

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 13, 2021

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Howard Brown and Tim Berry and minute taker, Laurie Brown.

Esposito led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Board discussed the resignation of Charles Baker from the Heritage Commission. Apparently, he resigned and wished to be kept on as an alternate. Subsequently attending a meeting expecting to be sat as a commission member. When told that they had accepted his resignation, there was a bit of confusion and Baker ended up exiting the meeting abruptly. The Commission members have petitioned the Selectmen to have them remove Baker from the Commission all-together. Board agreed.

Board requested the Health Officer, Rich Masters, attend the meeting to discuss a Covid Clinic to be held in Town on October 5th. Masters had not had a chance to read the email forwarded to him by Bonnie Angulas giving the details, but thought the Clinic was a good idea. Masters will follow up.

7:15 PM Department Head Meeting Acting Police Chief, Mark Slavin

- The PD is done testing the first vendor's body cameras and will be testing 3 altogether in the coming months.
- All the alarms at MVVS have been tested, and they will be doing the Town's alarms this week.
- The Boy Scout's popcorn sale winner will be awarded a ride in a cruiser.
- The 9/11 memorial ceremony went very well.

Esposito asked Slavin to look into getting a defibrillator for the transfer station. Slavin agreed.

Eileen Naber asked about fire drills.

Slavin explained that the Fire Chief has full control over fire drills.

Naber feels that the Board should publish that Slavin has been chosen to be "Acting Chief" until such time as the Police Chief's position is filled permanently.

Angulas suggested mentioning the Police Chief Search Committee and the due process gone through.

Berry passed out a flyer from the NHMA regarding mask wearing. He feels that the Board should discuss it at their next meeting as 566 people have contacted Covid today and 5 people died. He shared that part of what is coming back is ZOOM meetings.

Howard Brown said that this country is moving back to ZOOM meetings – are we thinking the same thing?

Library Director, Bonnie Angulas

- September is Library Card sign up month.
- JoAnn is back in the Kindergarten.
- We will be looking at the mask mandate.
- Friends of the Library book sale was a success.
- The tree in the back of the library was removed by the Daland Trustees and will be turned into a "Little Free Library".
- The parking lot needs attention; we are getting flooding and pooling of water. This includes the 3 spots along Grand Hill Road.

Berry said that he would get in touch with the DPW Director, Ben Crosby.

Howard Brown asked if there had been any responses to the removal of the soil contaminated by the fuel leak.

Angulas said that DES evaluated the site and is not satisfied. Both sets of Library Trustees are involved. Howard Brown feels that we should be concerned about this.

- NH to Go Humanities program: New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell. The Daland Memorial Library will host Pamela Weeks at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church Round Room on Thursday, September 30th at 6:30pm.

Library Trustee – Cindy Raspiller

- Handed in a letter responding to the Selectmen's letter requesting the exact square footage and cost of the proposed library. The square footage is: 7,607 gross, and the cost remains at 4.6 million dollars. On 7/21/21 the Trustees met and decided we would hold the cost to the 2018 figure and absorb any escalation.

Berry asked if the \$4.6 million included both hard and soft costs and was told: yes. He said that they had been able to set a fundraising goal and asked if the fundraiser had given them a timeframe.

Raspiller said that the Trustees have applied for a grant through the National Endowment for Humanities. They said that we have a charming project and a compelling story.

Recreation Director – Heather Kennedy

- The Summer Gala turnout was great considering the time of year, fewer events etc. Lots of students were missing due to sports and going back to college.
MVCC did a great job with the lunch concessions and jumped right in to do the dinner with very short notice. We were in between hurricanes and had to use new vendors.
- Lamson Farm Day is scheduled for 9/25 from 10:00 to 3:00. The fields have been too wet to mow or park on. They may have to cancel or postpone.

Howard Brown suggested parking at MVVS and shuttling people to the farm.

Recreation will provide Pony Rides, children's games and the Pocket Lady.

7:45 PM End of Department Head Meeting.

Resident, Doug LePage came in to speak with the Board regarding his property (junkyard). He said that he has found someone who is taking in junk autos. He needs to wait for the land to dry up, but he has removed 18 vehicles so far and will continue when conditions permit.

Esposito thanked him for being proactive and coming in to see the Board- no one else has.

7:50 PM Esposito said that having the Covid Clinic at the Fire Station if there is bad weather will be ok.

H. Brown asked who is in charge of the Fire Station Community Room; the FD or the Selectmen.

Esposito said that the Selectmen are; it is a Town building.

H. Brown said that he understands the reluctance of the FD, but it is a Town building.

Esposito said that there is pushback sometimes but we can work it out.

Resident Eileen Naber said that there are many restrictions to using it, and you might not get a reply to your request unless you are a friend of the Fire Chief.

H. Brown said that, years ago, he wrote a policy on building usage. We need to have a policy for all of the buildings and adhere to it.

Berry asked if anyone else had heard of housekeeping issues over there. It seems that the station may not be getting cleaned weekly.

H. Brown said that the Board could conduct an inspection at any time.

Esposito said that we should make sure all of the public spaces are neat and clean.

Esposito said that the SLRD voted to send all of the trash from the transfer station to the incinerator rather than to a landfill.

8:00 PM Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. All in favor.

8:45 PM Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to come out of non-public session. All in favor
Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to seal the non-public minutes. All in favor.

Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown to accept the minutes of 8/30/21 as written. All in favor.

L. Brown let the Board know that when they signed the Waiver of Municipal Liability for the Wilkins property on the Class VI Road at the Town of Amherst line (2nd NH Turnpike) it never made it into the minutes. Berry motioned, seconded by H. Brown that they accept the Wilkins's Waiver of Municipal Liability drawn up by Tom Quinn as written. This waiver was signed by the Chairman of the Board on July 19, 2001. All in favor.

Esposito proposed that the Selectmen's Office go back to being closed on Fridays due to lack of traffic effective immediately. The staff will continue to put in 35 hours each. Board unanimously agreed.

9:00 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned seconded by H. Brown to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Brown