

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes May 18, 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 a moment of silence for the affected and the first responders.

Board reviewed the minutes of 5/11/20. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of May 11, 2020 as amended. Berry; yes, Roberge; yes, Esposito; yes.

Bill McKinney and Charlie Baker of the Planning Board came before the Board to present the finished Facilities Chapter of the Master Plan. They let the Board know that this chapter was more work than the others as it had to be completely re-written. There is now one Facilities chapter with sub chapters for each Town Building, whereas before there was a chapter for each building. This section of the master plan had fallen so far out of date that Baker had to spend many many hours researching. The next step is for it to go to the NRPC for formatting.

Esposito thanked Baker for his hard work, and asked if it had to go to Town vote.

McKinney said "no".

Esposito said he was thinking about the Wetland ordinance.

McKinney said that the Wetlands Ordinance is part of the Zoning Regulations and will be a separate warrant article in 2021. He also wanted the Facilities Chapter sub-committee to be recognized for all of their work. That would be Rebecca Schwarz, Bill Johnson and Charlie Baker.

Police Chief Furlong gave the Covid-19 update: there have been 3596 diagnosed, 1268 recovered and 2156 currently infected, 172 deaths with 35 first responders quarantined. Mont Vernon has increased to the 5 – 10 case category over the last week and the first responders know where they are in Town. We are maintaining the Governors 2.0 Stay-at-home orders until May 31st.

Furlong listened in to the NH Finance meeting and found out that they want the municipalities to submit all their Covid-19 expenses to FEMA even though GOFERR would cover some of the same expenses.

Berry asked if there was a difference in the rate of reimbursement.

Furlong said yes; FEMA currently is reimbursing at 75% and the GOFERR grant is at 100%. The State has requested FEMA to increase their reimbursement to 100%, but they have not yet done so.

Roberge asked, if we submit to FEMA, can we get the 25% remainder reimbursed by GOFERR? Furlong didn't know.

Esposito asked about the payroll taxes pertaining to the Hazzard Pay monies.

Furlong said that you can submit those to GOFERR, but he is not sure they will be reimbursed. He gave the email address for questions to the office,

Board read an email regarding a lot merger that was scheduled originally for the first February Planning Board meeting. That meeting was the night of elections and had a full agenda so Mr. Lovette's merger was bumped to the March meeting. That meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic. It was finally heard by Zoom in May and was granted. Mr. Lovette is requesting waiver of the April first deadline due to factors beyond his control. Board agreed and will have the office make sure the assessment records show one property as of April 1st.

David Hall came before the Board to ask for special consideration regarding current use taxes. His dad still owns 4 pieces of property on Dutton Circle. One is about to be sold and if one more sells it will knock the final two out of current use as they will no longer have 10 contiguous acres. He would ideally like to delay the current use tax until each one is sold.

Berry explained that the Statutes are State Statutes, not Town.

Hall asked if the Statutes started at the State and then it was up to the Town for enforcement.

Roberge said that it doesn't work that way unless the Town rules are more stringent than the State.

Esposito asked if he sells 2 lots, wouldn't you have enough money to pay the current use tax.

Hall said that, yes, he would, but it is a planning issue. It might work better for us to sell them all together, but I hear that the answer is no.

Roberge said that she doesn't think we as the Board have the authority to do that.

Esposito would like to purchase some fish for Carleton Pond even though we are not having a fishing derby.

Berry doesn't feel the fish would survive. Maybe we could get 1/3 the amount we get for the derby.

DPW Director Crosby said that NH Fish and Game will not stock it, we will have to purchase the fish.

Chief Furlong added that the pond is very small for social distancing; we would be creating a situation that would need monitoring.

Esposito opened a discussion regarding recycling at the transfer station.

Crosby said that he isn't sure we can recycle the clear plastic in with the opaque milk bottles; he is checking into that. He knows that Hollis has 2 containers to separate them. All other plastic must be put into the regular trash.

Several scenarios were floated as to how we could begin opening recycling again.

It was decided that corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans were the best place to start because they are on opposite sides of the parking lot. Also, they are what people are likely to have the most of saved up.

Cardboard and Aluminum cans will be accepted along with regular trash on Saturday, May 23, Tuesday May 26, Thursday, May 28 and Saturday, May 30. Brown will post on Facebook and on the Town website. Further instructions will follow.

Town Clerk, Belinda Yeaton, came to tell the Board that she did not order the shields that they talked about last week. She saw one in person, and it looked terrible. She said that Earle Rich has a supplier for plexiglass and that her husband is willing to make frames for it. Board agreed and thanked her for spearheading the project.

Yeaton also said that they were going to have to have a conversation on ways to keep people safe during the upcoming election, but could wait a bit to see how things go.

Esposito asked Crosby about the calcium chloride that he is suggesting buying the pump and applicator for. He asked Crosby if he is sure it is going to work, as we have never used it before.

Crosby said yes, it has worked in a number of towns around us. He added that after buying the CC for 3 years we will own the tanks too.

Roberge said that she liked all the information Crosby has supplied the Board, and that there is an "out" clause.

Esposito asked if we would have to pour a pad to store the tanks and was told no.

Crosby said that they have estimated 8600 gallons for one year's usage. This should cost \$9100 and is in the budget. The pump and applicator are \$2700, but they will give us the CC at a discount.

Roberge said that, since we are manipulating the budget funds in order to purchase the equipment, we need to be able to explain why we did that.

Board agreed to have Crosby purchase the pump and applicator for calcium chloride.

Crosby said that he could have it here by the end of the week.

Berry asked Crosby about visiting the Purgatory Road trail head with Joanne Draghetti.

Crosby said that he and Draghetti figure they could add a parking spot on either side of the Sycamore tree that they want to save. He said that they have logs that they can use to delineate the parking spots. They have to be careful what they change as Amherst Land Trust is adamant that it remains in its natural state. They may also be able to add a spot or two in the circle around the foundation.

Roberge asked if it was still the plan to close Beech Hill Rd. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week to do some culvert work and was told that, yes, that is the plan.

Esposito asked Roberge what date and time would work for her and the Building Inspector to meet via Zoom with Town Counsel and was told next Thursday at 7:00 pm. Office will coordinate with Dwight Sowerby.

Brown let the Board know that the office will be closed this Friday.

Roberge asked if we were moving forward with Tom Quinn on quieting the title on the Weston Hill property?

Board discussed this and they would like to know what the back taxes would add up to. Brown will look into it.

Roberge added that it isn't just collecting back taxes, it is about getting the parcel back on the tax rolls.

Esposito feels that the accrued interest for 19 years will cover our expenses.

Roberge asked what the next step is on the letters that went out to property owners that had trailers that looked like they were being lived in on their property. She also wants to know what we do next for a property that a cease and desist was served on. There has been no further building on it, but it hasn't been removed either and no permit has been pulled.

Berry asked Roberge if the Library Trustees have been meeting.

Roberge said that she just got notification of a Zoom meeting happening tomorrow.

Berry wants to go on a site walk with all parties involved before the corn is planted. He is very concerned that the Selectmen seem to have been left out of the loop on their goings on.

Roberge said that she didn't know that they got their state approval.

Esposito said that when the Board agreed to build the road, the library was proposed to be between the Post Office and Carleton Pond. Now it is going way up the hill – we may not be able to afford that. The cost of the road should be included in the cost of the library.

Eileen Naber reminded the Board that the road will also serve the Cemetery and the Town must provide the road to the Cemetery, so it will go up by the Library anyway.

Berry said that the Board needs to see the engineering of the road.

Roberge agreed that the Board should be more in the loop with the Library and all other factions of Town.

Berry asked Brown to send a letter to the Conservation Commission to find out when the aerator will be installed in the pond; the money was appropriated last spring.

No meeting next week as it is Memorial Day.

9:00 PM As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Brown