

## FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

The conduct of the meeting included remote access by telephone, video, and electronic means. The public could attend in person or by viewing the live stream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> or calling 778-5874.

Vice-Chair Stephan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Scott Landry and Byron Staples. Chairman Matthew Smith and Joshua Bell were unable to attend. Town Manager Christian Waller, Executive Assistant Nancy Martin, Public Works Director Phil Hutchins, Fire Deputy Chief/Town Budget Committee Chair Clyde Ross, Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Review Member Dennis O'Neil, MDOL BLS Workplace Safety and Health Director Steven Greeley, MDOL, SafetyWorks! Program Manager Mary Matthews, MBTV Camera Operator Tom Martin, and members of the press and public were also present. Members of the press and public participated remotely as authorized by PL 209, c.617.

### **ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

### **ITEM 2: MDOL, SafetyWorks! Program Manager Mary Matthews to present the SHAPE award to the Town of Farmington**

On behalf of Governor Janet Mills, Commissioner Laura Fortman, and the Maine Department of Labor, BLS Workplace Safety and Health Director Steven Greeley presented the Safety and Health Award for Public Employees (SHAPE) Award to Town Manager Christian Waller. Mr. Greeley said. "the SHAPE Award recognizes employers who operate an exemplary safety and health management system. Acceptance into SHAPE is an achievement status that will single you out as the best of the best in workplace safety and health". To participate in SHAPE, the Town must: Request a consultation visit that involves a complete safety and health hazard identification survey; involve employees in the consultation process; correct all hazards identified by the consultant; implement and maintain a safety and health management system; and have an injury and illness rates that are below the state average for industry classification. Farmington is part of an elite group of 12 out of 82 locations in the State of Maine to receive this award. Director Greeley acknowledged the catastrophic event of 2019; this SHAPE Award shows what can be accomplished when the Town puts its time, effort, and resources together. Director Greeley encouraged the Town to maintain its SHAPE status so he could return in two years and give the Town a renewal plate for the plaque. Town Manager Waller thanked the Department Heads and Nancy Martin for their tireless effort in helping make Farmington one of the safest places to work in the state. Mr. Bunker echoed Mr. Waller's sentiments. He added that as a firefighter department member, they've focused on safety in their processes for as long as he can remember; the fire department is out training this evening. Mr. Bunker stated that it's an added feather in Farmington's cap that this is a town-wide award.

### **ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing and Vote on a new Application for a Lunch Wagon Permit for Donnie's Fried Chicken, owned and operated by James Spina of Shapleigh**

Vice-Chair Stephan Bunker opened the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:40 P.M.

Vice-Chair Stephan Bunker closed the Public Hearing under Item 3 at 6:44 P.M.

Mr. Spina was present and provided a brief overview of Donnie's Fried Chicken. Also present was Donnie Straguoly, whom Mr. Spina credits with creating the best-fried chicken recipe. The food truck will be operated at 654 Farmington Falls Road, Thursday through Saturday, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Byron Staples commended them for being open later in the evening when there are few places to buy take-out.

**ITEM 3: To Hold a Public Hearing and Vote on a new Application for a Lunch Wagon Permit for Donnie’s Fried Chicken, owned and operated by James Spina of Shapleigh (continued)**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the application for a Lunch Wagon Permit for Donnie’s Fried Chicken, owned and operated by James Spina of Shapleigh; Byron Staples seconded.**

**VOTE AFFIRMATIVE 3 ABSENT 2 MOTION CARRIED  
(Smith/Bell)**

The Selectmen signed the application.

**ITEM 4: To allow Deborah Tripp Probert, Maine Old Cemetery Association, to address the Board regarding cemetery preservation.**

Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) member Deborah Tripp Probert provided a review of the preservation efforts in Franklin County over the past five to six years. MOCA was founded in 1968 and is dedicated to preserving Maine’s neglected cemeteries. The 1,000 MOCA members are all volunteers who pay a \$10.00 annual fee. They hold three annual meetings and one annual workshop. She became involved in cemetery preservation when she retired as a public school teacher (25 years in Franklin County) and was looking for something to do with her free time. Ms. Probert said her father and father-in-law were World War II veterans, her husband served seven years in the National Guards, and her family always had much respect for cemeteries and veterans. Ms. Probert stated that her goal is to see something significant happen in Farmington. In 2014 she learned of MOCA and attended a four-day workshop about cleaning the stones, not using cement when repairing stones, resetting, non-hydraulic lime, pin replacement, and information about stone preservation. They brought in a professional conservator of ancient cemeteries. Ancient cemeteries are cemeteries that were established before 1880. If you have an American Revolution, War of 1812, or a Civil War soldier buried in your cemetery, it is considered an ancient cemetery. Farmington has approximately eighteen ancient cemeteries. Ms. Probert said she partnered with professional stone repairman Albert Stehle and began restoring stones. In 2014 the Chesterville Select Board budgeted \$5,000 specifically for cemetery revitalization and repairs. MOCA collaborated with Chesterville’s 4-H Club, Albert Stehle, and elementary school kids to clean sixteen stones. In August 2016, MOCA held a very successful four-day workshop which generated much support from Franklin County Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Select Board members, town sextons, and historical society members representing Eustis, Philips, Strong, Vienna, Mount Vernon; the participants all went home to start something in their towns. They got funds budgeted for cemetery repairs. In 2017, a Wilton Historical Society member suggested that MOCA do something about the Butterfield Cemetery. Samuel Butterfield was one of our original founding fathers; he built the lovely brick house that is now the Skowhegan Savings Bank. He owned the oldest frame-built house that E.L. Vining’s just tore down because it had been modernized beyond the point of preservation. Ms. Probert stated she spoke with former Town Manager Richard Davis and approached him about the possibility of preserving the Town’s cemeteries. Mr. Davis and Public Works inspected the cemeteries with Ms. Probert. Farmington Public Works returned the granite slabs surrounding the cemetery to their rightful places and trimmed some trees. The Sandy River Genealogy Society also cleaned some stones. In 2022 Philips appropriated \$5,000 to stone preservation and an additional \$1,000 donated. They hired Mr. Stehle, who was able to stand up and repair 40 stones. Mr. Stehle did the same for the Town of Strong. He averages \$1,500 to raise twelve stones. Ms. Probert proposed that the Board allocate \$5,000 to cemetery preservation in the 2023 budget. She declared that the Town is required to maintain veterans’ stones. Ms. Probert answered the Selectmen’s questions.

**ITEM 5: To allow Peter Beane and Debra Daggett to address the Board regarding a A fundraising campaign to raise \$5,000 to purchase a flagpole and flag for the Fairview cemetery.**

Peter Beane and Debra Daggett requested a letter of support for the fundraising campaign. Their goal is to raise \$5,000 to purchase a flag pole to be set up in the Fairview Cemetery. They would like Farmington Public Works to install the flag pole and assume any maintenance once it is in place. Public Works Director Phil Hutchins agreed to install the flag pole. He recommended that solar lighting be installed since no electrical hookups are available. Mr. Beane asked if a town account could be set up to hold the funds. Mr. Waller responded that it would be best if the funds remained in a private account, and once raised, the Board would vote to accept the funds. Ms. Daggett revealed that the Mount Blue Garden Club has volunteered to maintain flowers at the base of the pole. Mr. Beane and Ms. Daggett answered the Select Board's questions.

**Scott Landry moved to authorize a letter of support for the fundraising campaign; Byron Staples seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE            3            ABSENT            2            MOTION CARRIED**  
**(Smith/Bell)**

**ITEM 6: To discuss requests from the Towns of Industry and New Sharon to allow residents to use the Farmington Transfer Station.**

Christian Waller reviewed the Bulky Waste/Recycling Handling Agreement between the Town of Farmington and the Town of Strong as a reference. The Town of Strong pays a per capita fee of \$4.64. The Town of Farmington uses the most recent U.S. Census to determine population when issuing an invoice to Strong. Strong is responsible for issuing recycling stickers/permits to their residents. Mr. Waller suggested that allowing other towns to use the recycling center could make proposal requests more attractive due to higher volumes. Scott Landry indicated that New Sharon has not officially contacted us yet. They were going to discuss the matter at their next Select Board meeting. The Town of Industry is also considering its options. Byron Staples asked Phil Hutchins if it was worth offering the service to other towns. Mr. Hutchins reported he had done some research, and Industry's per capita is approximately 1,000, and New Sharon's per capita is about 1,500. Based on \$4.64 per capita, entering into an agreement with both towns would generate an estimated \$11,600 in revenue. Mr. Staples questioned the wear and tear on the Dump Road, traffic patterns, extra work for the recycling center employee(s), and extra work hours. Mr. Hutchins said he believes it would be worthwhile; he does not see any problem. There would not be a noticeable impact. Mr. Hutchins elucidated that the revenue goes into the unassigned fund balance. It does not go into the budget. Therefore, the money will decrease the tax burden on the taxpayer. A brief discussion regarding containers, recyclable volumes, the backhoe, #2 plastic vs. #1 and #5 plastics, and Waste Management's request for a 2% fee increase. Item 6 was tabled until the Town of Industry or New Sharon officially inquired about a recycling agreement.

**ITEM 7: To approve a request for a new road name for the subdivision off Maple Avenue/Map R08 Lot 008**

Christian Waller reviewed an email from D.M. Roma Consulting Engineers Senior Engineer. Jayson R. Haskell, P.E., dated September 13, 2022, requesting the road be named Autumn Drive.

**Scott Landry moved to name the road for the subdivision off Maple Avenue 9 Avenue/Map R08. Lot 008 Autumn Drive; Byron Staples seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE            3            ABSENT            2            MOTION CARRIED**  
**(Smith/Bell)**

**ITEM 8: To vote to move the Special Town Meeting from Monday, October 3, 2022, to Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

Christian Waller generated a discussion on the benefits of moving the Special Town Meeting to Tuesday, October 25th. Postponing the meeting will allow Fire Rescue Chief T.D. Hardy enough time to receive bids for the new fire engine. It will enable the Board Select enough time to review proposed changes to the homeless shelter ordinance, vote on any changes, and add an article to warrant. The third item on the warrant would be the acquisition of the 22-acre lot adjacent to the public works facility. The property would be used for future growth and would allow the Town to purchase a higher volume of aggregates. This would eliminate the need for a second Special Town Meeting, lessening the expense and inconvenience to the town's residents.

**Scott Landry moved the move the Special Town Meeting from Monday, October 3, 2022, to Tuesday, October 25, 2022; Byron Staples seconded.**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Smith/Bell)</b>		

**ITEM 9: To Approve the Minutes of September 13, 2022**

**Scott Landry moved to approve the Minutes of September 13, 2022; Bryon Staples seconded.**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Smith/Bell)</b>		

**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business**

A.) Christian Waller said that Atlantic Salmon Federation Project Manager Maranda Nemeth invites the Selectmen to visit Walton's Mill Park project on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**There being no further business to come before the Board, Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:33 P.M.; Byron Staples seconded.**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>
			<b>(Smith/Bell)</b>		

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

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Byron Staples - Secretary