

Select Board Meeting, Monday, August 16th, 2021 at 4:00pm
Meeting Held at the Cavendish Town Office

Present: Bob Glidden (Chairman), George Timko, Mike Ripley, Sandra Russo, Brendan McNamara (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary) and Katherine Fogg (CTES Principal).

Absent: Stephen Plunkard

1. **Call the meeting to order**

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **Discussion Regarding the paving of the Town Portion of the CTES Parking Lot.**

Brendan said that this was a continuation of a discussion from the monthly meeting held on August 9, 2021. He said that he contacted Todd Parah, facilities supervisor for the GMUSD, who said that the GMUSD has approved complete funding for the project, and the questions for the Board are (1) does the Board give permission for the town-owned portion to be paved and (2) will the Board authorize town funds to pay for that portion. Brendan said that Bazin Brothers is working to grade and compact the surface and plans to do the paving it in about two weeks.

Sandra asked what purpose the lot was donated for. Brendan said that it was donated for the school to use for parking but it is owned by the town. Sandra said that she thought it should be paved and the town should pay for it since it is town property. She said that she thought the school should be responsible for future upkeep. Bob agreed that it should be paved since icy patches were a safety concern but thought the school should pay for it. George said that he did not want the town to pay for it and wasn't sure it needed to be paved.

Mike said that he thought it was a safety issue and should be paved, and since the town owns it then the town should pay for it. He said that he didn't think school staff and students should be asked to walk through a muddy parking lot. He added that the town will pay for it either directly or through school taxes. Mike said that the School Board approved paving it as long as the Select Board agreed, and they would fund the entire project if the town didn't pay their share. George asked how much Mike was involved in the Elementary School operations. Mike said not at all, his position only involves the High School.

George said that he did not like feeling that the School Board had made this decision for the town. He added that he thought there should be a sign in front of the school with the school's name on it. Katherine Fogg was present and said that is being discussed.

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to allow GMUSD permission to pave the portion of the parking lot owned by the town. George said that paving the lot will not eliminate puddles. Mike said that it will eliminate ruts. Sandra Russo, Bob Glidden and Mike Ripley voted yes. George Timko voted no. The motion carried.

Sandra wondered how to ask the school to be responsible for the lot in future. Brendan said that he thought it would be complicated to craft appropriate language for that and it should be done by legal counsel. George said that he thought the school should pay for maintenance and repairs.

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to put \$12,000 toward paving the town portion of the school parking lot. Bob Glidden, Mike Ripley and Sandra Russo voted yes. George Timko voted no. The motion carried.

Katherine said that the school and town have a Memorandum of Understanding for the library, so suggested that could also be done for the parking lot. She said that she would like to put up a sign at the lot because they find

non-staff cars parking there especially in winter. She added that people also use the school dumpsters for their household trash.

Katherine said that the curbing along Route 131 in front of the school gets piled with snow, making it difficult for students to get through. Brendan said that the town does some snow removal in the villages but Route 131 is a state highway so the town is limited in what can be done. He said that he would talk with the state.

The Board discussed whether the lot should be signed for school employees only or not. Brendan said that he would like to think about this issue before making a decision. Katherine suggested that limiting parking during school hours would help although she thought most cars were parked there overnight and so would still be there in the early morning when staff arrives.

3. Select Board to discuss Mineral Rights Issue for property on Rt 131.

Brendan handed out copies of a deed for the mineral rights of the 65 acre property currently owned by Narbut on Route 131 which is next to the town-owned lot of 47 acres. He said that it is currently up for sale and the potential buyer of this property noticed that the town owns the mineral rights. He said that the attorney for the potential buyer sent a letter requesting the town to release those mineral rights before the sale proceeds.

George said that he believed that was done to protect the town property from excessive digging which was taking place on other properties in that area.

Brendan said that the town attorney is reviewing this. Brendan said that he would advise not releasing those rights. The Board discussed this topic and since the lot is still buildable decided not to release the mineral rights.

3. Adjourn

Mike Ripley moved/Sandra Russo seconded a motion to adjourn at 4:33 p.m. All voted in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

Date: _____