

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes February 3, 2020

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DPW Director, Ben Crosby, came before the Board to what should be done about the 2005 Ford F550 whose transmission is acting up. Esposito said that he doesn't want to put any serious money into a 15-year-old truck.

Roberge agreed.

Crosby has someone that will take a look at it and maybe tell him what is wrong with it.

The Board ok'd that, but wants to be apprised of the repairs before any money is spent.

David Hall and Jim Bird of the Planning Board came before the Board to bring up concerns over the new Wetlands Ordinance that the Conservation Commission is proposing through the Planning Board. One of the things they are concerned about is that the buffer zones make it too restrictive to build on any lot with wetlands on it. Also, the way the ordinance reads it contradicts itself regarding existing lots having to get a special use permit to build on.

Roberge said that the State is already changing the wetland area sizes, and it seems we are trying to make it more stringent in Mont Vernon than what the State regulations are.

Hall said that he is interested and invested in this because of previously approved lots. His concern is that it shouldn't affect the previously approved lots. The way it is written, the buffers will affect those lots; if we cannot meet the criteria, we will have to go back to the Planning Board.

Bird, speaking from his position on the Conservation Commission, said that we want to protect our wetlands and drinking water, but we are proposing something a little misaligned from the State. We paid good money to come up with some guidance. There are some people that will be impacted a lot!

Roberge said that neither the Conservation Commission nor the Planning Board have been in to the Selectboard with any of this plan. It sounds like some of this is unworkable.

Berry said that the Board hadn't heard anything about it because there were multiple meetings and Mr. Bird was astounded at the final revision. We are hearing now from you guys because you weren't part of the process.

Bird said that he did get into it late and is wondering "How have we not fixed this yet?" The intent in the beginning was to not make existing lots unbuildable.

Hall asked if anyone had studied how many lots this affects. We are going to lose time, money and value.

Roberge said she was upset that this hasn't come before the Selectmen at all.

Esposito said that the Town could become unbuildable.

Hall said that he is in favor of preserving the wetlands, but that it had to be done reasonably.

Roberge said that she needs to know why we would impose this on existing lots and why more stringent than the State.

Hall said that this will also be an enforcement nightmare – who will police this, the Building Inspector?

Esposito assured them that if Town Counsel has not approved it, it won't go on the ballot.

Bird said that the State has a model ordinance that maybe we should have used.

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7:45 PM

- Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to appoint Charles Schuessler to the ZBA. All in favor.

- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.
- Board reviewed the minutes of 1/27. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of January 27, 2020 as written. All in favor.

8:00 PM Board went over the Warrant Articles

#2 Town Hall Renovation	\$1,989,000	Selectmen support.
#3 2 Speed Signs	6,164	Selectmen support.

#4 Library Capital Reserve	10,000	Selectmen support.
#5 Lease/Purch. Fire Truck	600,000	Selectmen do not support.
#6 Fire Truck Cap. Reserve	75,000	Selectmen do not support.
#7 Block Grant Money	96,574	Selectmen support.
#8 Repairs & Maint Town Bldgs	50,000	Selectmen support.
#9 Operating Budget	2,655,550	Selectmen support.

8:15 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.
All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown