

The task force had also talked with the sheriff on November 16 and recommends sharing the speed survey with the sheriff's office so they can customize when they patrol, and to survey residents on problem roads to know when they use the roads for non-motorized vehicle activities because the patrolling could be done at those times to maximize safety.

Some other items of note were that there had been two traffic deaths in the past year on Woods Hollow Road. The Task Force recommends an increase in outreach and information sharing regarding road safety such as what actions are taking place, what strategies are allowed or not allowed, etc. They also recommend getting more electronic speed signaling signs rather than rotating one sign around town.

The Task Force also wants to research and facilitate adding trails to town to create a greater connectivity of trail networks. They would like to discuss what easements or rights of way options are available with the Town attorney and what the legal implications are for property owners and the Town. They also want to pursue the creation of a path to and from the common to the school along the Brookside Road corridor including looking for grant funding from the state and as much in-kind cost sharing matching as possible. In addition, In Motion wants to assist the Conservation Commission with any trail maintenance it may need, and they would like to assist the Rec Committee in any recreational ideas on the trails such as disc golf baskets.

Julia thanked Pat for the information. She thinks it's important to be aware of what the In Motion Committee is doing. It is important to be updated since the Town is also doing its own work on traffic. She wants them to all be aware of what each entity is doing.

The Task Force also came to the conclusion that it would be difficult to follow VTrans' protocol regarding some of the studies, since Westford does not have many accidents, and the recommendation of adding more stop signs may not be right for Westford in certain areas. The Board was in favor of sharing the information with the Sheriff. The Sheriff contacted the town office early in the week to give information on how his monitoring of Woods Hollow Road has been going. Around 50% of all tickets he wrote for speeding on were for residents of Woods Hollow Road.

Pat thinks that information is important to get out. The speed study CCRPC had put out indicated that the current speed for Woods Hollow Road, 35 mph, was the correct speed as 85% of people were going around that speed. There were some outlier speeders going some unnecessary speeds. Pat and Julia both agreed that more transparent and continued communication with residents about what the Town is doing regarding speeding should take place. John explained that stop signs in many areas suggested by residents would increase washboards as tires start and stop constantly which would increase maintenance needed. He also thought it would be worth adding an additional program on the speed cart that gives a car count. It's about \$280 which seemed reasonable to the Board. John feels that the radar speed sign on Cambridge Road will be important because John feels that is a road where people are regularly driving at very dangerous speeds.

Several years ago, there was talk about a path from the common to the school. Some residents felt a path following the river would be safer than one along Brookside Road. Pat has heard the opposite statement as well, that it would be more dangerous. He added that he and his wife granted an easement along the river corridor in the event a path is to be constructed someday.

For the purpose of this discussion, the path being investigated by the Committee is in the Brookside Road corridor. Now that the store is open, the Committee thinks there will be an increase in traffic from the school to the Common during warm weather so tackling a project like this now is a good idea.

DRAFT ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – ROGERS ROAD

The Board reviewed the Draft Road Maintenance Agreement for the Class IV section of Rogers Road. Julia liked the way it was put together. Chapin Kaynor was present and was still curious how the taking out of the trees would be managed. Julia thinks that the Town could have a say, but the okay for the property owner to do the work gives them the okay to go ahead with potential removal. Chapin hopes that the tree line can stay, but he doesn't see that occurring with the current plans. His concern is just the amount of destruction on the land.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPT OUT EMPLOYEE BENEFIT

The Board has been reviewing what other towns of similar size offer for benefits, specifically health insurance. Westford's opt out is abnormally high. Allison feels that the Selectboard needs to look at this on a regular basis to make sure things are up to par. If the Board were to decide to do something different it would be a big change, so a gradual change or grandfathering in might be a good course of action.

Bill recalled Allison had voiced displeasure at the grandfathering option. Allison explained that her experience with grandfathering is that it's difficult to deal with when you are offering different benefits to employees. Bill was more for grandfathering, Allison still felt like the amount is too high. Julia agrees the number is high because Westford is paying more than any other comparable town. Julia is uncomfortable changing people's compensation mid-stream with an understanding of what they would get because these changes affect employees' paychecks. She feels sketchy about trying to change it on people because she feels that even if the affect on their paycheck is nominal, the affect on the workplace environment could be significant. Allison would be comfortable with a \$2,500 range for opt out going forward.

Allison made a motion to change the health insurance opt out to \$2,500 effective immediately with current employees being grandfathered, seconded by Bill. Motion passed: 3-0.

PIGEON PROPERTY WELL MONITORING

Additional monitoring for the Pigeon Property is needed to assess contamination. The location of one of the monitors is on the Town Common. Concerns expressed by the Common Committee have been addressed.

Bill made a motion to approve the location of the monitoring well on the town common as show on the plan, seconded by Allison 2nd. Motion passed: 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Brick Meeting House Society has closed the building for use since the public has not been able to meet safely there due to COVID. They are working on plans to reopen safely as well as renovation plans while the building is closed.

An email was received requesting that the school bus turnaround on Route 15 be relocated to Bill Cook Road. The person feels that the bus turning around on Route 15 is dangerous and

offered for the turn around to be relocated to their property to improve safety. Nanette forwarded the request to the school district.

There was also a phone conversation with Sheriff Brian Welch. He complimented the hard work of the Road Crew during the recent snowstorm.

The Secretary of State's Office sent a message regarding the good work done by the town clerks in upholding democracy during the General Election. Julia wanted to recognize the hard work of Nanette, Callie, and other election workers for how smoothly the election went.

Allison received communication from a resident inquiring why the Road Crew was not out as early as other towns. John explained that he and Sean were out by 5:30 a.m. but sanding such a small amount of snow was not the best thing for the conditions. Without roads being frozen, dropping a plow down would not be good for the equipment or road.

COMMUNICATION

Julia will be putting out a communication regarding roads/traffic as well as responding to the Rogers Road felling of trees question.

TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER FY'22 BUDGET REQUEST

Nanette is proposing a budget of \$69,740 which is a reduced budget. The current budget included funds for a new computer, which is not need in the upcoming budget cycle. This along with a decrease in the cost of supplies contributed toward the reduced budget. The Board of Civil Authority costs were also decreased because there will be elections. Greg's budget increased slightly due to an increase in salary.

FINANCING FOR NEW TRUCK

Greg solicited bids to finance the purchase of a new truck with options of a 3 year and 4 year note. He heard back from Union Bank. They are offering a 4 year note at 1.55%.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss personnel, seconded by Allison. Motion passed: 3-0. People in attendance were Julia Andrews, Bill Cleary, Allison Hope and Nanette Rogers. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Andrews, Chair
Selectboard

Callie Hamdy
Assistant Town Clerk

GUEST LIST

Buddy Meilleur, LCATV
Sean Cushing
Pat Haller
Scott Rogers
Anne Brown
Chapin Kaynor
Glenn Rogers