

interest as a rescue service to compete with other rescue services. The people they are serving come first.

FAIRFAX RESCUE FY'22 BUDGET REQUEST

Michael Wheeler from Fairfax Rescue was present. Fairfax Rescue is requesting \$12,064 which is an increase over the current year. Michael echoed the familiar story of challenges during COVID, especially during a health related industry.

Bill asked how many Westford residents Fairfax Rescue serves. Fairfax rescue services around 1,400 residents. Allison and Michael discussed grants that Fairfax Rescue might have received. Bill observed that per capita Fairfax Rescue charges a substantial amount more than Essex Rescue and wondered if there was a way to negotiate the rate and if they could justify the higher rate. Michael echoed what Will had said about not wanting to compete with other services. Julia was hesitant to be too budget conscious at the expense of residents, especially the large population that lives close to the Fairfax town line.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FY'22 BUDGET REQUEST

Sarah Pinto from the Conservation Commission was present. The Westford Conservation Commission (WCC) recognized that the Board was requesting level-funded or reduced budget requests but are asking for a small increase of \$400 from the current year's budget. The outdoor recreation industry has thrived during the pandemic. The trails in town have seen a surge in use and the Conservation Commission would like to try and make the trails as user friendly as possible.

The WCC would use the increased budget to print physical copies of their new guidebook which would then be laminated and available at trailheads, the library and town office. The funds would also go towards much needed equipment that is used to create and maintain the trails. Currently all the WCC equipment is stored in the Hallers' barn on Brookside Road, but this is not a long-term solution. They would like to discuss more permanent and secure storage of the WCC equipment in the form of a large shed that would be located on town property. In addition, the WCC would use the additional funds to install more trailhead kiosks like the ones recently installed at the Misty Meadows trails and build a small bridge on the Schultz trail.

The WCC would also like to address the major erosion issues on the Machia Hill Road end of the Schultz Trail. This would require engineering and implementation of a design with anticipated costs of at least \$1,500.

They are also requesting funding to continue offering outreach and educational events for the public. Outdoor education has become very popular due to the pandemic. Leading up to the purchase of the Maple Shade Town Forest, there were a number of walks with ecologists, wetland specialists, flora and fauna experts including foresters, invasive species consultants and even "The Bird Diva." They would like to continue these nature walks and to coordinate with the Westford Elementary School to provide opportunities for students. This also provides potential for fundraising as they can offer some events for a fee with a portion going towards the budget or Conservation Fund.

The Board reiterated their appreciation for the WCC and the hard work they have done. They all appreciate and use the trails on a regular basis, they are a great asset for Westford.

RECREATION COMMITTEE FY'22 BUDGET REQUEST

Tonya Calley and Chuck Medick from the Recreation Committee were present. As with everybody, COVID had a big impact on them. They have been working with the Conservation Commission to work on the trails and increase recreational uses. They have also proposed to do a recreational snowshoe series with the Conservation Committee throughout the winter.

Julia expressed how impressed she is with the Recreation Committee and how they showed up without a huge hole where revenue would be. She thanked them for the creative thinking and encouraging people to be active throughout COVID. Tonya explained that they got donations that allowed them to continue to run programs and without the help of those donations they would not have been able to continue the programs. Julia was also appreciative of how transparent with expenses the Rec Committee has been this year; it is nice to see.

WESTFORD CEMETERY COMMISSION FY'22 BUDGET REQUEST

Lynn Gauthier from the Cemetery Commission was present. The Cemetery Commission is requesting a reduced budget request of \$8,000. This is a \$2,500 decrease from the current year, and they can do so because of available reserves. They will use the budgeted money to completed unfinished restoration projects, repair gravestones, mowing and trimming in all the cemeteries, monitor trees in the Brookside, Plains and Richardson cemeteries, install E911 signs at the entrances to the cemeteries and continue exploring the possibility of installing a Veteran's monument within the village center.

The Cemetery Commission is also asking the Selectboard for a \$400 stipend for one of the commissioners, which is level funded from the current year. The Board felt that stipend was fair.

Bill complimented the Cemetery Commission on the work they have done especially on the Osgood Hill Cemetery which he has noticed a remarkable difference in. He thanked Lynn for coming to the Board with a substantial budget cut from last year. He appreciates the effort in these times. Julia also thanked the Cemetery Commission and feels they are an underappreciated Commission in town.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD FY'22 BUDGET REQUEST

The Development Review Board (DRB) is requesting reduced funding for FY'22. Bill also serves on the DRB and presented the budget request. The amount being requested is \$7,325 which is a decrease of 27% from the current year. Bill is proud of how much the DRB was able to shave from the budget.

LIBRARY STORMWATER MITIGATION SUMMARY OF PHASE 1A

Pat Hechmer was present. She advised that the stormwater work is finished, and the original project came in slightly under what was budgeted. However, the Library Trustees had asked to expend the entire \$5,000. These funds were used for further excavation that the engineers felt was contributing to the runoff on the eastern side of the building. The culvert still needs to be flushed and are wondering if it can be put on an annual maintenance schedule.

Julia thinks that is a question for John. The culvert is under Route 128, which is a state-maintained highway, therefore Nanette is guessing that the Town cannot without approval from the State.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Development Review Board (DRB) is recommending the appointment of Francois Ross to the vacant seat on the DRB. Francois currently serves as an alternate board member. Bill Cleary made a motion to appoint Francois, seconded by Allison. Motion passed: 3-0.

SANTA MAILBOX REQUEST

The Recreation Committee is looking to do a Letter to Santa program this year. The Library has agreed to have the Santa Mailbox located outside the building after November 15 and through the week of Christmas. Letter supplies will be provided for kids visiting the library looking to write a letter. The Recreation Committee requests permission to put up the mailbox. Allison thinks it is a delightful idea. Allison Hope made a motion to approve the Santa Mailbox, seconded by Bill. Motion passed: 3-0.

ICE RINK

The Recreation Committee is in the planning process of getting the ice rink up and ordering the new liner. However, the question was posed if this is feasible due to COVID contact tracing tracking since this is a come and play as you would like with no real supervision.

Considering the contact tracing and the recent COVID outbreak in Montpelier from ice rink usage, the Board is concerned. Allison thought that it was mostly inside rinks that were becoming an issue and she thought perhaps an outside rink would allow people to still do ice activities outside. However, she thinks we need to be conscious of how many people are on the ice at the same time as well as respectful to the nearby neighbors. Tonya suggested a "sign your name and date" might work well. Bill and Julia agreed with Allison. Julia added that broomball is a different situation, and she feels like that activity would be more people in one area at the same time than the government recommends. Tonya and Game On Vermont, who hosts the broomball tournament, are currently discussing this since tournaments themselves aren't allowed per state guidelines this year.

RECREATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The Recreation Committee is recommending Ashley Siliker to the vacant position on the Recreation Committee. The Committee approved her unanimously.

Bill Cleary made a motion to appoint Ashley as a member of the Rec Committee, seconded by Allison. Motion passed: 3-0.

GRANT WRITER

One proposal has been received in response to the Grant Writer RFP and two additional people have expressed interest. Koj, who volunteered to review proposals, is unavailable due to personal reasons. She has asked the Board to take this over. Julia put it on the agenda to keep an eye on it.

CORRESPONDENCE

Julia wanted to address the discussion about the speed on Woods Hollow Road. Allison had previously worked with Charlie Baker at the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) on doing a traffic study which will be done at some point. Allison also wanted to address the Front Porch Forum (FPF) post from a resident that wanted to build their own speedbump; the answer to that is a big no. This would put the Road Crew and others at a huge risk.

A local state trooper who lives in town has been putting speed carts out around town. The state trooper saw the discussion about speed on FPF and is putting a speed cart on Woods Hollow Road. Julia wanted to put out more information about the speed issue since she is at the end of her rope with the complaints about speed on Woods Hollow because she does not feel the tone has been constructive.

Bill wondered if it would be possible to ask law enforcement to be stricter on their ticketing for speeding in town. The Board receives reports from the Sheriff's Office. It seems that the sheriffs go quite heavy on the warnings. Nanette mentioned that the most recent report had a lot of stops occurring on Route 128. She will remind them that the Town wants them to focus on several town roads since that is much more of a safety issue for pedestrians.

COMMUNICATION

Allison and Julia will draft a Front Porch Forum response to the speeding complaints on Woods Hollow Road.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

Greg went over the accounts payable and warrants. The Selectboard members will come into the office to sign the warrants.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Andrews, Chair
Selectboard

Callie Hamdy
Assistant Town Clerk

GUEST LIST

Buddy Meilleur, LCATV
Dave Lavallee
Lee McClenny
Michael Wheeler
Lynn Gauthier
Tonya Calley
Sarah Pinto
Will Moran
Vicky Ross
Pat Hechmer
Glenn Rogers
Chuck Medick

TOWN OF WESTFORD HIGHWAY DEPT.
ROAD SCHEDULE
October 9, 2020 – October 22, 2020

Work to be done

- Grade roads when we can.
- Continue with FEMA work.
- Replace a cross culvert on Seymour Rd.

Work completed

- Graded many sections of roads.
- Added gravel to Osgood Hill Rd. and Allen Irish Rd.
- Changed a cross culvert and ditched a section on Old Stage Rd.
- Hauled in gravel for road surface work.
- Made repairs to the 2014 Western Star.
- Serviced the 2014 and 2017 Western stars.
- Put winter tires on all 3 trucks prepped for plowing.
- Replaced the alternator on the grader.
- Had a dead tree removed on Osgood Hill Rd.

Approved at the 10/22/20 Selectboard Meeting.