed for the Town to receive reimbursement for cleanup of all the trees downed by the December 23 storm.

Selectboard meeting on May 8. An extra selectboard meeting will be held on May 8 at the Town Office to work on the warrant and annual report.

Cones and one lane signs for Ocean Avenue, repair of road by ramp. Joey Clark asked for "One Lane Ahead" signs for the east and west ends of Ocean Avenue where the January storms did the most damage and for sufficient cones for every damaged portion of the road. Also, the damage near the boat ramp needs immediate repair because the damage in this spot is dangerous. We approved these safety measures as recommended by the road commissioner.

Foreclosure on Guyette property Map 12 Lot 22-A Walter Guyette requested that we foreclose on his sister Fona York's trailer which is on Map 12 Lot 22-A. She has been in a nursing home for many years and has not paid the taxes. A motion to start this procedure was made by Hilly Crary, seconded by Rob Wilpan, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer. Hilly Crary proposed and Rob Wilpan seconded a motion that Danielle Berube be offered the part-time employee position of Treasurer of the Town of Sorrento. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Mowing. Finding ways to decrease the cost of mowing, it was agreed that the pollinator meadow did not need mowing, but only trimming of the edges. We have a quote from CM Miller who has mowed our Town for many years now. We will contact him to start next week.

Policy and Procedure for Emergency Meetings. The draft of a statement of policy and procedure for emergency meetings was read and discussed. A motion was made and passed to accept this policy.

Meeting Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.