

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**  
**6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was conducted through remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public was able to attend by viewing the livestream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> and/or calling 778-5874.

Chairman Joshua Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg, Stephan Bunker, Matthew Smith, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Atlantic Salmon Federation Project Manager Maranda Nemeth, Michael MacNeil, and the Mt. Blue TV camera operator were also physically in attendance.

**Votes were taken by roll call.**

**ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Joshua Bell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ITEM 2: To Elect Officers for the Ensuing Year**

Town Manager Richard Davis opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the ensuing year.

**Scott Landry nominated Matthew Smith for Chairman; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**Stephan Bunker nominated Joshua Bell for Chairman; Matthew Smith seconded.**

Town Manager Richard Davis called for a vote for Matthew Smith as Chairman.

**Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE        5                    MOTION CARRIED**

Matthew Smith was unanimously elected Chairman; therefore, there was no second roll call.

Town Manager Richard Davis opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the ensuing year.

**Matthew Smith nominated Stephan Bunker for Vice Chairman; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Abstain, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE        4            ABSTAINED    1    MOTION CARRIED**  
**(Stephan Bunker)**



**ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing on the Mosher’s Meat and Seafood Project Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Micro Enterprise Assistance Program (MEA) in the amount of \$30,000 (continued)**

**Roll Call Vote – Joshua Bell: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Matthew Smith: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 4: To Review the Proposed Project Agreement between the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the Town of Farmington relative to the Walton’s Mill Dam Removal Project (Maranda Nemeth, ASF)**

Richard Davis welcomed Maranda Nemeth of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, a partner in the project agreement between the TNC, ASF, and the Town. Mr. Davis stated that the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program’s (MNRCP) contribution towards this project is \$395,000, and this is in conjunction with other partners. Mr. Davis reported that he did have the agreement reviewed by the Town’s attorney, and there are a couple of items that need to be noted. The Agreement does anticipate a conservation easement for this property, which is perpetual. Because of this, the Agreement will require a Town Meeting vote. The Town cannot take any action on this until the next annual Town Meeting, which we anticipate will be held next March. The Town’s attorney had a few questions regarding the Indemnity Clause (Item N), which seemed to be overly broad. The Town wants to narrow that language down to bring it into line with State Statute under Title 14, Maine Tort Claims Act. The Termination Clause (Item O), seems to be short notice to the entities involved and is overly broad in terms of what the remedies are regarding termination. Mr. Davis stated that, once the Selectmen review the Agreement, he will submit the proposed changes from the Town’s legal counsel to the Nature Conservancy for them to respond to. Stephan Bunker inquired about the relationship of the parties involved; particularly the Town’s interest when decisions are made going forward. Is the Town relinquishing its interests when decisions are made going forward? Maranda Nemeth stated that the Town of Farmington is the property owner, and all final engineering and construction plans will be made in coordination with the Town and the committee that was formalized. Ms. Nemeth stated that they are going through the process of finalizing design plans. Everything is continually reviewed with feedback incorporated into the plans. The ASF will continue that review process until the final design is reached and construction is finalized. Ms. Nemeth stated that the other signing entities are the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the State of Maine DEP. The State of Maine has the money that was accumulated through Inland fees and Wetland fines. The State’s role is to oversee the schedule and adhere to a time frame in which they issue funding. The Nature Conservancy acts as the intermediary between the State of Maine, the Town, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Richard Davis reported that the Town has an ad-hoc committee that meets regularly. The committee consists of members from the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee, and other interested parties. Mr. Davis stated that the Town has been heavily involved in the park’s design which includes parking, a wash room and a pavilion. When the Town purchased the land in 1979, there was a deed restriction stating that the land was to be used for recreational purposes only. Essentially, we are asking to conserve property that is already protected under shoreline zoning. Mr. Davis stated that this agreement anticipates preserving 3.5 acres; whereas the original land and conservation agreement preserved 2.4 acres. Part

**ITEM 4: To Review the Proposed Project Agreement between the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the Town of Farmington relative to the Walton’s Mill Dam Removal Project (Maranda Nemeth, ASF) (continued)**

of the reason for the expanded acreage is because, once the dam is removed, the amount of ground exposed will expand. Joshua Bell asked if the Parks and Recreation Department would need approval from the Nature Conservancy to expand the trails. Ms. Nemeth stated that trails are permitted. Ms. Nemeth stated that the plan is 75% finalized, and that she looks forward to meeting with the Selectmen next month and receiving their feedback.

**ITEM 5: To Authorize the Manager to Apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for the Walton’s Mill Park Improvements Project**

Richard Davis reviewed the LWCF Grant application for the Walton’s Mill Park Improvements Project.

**Michael Fogg moved to authorize the Manager to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for the Walton’s Mill Park Improvements Project; Stephan Bunker seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE        5                    MOTION CARRIED**

Richard Davis introduced the Town’s intern, Natalie Thomsen. Ms. Thomsen is attending the Muskie School of Public Policy and is pursuing a career in Planning or Community and Economic Development. Ms. Thomsen is job shadowing and getting a lot of exposure to various aspects of Town government. She will tour the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Fire Rescue Department, and ride along with the Police Department, among other activities. The Selectmen welcomed Ms. Thomsen.

**ITEM 6: To Approve a Reduction of \$5,500 in the Farmington Library’s 2020 Budget Request**

Richard Davis reviewed an email dated July 23<sup>rd</sup>, from the Treasurer of the Farmington Library, Andrew Robinson, in which he proposed the following line item reductions: Building Capital Fund a decrease of \$5,000, for a new budget line of \$5,000; Café, a decrease of \$350, for a new budget line of \$150; and Fund Raising a decrease of \$150, for a new budget line of \$50.

**Michael Fogg moved to approve a reduction of \$5,500 in the Farmington Library’s 2020 budget; Scott Landry seconded.**

**ITEM 6: To Approve a Reduction of \$5,500 in the Farmington Library’s 2020 Budget Request (continued)**

Joshua Bell generated a discussion on the effect of this decrease on the overall budget and tax commitment.

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 7: To Consider the Application of Michael MacNeil to Serve a three-year term on the Budget Committee and a one-year term as an Alternate Member on the Planning Board**

Richard Davis reviewed Michael MacNeil’s application to serve a three-year term on the Budget Committee and a one-year term as an alternate member on the Planning Board. Mr. MacNeil was present and stated that he is a local farmer who recently finished twenty years as a US Merchant Marine and is now home full time, which allows him to be involved in Town governance.

**Joshua Bell moved to appoint Michael MacNeil to the Budget Committee as a member for a three-year term and to the Planning Board as an alternate member for a one-year term; Scott Landry seconded**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE      5                    MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 8: To Approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, Pertaining to Unpaid Taxes**

Richard Davis stated that this is an annual authorization that allows the Treasurer to apply the payment of a taxpayer owing multiple years of taxes to the oldest tax bill to avoid foreclosures.

**Joshua Bell moved to approve an Order pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §906, pertaining to unpaid taxes; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE      5                    MOTION CARRIED**

The Selectmen signed the Order.

**ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of July 14, 2020**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the Minutes of July 14, 2020; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 5 MOTION CARRIED**

**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business**

**A.** Richard Davis reported that at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen’s meeting he was nominated to serve on the Maine Municipal Association’s Legislative Policy Committee. At that time Mr. Davis was the only nominee; however, it turns out that Gary McGrane also served on the committee and would like to serve again. Mr. McGrane did not receive notification and was not aware it was nomination time. Mr. Davis stated that Senate District 17 has two open positions. Mr. Davis would appear on the ballot and Gary McGrane would be a write in candidate.

**Scott Landry moved to nominate Gary McGrane as a write in candidate to serve on the Maine Municipal Association’s Legislative Policy Committee; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: No, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 4 OPPOSED 1 MOTION CARRIED  
(Joshua Bell)**

The Selectmen signed the nomination form.

**B.** Richard Davis reported that the Maine Fire Protection Service Commission has invited the Selectmen to attend their meeting on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 A. M. The meeting will be held at the RSU 9 High School auditorium and will be followed by a tour of the Live Fire Training facility. Mr. Davis encouraged the Selectmen to tour the facility, which was paid for through a \$509,400 grant, and is quite impressive.

**C.** Joshua Bell asked if the entrance to the Whistle Stop Trail could be blocked to prevent vehicles from passing through from Farmer Lane. Richard Davis stated that this was an issue before, and the Bureau of Conservation placed large boulders at the entrance to the trail. Mr. Davis stated that he will check into the situation.

**D.** Scott Landry reported that a group from High Peaks Alliance and other interested parties went down to where the bridge used to cross the Sandy River. High Peaks Alliance is pursuing trail development, and a bridge will be the centerpiece of the project. The new director of High Peaks Alliance is looking into obtaining funds for the project.

**E.** Matthew Smith thanked Joshua Bell for his six years of service as Chairman and for being a great role model and example. Mr. Smith also thanked the Board for their confidence in electing him Chairman.

