FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN Tuesday, September 22, 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 Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg and Joshua Bell. Stephan Bunker and Scott Landry were unable to attend. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Atlantic Salmon Federation Project Manager Maranda Nemeth, and Mt. Blue TV camera operator Kai Strine were also physically in attendance.

Votes were taken by roll call.

ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Matthew Smith led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM 2: To Review the Walton's Mill Park Landscape Improvements and Timeline (Maranda Nemeth, Project Manager for the Atlantic Salmon Federation)

Maranda Nemeth gave an update on the Clover Mill Road and Cummings Hill Road Crossings. The installation of the culvert on Clover Mill Road is complete. Clover Mill Road was raised three feet bringing it further out of the flood zone. Richard Davis stated that the addition of guardrails and the paving will be completed over the next 2 -3 weeks. Ms. Nemeth reported that, due to the inability of the contractor to acquire the necessary supplies, the Cummings Hill Road project was postponed until 2021.

Ms. Nemeth outlined the plan for the dam removal and park redevelopment at Walton's Mill Park on Temple Stream. Redevelopment plans include drawing the water down 3-6 feet after the ice out next spring. This will allow the waterfowl enough time to adapt before nesting season and will allow the vegetation time to established itself during the summer and fall months. The fresh water mussels will be relocated. Starting on July 15th, an access road with bypass pipes that allow water flow beneath the road will be built for the heavy machinery. Completion of the access road will take 4 to 6 weeks. A landscape architect will be onsite saving and repurposing the boulders from the dam. The redevelopment plan includes reinforcing the failing concrete retaining wall and removing the wooden walkway, concrete buttress, dam gate, and the dam. The waterwheel will be relocated within the park and become a featured piece of the park's history. Stabilization of the historic overlook area/patio will include a concrete retaining wall with 2x6 wood top rails, powder coated wire mesh panel inserts, and 4x4 posts. The parking lot improvements will include asphalt paving with striping, twelve standard parking spaces and one ADA parking space, four new parallel parking spaces, compacted stone dust paths, vertical granite curbing, and timber guardrails. Park improvements include: compact stone dust pathways, path lighting, reinforced turf, salvaged granite pavers, salvaged granite freestanding block, granite steps leading to the shoreline, a conservation area, creative/nature play space, wash room and a pavilion to accommodate six picnic tables.

ITEM 3: To Hear an Update on the "Keep Maine Healthy" Grant

Richard Davis gave an update on the Keep Maine Healthy (KMH) grant which was awarded to support local COVID-19 public health, education, and virus prevention efforts. Mr. Davis stated that there has been a push to install electronic message boards as a means of educating the public. Mr. Davis provided specification sheets for the proposed double faced digital sign board: 8" square granite posts with tapered tops (9' 2.5' tall); a 6' dark red header with white lettering that reads "Town of Farmington, Municipal Building" will be positioned between the tapered granite posts, and above the digital signboard. The doublefaced electronic message board to be installed in the grassy area between the Municipal Building front parking lot and UMF's Maintenance Facilities Building access road will be highly visible to both lanes of traffic. Mr. Davis stated that, in addition to the COVID-19 related messages, the sign would be used to notify the public of upcoming Town meetings and events. Approximately twenty-three other municipalities are using KMH grant money to install electronic message boards. The installation of the message board will use about half of the \$53,000 grant. The remaining grant funds will be used on educational materials, hand sanitizers, and pandemic related items. Joshua Bell stated that the sign is a great idea. It will keep the people informed and help identify where the Town Office is located. Matthew Smith agreed that the sign is a good thing and may help increase attendance at Town meetings. Michael Fogg inquired about the time frame for installation of the sign. Mr. Davis stated that the KMH grant is on a very aggressive schedule and installation should happen by November.

ITEM 4: To Consider the Application of Betty Jespersen to serve on the Budget Committee

Richard Davis reviewed Betty Jespersen's application to serve a two-year term on the Budget Committee, she previously served on the Budget Committee from 2014 to 2015. As a reporter, Ms. Jespersen covered Budget and Selectmen's meetings for several towns from 1995 to 2010 and is familiar with how the budget process works. Ms. Jespersen is a thirty-five-year resident of Farmington. The Selectmen thanked Ms. Jespersen for her willingness to serve.

Joshua Bell moved to appoint Betty Jespersen to the Budget Committee as a member for a two-year term; Michael Fogg seconded

Roll Call Vote - Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT 2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bunker, Landry)	

ITEM 5: To Approve a new Road Name - Finite Road

Richard Davis stated that Chris Thorndike submitted an application to name the new road which is located off the South Strong road near the Strong town line.

Michael Fogg moved to approve a new road name of Finite Road; Joshua Bell seconded.

ITEM 5: To Approve a new Road Name - Finite Road (continued)

Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker, Landry)

ITEM 6: To Approve three (3) Municipal Quitclaim Deeds

Richard Davis reviewed the three Municipal Quitclaim Deeds releasing any interest the Town might have on account of undischarged liens on the following real estate: Jeffrey S. York at 109 Shawnee Drive Map/Lot R19-017; Tony S. Tyler at 313 South Strong Road Map/Lot R16-005-A; and Joshua M. Dunham Sr. and Betty D. Dunham at Dunham Road Map/Lot R10-008-D

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Municipal Quitclaim Deeds for Jeffrey S. York at 109 Shawnee Drive Map/Lot R19-017; Tony S. Tyler at 313 South Strong Road Map/Lot R16-005-A; and Joshua M. Dunham Sr. and Betty D. Dunham at Dunham Road Map/Lot R10-008-D; Michael Fogg seconded.

Roll Call Vote - Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT 2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bunker, Landry)	

The selectmen signed the Quitclaim Deeds.

ITEM 7: To Approve a Cemetery lot Conveyance

Richard Davis reviewed the following Cemetery Lot Conveyance: Roger H. Robbins, II for two graves in Fairview Cemetery.

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Cemetery Lot Conveyances as noted above; Matthew Smith seconded.

Roll Call Vote - Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

VOTE	AFFIRMATIVE	3	ABSENT 2	MOTION CARRIED
			(Bunker, Landry)	

The Selectmen signed the Cemetery lot Conveyance.

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of August 25, 2020

Joshua Bell moved to approve the Minutes of August 25, 2020; Matthew Smith seconded.

Roll Call Vote - Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

ITEM 8: To Approve the Minutes of August 25, 2020 (continued)

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker, Landry)

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business

- A. Richard Davis reported that Public Works Mechanic Kenneth Schmidt has resigned, and the Town will advertise to fill this position. The Town hired Peter Brennick to fill the Recycling position. Mr. Brennick is a former member of our Fire Rescue Department.
- B. Joshua Bell inquired about people sleeping in Hippach Field. Richard Davis stated that the Police Department is aware that someone has been sleeping in the grandstand and they have spoken with them. Mr. Davis stated that he spoke with Matt Foster about posting the park rules up inside the grandstand. Park rules state that overnight stays in the park are prohibited between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M.
- C. Joshua Bell reported that a contractor asked him about Bulky Waste/Recyling fees. The contractor stated that the construction debris fees differ from day to day. Mr. Bell asked if the Town could establish a list of set pricing. Richard Davis stated that he believes the issue of inconsistent fees was resolved with the personnel changes. The Town does have set pricing and they are listed on the green Bulky Waste/Recycling brochure which is available at the Town Office or on the Town's website. Mr. Davis stated that Joe Arsenault built a one cubic yard box which gives people a better idea of what one cubic yard looks like. Matthew Smith stated that he believes the Recycling crew listed the fees on a white board at the recycling site and that they have a pamphlet that lists the fees. Mr. Smith stated that the new hires have made some good improvements and the drop off process is now very coordinated and organized.
- D. Matthew Smith read a letter from the Town of Industry's Board of Selectmen and Fire Rescue Depart expressing their sincerest gratitude to the Farmington Fire Rescue Department for their mutual aid provided on August 4th for a structure fire at 183 West Mills Road. Having mutual aid from several resources was important as crews were frequently rotated in the hot and humid conditions. Richard Davis requested a copy of the letter and will share it with the crew.
- E. Michael Fogg generated a discussion regarding safety at the crosswalk near the Whistle Stop Trailhead. Mr. Fogg stated that cars, pedestrians, and recreational vehicles are all using the crosswalk. Mr. Davis stated that vehicles must access the trailhead there, because it leads to the big parking lot that allows them to unload their snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. Some drivers choose to use Farmer Lane to access the parking lot; however, the Town cannot ask them to use Farmer lane, because it is a private road. Mr. Davis stated that he spoke with Police Chief Jack Peck, and over the past five years, there have been no accidents at the location, other than a deer running in front of a vehicle.

ITEM 9: To Discuss Other Business (continued)

F. Matthew Smith thanked Governor Mills for speaking at the one-year anniversary of the September 16th LEAP explosion. Mr. Smith also thanked Fire Rescue Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Chief Tim A. Hardy, and Town Manager Richard Davis for their statements at the memorial and for pulling together a very respectful program. Mr. Smith stated that the program was to the point, very nice, and the Town was well represented. Richard Davis stated that everyone did a great job and it was a good day.

ITEM 10: To Hold an Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Conduct the Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation

Joshua Bell moved to table the Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405.6.A to Conduct the Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation until October 13, 2020; Michael Fogg seconded.

Roll Call Vote - Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker, Landry)

There being no further business to come before the board, Joshua Bell moved to adjourn; Michael Fogg seconded.

Roll Call Vote - Matthew Smith: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes

VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED (Bunker, Landry)

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

Michael J. Fogg - Secretary