**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes**

**February 26, 2024**

**7:00 PM** Selectman Jack **Esposito** called the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Howard **Brown.** The Board reviewed the minutes of 2/20/24. **Brown** motioned to accept the minutes of 2/20/24 as written seconded by **Esposito.** All in favor.

Town Moderator David Sturm came to speak with the Board regarding two petition warrant articles that came in. One of them was to convert to SB2. The Town Clerk examined all of the petition signers and found that they lacked the requisite number of registered voters; there were 24 registered voters and they needed 25. The second one was to get rid of our voting machine and go back to hand counting. Our Clerk matched 24 of the submitted petitions in every respect; one signer used a nickname and it wasn’t clear to the Clerk on her review whether it was in fact a registered voter or not. That brought the number on that petition down to 24 as well. The Clerk notified the petitioners that neither of these articles will be put on the Warrant. The petitioner of the second article is contesting this decision. There was also a question as to whether the second one was submitted in a timely fashion; we should make sure that we have a clear policy in the future. Sturm reached out to Bud Fitch who is the Chief Legal Counsel for the Secretary of State; he is usually the front person on all election matters. Ultimately, whether we put this petition warrant article on the warrant to be voted on is a decision for the Selectboard. As of now, it has been communicated to the petitioner that it is not on the warrant. We have gotten two 91-A requests for information about that decision. Sturm thinks he should speak to Town Counsel and get his take on it. He has a couple of follow up questions for the Town Clerk. If this should be on the Warrant and her decision should be revisited, then we should do so. If her decision is defensible per Town Counsel, then maybe we don’t. Sturm will follow up and come back to the Board next Monday. **Esposito** noted that there are several people in town who go by their nickname and not by there first name. If the person was known but because they put a nickname down, it’s a very grey area. To avoid a costly litigation, if we get into it, he feels we should put it on the Warrant. Sturm agrees and will put the call in to Town Counsel. **Brown** agrees; his name is on that petition. He feels that the towns people should vote on it.

**Esposito** asked if the Library plans on putting on a big presentation like they did last year? It was very time consuming; if so, he feels there should be a time limit. **Brown** reached out to the IT Director for the SAU and the Principal of MVVS to get their thoughts on the audio and a microphone for the back of the room; he is waiting for a reply. Cleary will check with Crosby to make sure the 500 chairs have been ordered.

The Board reviewed a letter from the DES regarding enforcement follow-up to documented violations on Map 5, Lot 41. In January of 2023, NHDES performed an inspection of the property and observed unpermitted stream crossings, unpermitted culverts and other impacts to streams and wetlands. The property owner was notified that they are required to retain a NH certified wetland scientist and to submit an ATF wetland permit application to request to retain unpermitted stream crossings and culvert installations on the property. Cleary has forwarded to the Conservation Commission and notified the Code Enforcer.

**7:30 PM** As there was no further business before the Board **Brown** motioned to adjourn seconded by **Esposito.** All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cleary