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Town of West Newbury
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

Regional Meeting with Congressman Seth Moulton

Monday, January 6, 2020 at 5 PM

Pentucket Middle School

Attendance:	Selectman Chair David Archibald	Selectman Rick Parker
	Congressman Seth Moulton	Rep. Lenny Mirra
	Bill O'Neil, Groveland Selectman	Kelly Bovio
	Town Manager Angus Jennings	Others

The meeting began at 5 PM. The Board of Selectmen did not officially call to order, nor deliberate, nor take any votes or actions, but these meeting minutes were prepared because a quorum of West Newbury Selectmen was present.

Rep. Moulton began the meeting by saying that there is no agenda for the meeting. He represents some or all of 39 cities and towns, and finds that the most effective way to stay current with local concerns is to meet with local leaders and citizens. He invited comments on issues that would benefit from Federal policy or funding.

Selectmen Archibald said that an issue with need for Federal involvement is the CSOs (Combined Sewer Overflows) that affect the Merrimack River. The River begins in New Hampshire and the Federal govt has a role in facilitating inter-state solutions. He said it's a massive problem that won't be solved overnight, and will require a massive public works undertaking. We are downstream, so upstream sewage discharges end up here, and it feels like there's nothing we can do about it.

Rep. Mirra spoke about his efforts with Congresswoman Laurie Trahan. He said as a nation we're not properly investing in infrastructure, especially the "invisible infrastructure" like sub-surface drain lines. He said Manchester, NH has a ten-year plan to address CSOs. He said his office hears about CSOs the whole time but there is not enough infrastructure money to go around.

Kelly Bovio said that the staff supporting Rep. Custer, Pappas and Trahan are trying to put together a summit of stakeholders from both states.

Rep. Mirra said it has to become as big a problem for NH as it is for MA. He also referred to PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) as coming from New Hampshire. Selectman Parker said that some of this is coming from MA initially then being transported to NH where's it's again discharged downstream.

Rep. Moulton said that PFAS was a big issue in the Defense Bill but there was not consensus about the urgency or seriousness of the issue, or how quickly to move.

Rep. Mirra said that Federal support of dredging would be a huge help, especially for Plum Island to help protect coastal areas.

Kelly Bovio referred to an upcoming meeting on this topic with the Army Corps of Engineers. She said there are a number of smaller rivers and harbors in the sixth district, and it can be tough to get projects funded unless they can be shown to be economic drivers.

Rep. Mirra said we need to expedite permitting for dredging to benefit Plum Island. He also noted that off-shore wind turbines are being held up at the Federal level.

Rep. Moulton cited the closure of nuclear power plants as a factor in why the U.S. will miss our carbon reduction targets, and said MIT is doing work on next generation nuclear technology. There was discussion of nuclear plants and the perceived v. actual risk.

Selectman Archibald introduced the topic of solid waste and recycling costs. Rep. Moulton discussed the need to figure out how to reuse, noting that aluminum recycling makes a lot of sense. Selectman O'Neil said in the old days towns got paid for recycling, but now it's costing towns more per ton than disposal of trash. Rep. Moulton said we need long-term life cycle costs, and financial incentives to reduce waste. Selectman Parker agreed that the solution needs to be market driven, and that incentives are needed for producers of waste to produce items with less waste by-product.

Rep. Moulton suggested that labeling standards could be set regarding how companies are using packaging, akin to a carbon score.

Rep. Mirra discussed the potential to update the sub-surface natural gas transmission system. Selectman Parker spoke about the potential for distributed geothermal, noting that Eversource has a pilot program.

At approximately 5:53 PM the meeting disbanded.

Respectfully submitted,

Angus Jennings, Town Manager

Approved by Board of Selectmen 3-0 on January 21, 2020