

Town of Milton
BOARD OF SELECTMAN – GOALS MEETING
July 26, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Claudine Burnham (Chair), Andrew Rawson

Staff: Chris Jacobs -Town Administrator, Julius Peel-Land Use Clerk

Public: Chief Richard Krauss, Patrick Smith- PWD, Kim Boulanger- Dawson (EDC), Mike Beaulieu, Humphrey Williams – Budget Comm Chair, Karen Golab (Con Comm & LGETF) , Wayne Sylvester (TPPA), Deb McCormack, Betsy Baker- Librarian, Katherine Ayers, Virginia Long (Con Comm)

Claudine Burnham, Chair, opened the public session at 6:00PM.

1.) Pledge of Allegiance: Claudine Burnham, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) Public Comment:

There were none.

3.) Approval of Minutes:

Non-Public Minutes: July 19, 2021 – Mr. Rawson made a **motion to accept the 7/19/2021 Non-Public meeting minutes** as written. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Public Minutes: July 19, 2021 - Mr. Rawson made a **motion to accept the 7/19/2021 Public meeting minutes** as written. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4.) NEW Business – Discussion and Possible Actions:

Discussion of goals with Department Heads and standing Committee members:

Mr. Jacobs explained the purpose of the meeting, which was requested by the BOS, was to allow department heads and committee members to suggest goals they would like accomplished; these goals can be specific for the BOS or other committee or department, and also town wide. This meeting is not to decide if a goal is feasible or reasonable, which goals to pursue, goal implementation or planning, or talking about how to fund goals, but simply to solicit and generate ideas from those in attendance.

To get the discussion started, Mr. Jacobs read items from two emails he had received:

Les Elder (email): Senior / Children's Center, More trees along White Mountain Highway

Chief Marique (email): Insure adequate staffing levels sustainable for future for all public safety departments

Humphrey Williams: Improve communication, especially technology related (specifically within BOS chambers – audio/visual). Cleanup BOS chamber, improve overall look to be more professional (i.e., put stuff away). Accountability in transaction of expenditures to ensure accuracy in budgets (administrative oversight). Town posting monthly expenditure reports. Promote town strengths – prime location – attract business / residents to help offset rising taxes. Balance between natural resources, preservation, development. Improve infrastructures – sewer, roads, bridges (also help to attract businesses). Establish priority ranked projects for public buy-in. Change budget / tax cycle to fiscal year rather than annual year (vote on upcoming budget vs. voting on budget already underway). Cleanup / improvement downtown.

Chief Krauss: Add cold storage / record storage to town (currently PD handles secure storage). Build structure ensuring access control, allow for secure vehicles and evidence holding.

Julius Peel: Update accessing / planning files (turn into electronic files) – scanned and available to public. Personnel – currently small staff wearing many hats and handling many responsibilities. Staff not able to take days off without having major impact on operations of town hall. Increase personnel. Town hall – new location (current location safety concerns, storage, privacy concerns). Update GIS maps (show water & sewer maps)

Wayne Sylvester: The ponds are the town's greatest resource. Strategic plan specifically for the 3 ponds. Include PD, FD, Rec, Fish & Wildlife, campground, etc. Assess where we currently are – what's working, what's not. Determine future and specific goals.

Pat Smith: Town hall audio/visual capabilities – difficult for residents to listen to meetings with the current tech setup. Transfer Station capital improvements – roof over compact area, future public works facility.

Katherine Ayers: Promote a greater sense of community. Some residents may feel isolated (for variety of reasons). Connections are sometimes difficult to make. Residents not aware of what volunteer opportunities or activities are available. Increase communication and opportunities to connect – through senior center & other clubs, outings & activities.

Karen Golab: Through the Conservation Commission, establish two additional sub-committees – Jones Brook revitalization and Trails committee to maintain all various town trails.

Virginia Long: Increase the opportunities to take advantage of the natural resources through activities and educational opportunities, for example guided walks and educational classes for school children. Increase land adjacent to schools for kids to access. Forestry program aimed specifically for HS students. Eco-tourism – educational/recreation – draw more people into the town. Astronomy tourism (for example setup telescopes at ballfield, star parties). Fishing clubs and opportunities. Increase outdoor recreational activities. Protect natural resources. Tighten ordinances to protect wetlands.

Deb McCormack: Add all the trail maps to the town website or combine with other communities. Increase the sense of pride in the community amongst town residents. Improve

overall feel and look of downtown (eliminate condemned buildings, junk cars, etc.).

Betsy Baker: Continue renovation of existing town buildings (library, little schoolhouse). Library – 2nd floor accessibility, increase usable space. Important to start investing in town overall. Have school board & BOS work together as there seems to be disconnect in dialogue between the two groups.

Karen Brown: Senior / Children's center. Seniors are definitely underrepresented in the town. Boat ramp – finish the project. Milton Mills – playground/rec center – hoping to get grants to fund. Bring assistant on FT (currently entire rec department operating at 65 hours/week total).

Kim Libby: Review all job descriptions and address lack of personnel. Town Hall building – improve layout, put stuff away, different design flow. IT – increase designated information for individuals to operate IT. Town website – improve timeliness of updates and services (ex: all town ordinances on the website). Appreciation of all volunteers on committees. Important for residents to get involved – improve recruiting and volunteer education. Town wide newsletter (paper & electronic).

Andrew Rawson: Thanks to all who attended meeting with lots of great suggestions. Recognize some ideas will cost monies, but there are many ideas that would be relatively inexpensive. Also recognize staff wears many hats. Goal – Educate townspeople on budgets, etc. Clean up downtown – some progress has been made. Focus on seniors. Recognize that when default budgets are voted on this means that things will not get done. Infrastructure – currently hurting. Recruit volunteers – increase education.

Claudine Burnham: Thanks to all for ideas and attending the meeting. Goal – Increase communication and education. Have a permanent sign structure at Town Hall. These are all great ideas and very excited to discuss and get to work.

Additional thoughts & suggestions of goals:

Kim Libby: Town-wide newsletter (paper & electronic)

Chris Jacobs: American flags throughout town

Karen Golab: Increase use of revitalized town house for community events

Virginia Long: Hold a 'Meet Your Board Member' meeting yearly – increase community outreach.

Andrew Rawson: Increase presence of Milton PD on water during the summer weekends.

Mike Beaulieu: Recognize that we share a border with Maine – increase cooperation between two.

Humphrey Williams: We do get financial recognition / help from Lebanon ME. There is no ME marine patrol (currently there is no town PD in Lebanon ME).

Wayne Sylvester: Solicit grants to address invasive weed situation – recognize this will never be eliminated but must be controlled. Again, overall strategy for the waterways – include water quality, boat traffic, wildlife.

Karen Brown: Focus on improving / changing the overall culture of the town – look at what not to cut. Focus on increase interest of residents to get them involved – be a more positive place. Determine why folks want to reside in Milton. Increase education – help residents understand why sometimes things may take longer to change or can't be done at all.

Kim Libby: Focus on culture – understanding the demographics of the small town. Promote a good culture – volunteers, communication.

Mr. Jacobs explained he will take all the goals / discussion items and provide summary report; he is very happy and impressed with the number and variety of goals discussed.

5.) Other Business that May Come Before the Board:

There was no other business.

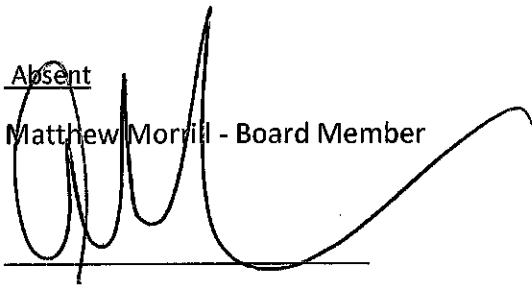
6.) Adjournment:

Mr. Rawson made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Ms. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. The public meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Given under our hands this 2nd day of August, 2021.



Claudine Burnham – Chairman BOS

Absent


Matthew Morrill - Board Member

Andy Rawson - Board Member

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