

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 18, 2017

7:00 pm Meeting called to order by Board Chair, John Quinlan. Also in attendance were Selectmen John Esposito and Kim Roberge.

Nancy Lynch of the Future Use of Town Buildings Committee introduced Andrew Cushing of the NH Preservation Alliance to the Board. Lynch explained that the idea of establishing a Heritage Commission came about because currently there is no mechanism for us to hold funds from year to year.

Cushing began his presentation by explaining that a Heritage Commission is basically a conservation commission for historic buildings. They can help design the historical resources section of the Master Plan, they help guide homeowners and give municipalities access to grants. There would be 3 to 7 members with one selectman, one member from the planning board and one ex officio member from the Historic District Committee. The members are appointed by the Selectmen, and some towns have an application process.

A heritage commission covers the entire town, not just the historic district. You would want to have professionals on the commission (construction, real estate etc.).

There are 63 active heritage commissions in NH at the moment, and 9 town have combined heritage commissions and historic district commissions.

Some towns create the commission strictly to oversee the renovation of town buildings. They can hold non-lapsing funds and can accept tax deductible private donations. They can go after preservation easements and assume education advocacy roles. Some towns have had the commission spearhead a Demolition Review and Record Ordinance that helps preserve some historic buildings, but documents the demolition if that is the way the town decides.

The NH Preservation Alliance will help interested towns get it passed at town meeting. They have the language for the warrant articles and bylaws. Small towns usually have a \$100 - \$500 budget and then they raise their own money.

Bill McKinney: Can we both, vote in and fund the commission at the same town meeting?

Cushing: Yes, but you need two separate warrant articles.

Lynch: Do commissions from several town ever get together to share ideas?

Cushing: There are a few towns on the seacoast that do get together.

Esposito: What do you think would be the biggest benefit to Mont Vernon?

Cushing: Having a commission that you can give a big project to and they can fundraise for it.

McKinney: If people donate to the fund, it is tax deductible.

Cushing: That is true and people are more likely to donate to a commission than to a town.

Quinlan: Is the scope of powers spelled out in the warrant article or by state statute?

Cushing: Neither, the governing body includes that in the bylaws.

Roberge: The commission would be non-regulatory and we would benefit because you can't have a heritage fund without having a heritage commission.

Cushing: That is right.

Roberge: So, based on your experience, it would be beneficial to us specifically because of the 3 building renovations we have planned?

Cushing: Yes.

Lynch: The education platform could be used to build up support for these projects.

Quinlan: What is the relationship between the heritage commission and the conservation commission?

Cushing: In some towns, we see both commissions looking out for one another, and advising each other whenever a project would overlap.

7:35 PM End of presentation by the NH Preservation Alliance.

7:35 PM Police Chief Furlong came before the Board with part-time candidate Michael Casey. The background check on Casey is complete and Furlong asked the Board to appoint Casey to the MVPD.

Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to appoint Michael Casey to the Mont Vernon Police Department as a part-time officer starting at the part-time rate. Effective immediately. All in favor.

7:40 PM Zoe Fimbel came before the Board regarding the NH Granite, the vintage baseball team playing next weekend as the home team. They would like permission to raise money to have a sign created and installed at the town gateway(s) that names Mont Vernon as the Birthplace of "Doc" Adams, one of the founding fathers of American baseball.

The Board unanimously thought it was a great idea, as long as they have final say on the design of the sign, and gave Fimbel permission to give NH Granite the go-ahead.

Fimbel asked if it would be appropriate to mention it sometime during the games on the 23rd.

Board agreed that it would be fine to announce it.

7:50 PM Chief Furlong advised the Board that when he removed the toilet in the public bathroom of the McCollom Building, he found that the floor was so rotten, the toilet was tilted to one side and when pulled out it cracked the cast iron flange. When he went into the basement to investigate, he found another regular water pipe was leaking quite a bit. Weatherbee plumbing fixed the regular pipe and will come back to hook the new toilet back up as soon as the floor has been replaced.

Board discussed who would make the repair, and Roberge will provide the office with several contractors that would possibly be interested in the work.

Esposito said that we should have the DPW check the basement on a regular basis so that leaks like this can be discovered earlier.

8:05 PM Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to go into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91:A:3II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself. Roll call: Roberge (yes), Quinlan (yes), Esposito (yes).

8:25PM Board returned from non-public session. Esposito motioned, Roberge seconded to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Furlong explained that if the Town adopts a Junk Yard permit and corresponding ordinance, there are two ways to deal with a violation: Civilly; The Town would impose a \$50/day fine for each day the property is in violation. Criminally; Using the Nuisance Law, the governing body files in District Court, with a fine of \$1000.00.

Roberge asked if we were looking for an opinion from Town Counsel on this, or is the Planning Board thinking of adding verbiage to the Zoning Regulations regarding the regulation of junk yards?

Quinlan said that this issue is not on the Planning Board's radar.

Joanne Draghetti, Chair of the Conservation Commission came before the Board with two items to discuss:

- Selectmen charged \$2,900 to the Conservation Budget for a boundary survey of a town owned property. She was concerned that the Commission could no longer spend money on the budget items that were voted on at Town Meeting.

The Board explained that the survey was necessary, and there was no other appropriate line item to charge it to. They asked her to be frugal in what money was spent for the remainder of the year, but told her that the Commission should not put off any regularly scheduled maintenance. The Board recognized that the line item would be overspent from a budget perspective.

- The office is asking for 2018 budgets to be turned in before the Commission meets again. She asked to be able to turn theirs in on October 12. Board agreed.

8:45 PM Fire Chief Wilson came before the Board on behalf of the Board of Governors for MACC Base.

The upgrading to a repeater system will be phased according to department. The police departments will be the most expensive because of all the equipment. All of the existing hard sites will be upgraded. Mont Vernon's share of the PD phase will be \$55,000 over 2 years. When it is time to upgrade the Fire Departments, Mont Vernon will move from low band to VHS frequency.

Wilson strongly suggests getting all of the Selectboards together to figure out how to get financing set for longer than 1 year. The new agreement should cover at least the same term as the financing on the entire project.

Esposito asked how much Wilson feels that the Milford Selectmen are trying to pass on to MACC that should be Milford expenses. Wilson said that MACC Base is not touching any of Milford's radios, so... nothing.

Esposito asked what the feasibility is of putting the equipment on the Cross Road tower.

Wilson said that it is feasible; Cross Road is an approved site. The McCollom Building is a stop-gap site. We would need a microwave link between the McCollom Building and the FD radios.

We need to solicit bids, but I am not going to waste anyone's time and energy until we know what Milford is really going to do.

Quinlan asked what the flavor of the meetings have been since the breakdown of the 3 Boards meetings.

Wilson said that they have been positive; the Board of Governors keep their meetings focused on moving forward.

Roberge asked Wilson why the DPW can't plow the fire station, and was told that our equipment is too big and it pushes piles of snow onto the gas lines etc.

- Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.
- Board reviewed minutes of 9/4. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of September 4, 2017 as amended. All in favor.
- Board reviewed and signed an Intent to cut Timber for Brett Vaughn's property on Purgatory Road.
- Board reviewed and signed the Nashua Regional Solid Waste agreement for the residents of Mont Vernon to participate in the Household Hazardous Waste program.
- Discussed the estimate from All-Ways Accessible to repair the wheelchair lift at the McCollom Bldg. Agree to hire All-Ways Accessible to repair same.

9:30 pm As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Esposito to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie M. Brown