

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

May 17, 2017

Present: Jeanne Conner, Jeannie Jenkins, Carson Thurber, Tom Jacobs, Chair, and Jim Carroll. Also present: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager, Scott Fox (and his mother, a resident of Brookside) Sharyn Brush, and Nancy Messina, three applicants for the Housing Authority Board. Absent: Chad Gordon, Donald Campbell, V. Chair, and Kristi Pepoon, an applicant for the Housing Authority Board.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm in the Bennington Town Offices Conference Room. He also noted many of the concerns facing the Housing Authority (HA) presently.

Nancy Messina introduced herself to the Board as a property manager at BROC for 11 years. She would like to help the residents of the HA properties (195 units). She currently works out of Brookside assisting residents.

Scott Fox, the incumbent, feels that this position is very important. He has served one 5-year term and had been President of the Tenants Association for a number of years. He believes that the failings fall to the current Director especially on the day-to-day compliance issues.

Sharyn Brush, a former Select Board member, and currently serving on the Applegate Association Board of Directors. She has served with Sandy Bessette, the only other sitting HA Board member. She believes that cooperation between the two housing groups is important. Sharyn indicated that she would be willing to serve a full term.

All expressed concern for the current operations and pledged to work hard to make things right, to bring the HA back into compliance with HUD regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm. as the Select Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, the publication of which could be detrimental to the Town or the persons discussed. At 6:13 pm, the Board came out of Executive Session and made the following appointments on a motion by Jim Carroll, seconded by Carson Thurber: Sharyn Brush, term ending May, 2022, Scott Fox, term ending May, 2020, Nancy Messina, term ending May, 2019, and Kristi Pepoon, term ending May, 2018. The Chair reiterated the Town's support and the appointees' willingness to help. He requested the HA Board visit the Select Board meeting after the first 6 months for an update.

The Board then went on to consider the other appointments:

For the Development Review Board, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Ron Alderman, Bill Barney, and Charles Kokoras to 3-year terms expiring May 2020.

For the Historic Preservation Commission, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Jeffrey Goldstone and Joseph Hall to 3-year terms expiring May 2020.

For the Board of Listers, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Robert Ebert to a 2-year term

expiring May,2019. One position remains open, term expiring May 2018.

For the Planning Commission, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Charles Copp and Michael McDonough to 4-year terms expiring May 2021.

A position remains open for the Regional Commission, expiring May 2019. The Town Service Officer position is no longer being filled. The State Human Services Agencies are providing that service.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart A. Hurd