

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**April 17, 2023
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Selectman Troy Merner Selectman Leon Rideout Selectman Shane Beattie
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:

Police Chief Tim Charbonneau reported picking up the new cruiser and now they are waiting for all the equipment to be installed. David Walker graduates from the academy on April 28th. The department is very busy.

Fire Chief Randy Flynn reported the department responded to 179 EMS calls which 130 were transfers and 49 911 calls and they also responded to 13 fire calls to include a brush fire behind the skate park. He thanked all the town's departments for showing up to help put the fire out. Ben mentioned for us it is normal operations but not all communities' departments work so well together.

Ben also pointed out that there were 3 trucks out today handling 911 calls at the same time and later in the afternoon there were 2 trucks out at the same time. The department is doing a great job getting trucks staffed.

Randy mentioned the ambulances that were ordered last year won't be here until October and the box truck they just ordered is 24 months out.

Librarian Barbara Robarts reported programs are going well. AARP is all done with tax season at the library, and about 150 people utilized the service. She is hoping by the end of the month the electrician will finally be able to get the lights updated.

Recreation Director Eli Vincent reported the golden egg idea at Easter was a success. Many families participated in searching for hours. The egg hunt was also successful. The numbers for baseball picked up and they ended up with 1 less team from last year. Opening Day is May 6th.

They participated in a recent job fair at the high school and they have started prepping the pool for the summer.

Leon mentioned the VFW usually sponsors a baseball team and he hasn't seen anything this year and wanted him to know if they need sponsors they are interested.

Shane asked Rob Christie, Airport Representative if he had anything to report from the airport commission. Rob mentioned they will be meeting tomorrow night. He did report that 27 planes are based there and he has learned that their funding is 90% federal, 5% state, 5% from commission which Lancaster contributes to. He mentioned right now they are in negotiations on a prior contract however the general conditions are good there. He will have more to report at the next

meeting. He asked if the board had anything they wanted him to discuss at the airport’s next meeting.

Rob also wanted to let them know he is the representative to the Connecticut River Joint Commission. He wanted to make the board was aware of a web presentation coming up on migration up the Connecticut River Valley. It is an open conversation on what to expect with the increased population in the Connecticut River Valley.

Leon also wanted to mention it is good to see our departments work so well together to get the job done.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval al the April 3, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the April 3, 2023 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Sign various paperwork –
 - Water/Sewer warrant authorizing tax bill to be issued for the 1st issue billing
 - Timber Warrants –
 - Michael Delsesto, Tax Map R01, Lot 022 for \$96.35
 - Peter & Jodi Gray, Tax Map R10, Lot 002 for \$325.18
 - Gravel Warrants –
 - Paul Crane, Tap Map R13, Lot 066, 200 yds of bank run for \$4.00
 - A B Aggregates, Tax Map R01, 006, 126,900 yds gravel, 4,091 yds loam, 19,639 yds stone products for \$3,012.60
 - Intents to Excavate –
 - Paul Crane, 2 lots – Tax Map R13, Lot 066 & 068
 - Fire warden services bill to pay 6 wardens that issued several fire permits. Once we pay them, the State will reimburse.
 - Kent Fountain – The contractor is starting the creation of the new fountain. They are going to be able to use some of the original pieces. The remaining pieces will come back to us to be used for another structure or purpose. One request has been to create something in memory of Greg Cloutier for the park that Greg owned and is now owned by the family. They are hoping to maybe use the arch. Leon doesn’t see a problem with that however the board would like to see a drawing or plan. Ben also mentioned if the park was ever sold, etc. the arch would remain in the town’s ownership.

Leon asked what the cost to the town will be. Ben reported it will be \$90,000 for the recreation and then site work. It has been discussed to possibly relocate it to the back side of the sidewalk however that may get costly. The relocating would be a cost to the town

however, the fountain will be covered by insurance. They are expecting to have the fountain built sometime this summer.

Leon mentioned he has been approached by a few that want to help by donating toward the repair of the fountain. Ben mentioned any money received by donation will be less that has to be paid by the insurance company which will help.

- Mt Prospect Road spring maintenance – Several residents were in attendance to discuss the condition of Mount Prospect Road and how it has worsened over the years. There was concern that the road has widened and risen which has caused issues with accessing several residents’ driveways. There was a lot of discussion regarding possible solutions to repair and what can be done for maintenance moving forward. Ben mentioned, he and Shane will look at the condition of the road when they are on site at the Davidge property in the upcoming week.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Planning Board appointment recommendations – Reappoint Mark St. Pierre and Andrew Nadeau.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to reappoint Mark St. Pierre and Andy Nadeau to the planning board. All in favor. Motion carried.

INFORMATION:

- Notice of when last 2022 tax bill was mailed.
- Wetlands permit application for David Hill, Tax Map R07, Lot 011. Troy mentioned it is an existing pond that his is going to dredge.
- Land Use Permits –
 - Boo’s Storage LLC, 13 Mechanic Street – Demolish existing 16’x25’ side building
 - Thomas & Anne Paquin, 9 Burnside Street – Install flush-mounted rooftop solar arrays
 - Kenneth & Heidi Chester, 13 Governors Terrace – Construct on piers a 13’10.4’x9.6’ stick-built, shed-style, open-ended, metal-roofed addition to existing barn
 - Derek Champagne, 193 Prospect Street – Demo of existing 8’x14’ deck & replace with 10’x18’ stick-built mudroom with windows and HW radiant heat on poured footers; removal of asphalt driveway
 - Ashley Mattos, 14 Sunny View Drive – Installation of 23’x17’6”x10’ 2-sided, roofed sheet metal carport on gravel base situated on right side of existing SFD

Ben reminded the board the quarterly budget meeting is April 18th at 5:15.

Ben also shared that Clean-up Day is Saturday, April 22. Everyone will gather at Centennial Park to get the blue clean-up bags and then disperse to clean the road sides. Ben shared the history of

clean-up day in town and that it was held in memory of town employee Frank Hogansson. He also applauded Heidi Chester and Stephanie Weiner for stepping up and organizing the event. He is very excited about it and hopefully next year an end of day cookout could be added.

He also mentioned last Friday the transfer station crew came in early and they cleaned up Water Street. He said Rusty would like to start doing that at least once a month.

Public Input – There was nothing.

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

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Troy Merner

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie