

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes November 13, 2018

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

Board reviewed minutes of 11/6/17. Esposito motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of November 6, 2017 as written. All in favor.

Board reviewed and signed checks and manifest.

7:15 pm Department Head Meeting

Vanessa Chavez – Recreation Director

We finished up Halloween and had a great Witch Walk. We had enough candy donated to make it comfortable for the Main Street residents. We also received several Thank You Cards. We held a recap meeting and got positive feedback. Bonnie Angulas and Joanne Kitchel pick up all the collected candy, organize the bags and fill with sorted candy. We would like to increase the amount of donated candy next year, and will be looking at using the school to get the word out along with rethinking the placement of the collection boxes. We went a little overbudget this year because of having to buy some new bags to deliver the candy in – last year's bags were too small. Chavez asked the Board if the candy sorting could be done in the Town Hall meeting room next year, as the library was too small this year. Board agreed.

Beth Kershaw has had a clear vision for Tree Lighting from the beginning. She has received over \$200 in donations. She wants to showcase the generosity of the community and residents. We had to restring the tree this year at a cost of \$300. Earl Rich picked up new LED lights and he and Ray Lyons strung the tree today. Unfortunately, the tree is now too big to be strung horizontally and has to be done vertically. Beth has arranged for a String Duo from the Boston Music Conservancy to play for an hour.

Beth Kershaw – Tree Lighting We will have the music on the landing at the top of the stairs, coordinated with the museum to help bring people up to the museum.

Chavez said that Grace Angulas will be donating some kind of culinary creation and the Picket Fence is donating 40 home-made ornaments. There will be 100 ornaments to give away, and the Girl Scouts will be caroling.

Rich explained why the lights had to be replaced: lights burn out and there is a pile of broken glass under the tree from windstorms breaking bulbs. I have replaced them with LED lights that look just like the old lights, and they are plastic so there won't be any breakage. I also fixed them so they will not flicker or strobe like typical LED lights. The new lights only use 72 wats of power and can all be plugged into one certain.

Kershaw said that, moving forward, they will have more longevity.

Rich agreed and said that they have a 50,000-hour life span.

Kershaw said that Howard Brown will light the lights and Rich Masters will MC the evening.

Fire Chief, Jay Wilson, reminded everyone that the upstairs of the Town Hall's fire code limit is 49 people.

Bonnie Angulas – Library Director

Starbucks is sponsoring "Coffee and Books" on Tuesdays from 10am to 5pm. Come in for coffee and a chat.

The Library and the Historical Society are collaborating on a 4-part series centered on the history of Mont Vernon from 1:00pm – 2:00pm at the Library on: January 13, 2018; The History of Hospitality in Mont Vernon, February 10, 2018; Get Educated (Public and Private) education in Mont Vernon, March 10, 2018; Down on the Farm a History of Lamson Farm, and at the Congregational Church on April 14, 2018; A Living History Panel of the oldest residents giving their prospective and answering your questions.

Mike Ypya – DPW Director

The salt shed is almost full, and it is time to post the parking ban. The wind and rain storms actually helped us in the Cemetery; last year we hauled out 18 loads of leaves etc. and this year it was only 6 loads.

Ypya is working up a price for a new Ford F550 for the 2018 budget to replace the 2005.

Kevin Furlong – Police Chief

Esposito asked if the radiator in the public bathroom of the McCollom will be replaced.

Furlong said no, and that the oversized radiator in the lobby will take care of the bathroom as well.

Michael Casey is finished his training and is patrolling solo now.

During the storm, we had 12 road closures due to lines down; we fared pretty well.

Wednesday night we will have our night training.

Bedford Humane Society is sending someone to talk about animal involved incidents, which are a constant here in Mont Vernon.

Added a winter "Caught in the Act" program that will give a free Hot Cocoa to anyone caught in the act.

Luckily, we had extra officers on Halloween night as there was a domestic disturbance call just as Trick-or-Treat was getting started.

The first snowfall had the 1st vehicle of the roadway.

The restroom is complete; we did a lot of the work ourselves.

We had a department meeting and included the shared Prosecutor who spoke about how things have changed recently in the way the cases are handled.

Arrests are down because the other incidents call for more detailed investigations, taking the officers off the streets. Calls for service are up.

Jay Wilson – Fire Chief

Calls had been down but we have had 12 calls in the last few weeks.

We are ready to go forward with the wireless upgrade.

Lighting needs to be installed on Town Hall building illuminating the parking lot. (Office to call electrician)

Any new Town employees need to go through the CPR/AED training. It will be a 2hr class held in Amherst.

Jay Wilson – Conservation Commission

The upgrades to Carleton Pond are complete for 2017. Because of the newness of the soil of the banks, he advises no skating this winter.

8:15 PM End of Department Head Meeting

John Tenhave, builder of a home on Cheever Lane came before the Board.

Tenhave: I am here to figure out how to get power to the house I am building; the Building Inspector is threatening to issue a cease and desist over the driveway issue.

Brown: I have called legal and our Planning Board, but have not received return calls yet.

Tenhave: During the approval there were 180 total acres; 80 went into lots and the other 100 acres was set up as common land. They were hauling tons and tons of gravel out of the pit on the common land and the easement was designed to get back to the pit in case of emergency. The 20' wide strip of land given to the Town was originally thought to be the public access to the trails, but people were accessing the trails at the end of Dow Rd. That 20' strip has never been used, and is not accessible anymore; there are 20' saplings and brush in there. We eliminated the pedestrian parking spots because they were never constructed or used. We are not saying that the access should go away, but there is no reason why it can't be on the old logging road.

Quinlan: When did construction begin – how long ago? Sometime, someone should have read the plan.

Esposito: What do you want from us today?

Tenhave: I need to get electricity to the home.

Roberge: As soon as the bound is replaced, we can see that. Are you telling me that you are not going to put the driveway where it is shown on the plan?

Esposito: Is it or anything on Town property?

Tenhave: No, nothing is on Town property.

Roberge: I think you have to go back to the Planning Board to prove hardship to relocate your driveway.

Tenhave: Meridian will come out to set the bound tomorrow.

Quinlan: I don't have the expertise to say what has to be done; we need to get the Planning Board involved.

Roberge: It is listed on the plan as the driveway AND the easement, so we cannot allow the driveway to be moved.

Quinlan: The slopes will be restored and reforestation will take place?

Tenhave: I will meet with the head of the Conservation Commission. The important thing to remember is that the intent of the easement is not changing.

9:00 pm There was a short, heated discussion over the driveway not being installed per the plan and whether there should be a workaround or not.

No decisions were made pending hearing from the Planning Board Chair and Legal.

There was a short discussion over budgetary time frames and warrant articles.

9:15 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