

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**May 16, 2022
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Troy Merner, Selectman Leon Rideout, Selectman
Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson Charity Baker Michael Nadeau
Department Heads Members of the public Phlume Media

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Selectman Troy Merner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Librarian Barbara Robarts reported the summer programs are ready to go.

Health Officer Ted Joubert reported there have been a lot of bear activity around the restaurants. He is working with fish & game to help get it under control.

Police Chief Timothy Charbonneau mentioned they are gearing up for summer activities such as parades and events and he has started working on staffing for the fair.

Fire Chief Randy Flynn reported the department responded to 61 911 calls, 127 transfers, and 10 fire calls. Vehicle extrication tools and pumps have all been serviced. He is working on scheduling ladder testing and the air packs are going to be tested this week. He mentioned several members of the department assisted and will be assisting with the Crawford Notch fire.

Colonel Town Recreation – Ben reported the summer programs are getting started. Baseball/softball is up and running and Eli is working on getting life guards for the start of the pool season.

APPOINTMENTS: Julie Evans from Northern Forest Center was present to update the board on the Town's marketing plan and wants to know if the board is ready to move forward with implementation. She gave the board members a copy of the packet that was presented several months back. She has a committee ready to get the new tool kit out to the public. They are working on updating the town's website to implement the "community life" marketing plan and have put together a list of 70 businesses to talk with them about implementation. They will work on getting the word out about Lancaster everywhere. She also mentioned they have been discussing ideas for the entrance signs to town. Leon stated, he feels the Rotary and other non-profits should be involved in the implementation of the marketing plan.

Julie also wanted to update the board on the broadband project. The committee has mapped the town and have given a report to Ben. They are poised to facilitate a planning discussion and she has a new committee for that and would like to have one of the board members to participate on the committee.

She also mentioned Northern Forest is working with the Conservation Commission and Ben on mapping the Town Forest as it is her understanding it is an underutilized asset. They are also

looking into potential trails along the Connecticut River and possibly reimplementing the river walk along the island.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and Approval of May 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy to accept the May 2, 2022 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Board signed various paperwork –
 - Fireworks permit for Dennis Downs at 24 Mechanic Street. Ben mentioned he is working with the police and fire chiefs to develop a firework permit policy to included areas of town where fireworks will be prohibited.
 - Abatement application for David & Johanna Falkenham. The recommendation from Northtown Associates (contracted assessor) was to deny the application due to untimely filing. The board agreed with the recommendation and signed application indicating the denial.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ben reported the Highway and Water/Sewer will be switching to four 10-hour days Monday through Thursday for the summer months. He mentioned, he and the department heads have discussed what is expected to continue with the 10-hour days. They also discussed ways around running into overtime. The new schedule will begin the day after Memorial Day and end after Labor Day weekend. He stated if they find it is not benefiting the town it will change back.

Ben also stated he wouldn’t be opposed to holding one Selectmen’s meeting a month during the summer. Troy asked the public present if they had any issues with that recommendation. Rob Christie asked if something needed to be dealt with in between meetings what would they do. The board stated they would notice for a meeting and hold a meeting in between.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy to hold one meeting a month for June, July and August which will be held on the first Monday. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ben mentioned Margie Hobbs stepped down from the Conservation Commission and the Commission recommended the board appoint Vicki Gibbs as a new member. Ben looked into whether or not being a member of the conservation commission was a conflict as a member of the planning board. He stated the only rule he could find was there could not be more than 1 planning board members on the on the commission at a time.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy motion to appoint Vickie Gibbs to the Conservation Commission to complete Margie Hobbs term. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ben read a letter he received from Aldine “Jack” Tillotson urging the board to consider hiring someone to write an updated town history. The last one covers the settlement of the

town to approximately 1900. Leon expressed concern with finding records that may have been lost to floods and fires. There was much discussion on where to start. The board feels it is a good idea to look into possibly hiring an editor/publisher to put us on the right track. Stories were shared among those in attendance. Rob Christie mentioned there could be some grant money available for this type of project.

- Ben mentioned the broadband committee is looking to sending out a survey to better gage what people are looking for speeds, etc. and would like to include it in the upcoming tax billing. The board stated they would like to see the survey before they vote to include it with the tax bills.

INFORMATION:

- Ben mentioned there will be an employee appreciation cookout on Friday, May 20th from noon-1 p.m. The town office will close for that hour.
- Ben read a thank you note from the St. Paul’s Weekend Backpack Program.
- Eversource sent letter informing the town of all the third party attachers to their poles.
- Portland Pipeline sent notice of their 2022 fieldwork program.
- Ben shared a copy of the letter he sent to the Bureau of Trails informing them that the board of Selectmen voted at their August 21, 2021 meeting to no longer allow OHRV traffic on any of their town roads until the Lancaster area has an active ATV club and other trails are opened in neighboring communities to connect Lancaster to the greater Coos County trail system.
- NHDES sent notice of temporary groundwater discharge permit application for NHDOT Patrol Shed #107.
- NHDES sent notice of discharge and release of notice of groundwater management permit for Peterson Petroleum of NH
- Copy of Major Impact Wetlands permit application filed by Riverside Camping and RV Resort.
- Land Use Permits –
 - Retrotel, Inc., 112 Main Street – construction of temporary seasonal 10’x20’x8’ wood-frame with plastic covering greenhouse with no electrical power anchored with cement blocks and tie-downs, intended as retail plant shed/kiosk.
 - Operation and set-up of the greenhouse shall be subject to the property owner’s approval; written agreement shall be provided to the Town.
 - Structure shall not be serviced by electrical power.
 - Structure shall be secured to the ground; Tie-downs shall be within setbacks.

- Barriers shall be set up around the structure to protect it from possible vehicular impact; Barriers shall be located within the setbacks.
- Town utility usage shall be subject to Commercial Unit Charge
- Leah Hart, 150 Pleasant Valley Road – construction of 2br/1.5ba 24’x30’x25’ stick-built single-family home with attached 10’x16’ mudroom on full concrete foundation, septic/well and electric heat; construct 12’x14’ stick-built shed, no foundation.
 - Building shall be brought up to current life/safety codes.
 - No occupation of building until an approved septic design.
- Stephen Beaton, 71 Reed Road – construct 30’x32’ stick-built unheated 2-car attached garage on concrete slab with 14’x14’ mudroom/breezeway to house.
- Kirby Kirks, 13 Pleasant Street – construct pre-fab wooden Tuff Shed 8’x10’x7’10” on stone pad, no heat or electricity.
- David & Donna Joki, 131 Elm Street – construct stick-built 28’x40’ 1br+loft/1.5ba single-family home on full concrete foundation with metal roof, oil and pellet heat, electric, gas, roof-mounted solar, septic and well; connected by a 15’x15’ breezeway to a 36’x’36’ stick-built garage on concrete slab.
 - Building shall be brought up to current life/safety codes.
- Douglas Shearer, 7 Cantin Ridge Drive – construct 5’x14’ stick-built porch with railings on Sonotubes/piers to replace existing 4’x8’ entrance deck, no utilities.
 - Shall dispose of demo debris in accordance with NHRSA 141-E and NH Code of Admin. Rules Ch. Env-A 1800.

Troy asked if the public had anything they would like to discuss. There was no input from the public.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner

Leon Rideout