

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**June 5, 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.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES –

Highway Foreman Tim Brown reported they have been grading the roads and assisting the water department. They hired a 6th employee which will put them at full staff. Ben shared that a resident stopped by to compliment the new grader operator.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Timmy Bilodeau reported that all the hydrants have been flushed for the year, they have been working on the aerators and fixed sewer manholes on several of the streets. Two of his employees will be taking their entry level wastewater certification exam this week.

Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving reported the planning board will be meeting this Wednesday and at their last meeting they approved site plan for Joel Dupuis' utility trailer and vehicle sales and repair.

The zoning board met last Wednesday and discussed a motion for reconsideration for Brandon Boyd's case for an equitable waiver which was denied. The motion for reconsideration was also denied. Mr. Boyd may appeal to superior court. Another case that was tabled until the June meeting was the Griswold's potential firewood processing plant.

Robin also reported that she has submitted NVRC grant applications for both the storage tank project and the completion of Summer Street. She also submitted both projects in as pre-applications for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and only submitted the Summer Street project to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

There has been a lot of permitting and mostly for food establishments. Cute Kids Cupcakes at 40 Canal Street, The Yellow Deli at 65 Main Street, the owner of former Dave's Stove shop wants to put in a buffet and the former Mimi's is going to be a take-out sandwich shop. Fitch Fuel is looking to put in a bulk propane station. Shaw's looking to create a Drive-up & Go.

She also wanted to remind everyone that Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. is the housing round table with Resilience Planning to talk about different options for amending the zoning ordinance to including permissible housing in certain areas.

Transfer Station Supervisor Rusty Scott gave an update on the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program and rates and believes he is going to leave as is at this time. Effective August 1st he would like to end the acceptance of non-town bags. He mentioned the current PAYT program states non-town bags will not be accepted. We either need to change the policy or stop accepting the bags.

Moving forward any non-town bag would go into the demo grinder and will be charged associated fee. Leon feels they should be following what the policy says.

Also, he would like to discuss contractors’ debris, they have been operating at \$30 a yard for a long time and he would like to raise the back pad where contractors are dumping to \$48 a yard so the town is not subsidizing their projects. Shane explained the town is taking it cheaper than what it costs the contractor to get their own dumpster at the job site.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to continue charging the \$30 a yard at the compactor and increase the rear pad to \$48 per yard effective August 1, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rusty also stated, he feels they should not be accepting anymore loose insulation. He feels it should be bagged, boxed or contained in some manner. The concerns with taking loose insulation were discussed.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to not accept any loose insulation unless it is contained. All in favor. Motion carried.

It was asked if #4 & #5 plastics can be recycled again. Rusty explained it depends on if there is a market to get rid of it. If they don’t have someone to take it, it goes in the trash.

Nuisance water/sewer user – It was explained that there are many people that take liberties with the meters by disconnecting them and changing them around without notifying the town and some even circumvent the metering process. It is proposed for those repeat offenders to install a meter pit with a lock. Chief Charbonneau mentioned that is a definite theft of services and can be dealt with legally. Leon feels criminal charges should be pursued against anyone that we know are repeat offenders. Chief Charbonneau also mentioned if there is a town ordinance in place and they are found guilty the funds recovered will go back to the town instead of if criminal charges are made the money would go to the State. The board feels a policy needs to be created to handle these situations.

Contractor buying supplies from Water/Sewer Department – Ben explained that contractors will come to the water department to purchase parts for a current job and then Timmy will order the replacement part and bill the contractor. Unfortunately, some of the contractors are not good about paying the bill which then leads to the town chasing them for the money. Timmy is asking the board to say that the town will no longer allow contractors to obtain parts from the water/sewer departments. Timmy also mentioned they don’t have a huge surplus on hand and these days he has to be careful as parts are delayed coming in.

Leon feels if contractors are coming to the town for parts they need to pay upfront. He doesn’t feel Timmy needs the boards permission to stop supplying contractors with parts. He wants Timmy to have the flexibility to be able to assist if a critical situation happens for property in town (like the hospital) than it is up to Timmy or Ben whether to supply the parts. Ben said he doesn’t mind being the one to tell them no. Ben and Timmy will sit down and discuss some ideas to handle these situations.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the May 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to accept the May 17, 2023 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Sign paperwork –
 - Abatements previously approved. Joe Juneau – 44 Elm Street, David Hood – 89 Main Street & 29 Bunker Hill Street, Kaylee Heath – 277 Roger’s Campground Road
 - Fireworks Permits – Eric VanLeuven, 21 Winter Street; David Stickney/James Hammond, 48 Holton Park; Dennis Downs, 24 Mechanic Street
 - Veterans’ Credits – David Falkenham, David Chasseur, Dudley Foster, Nathaniel Reed, John Lennon
 - Intent to Cut – Brad & Valerie Griswold, Tax Map R16 Lot 034. Acres to be cut 15

Davidge Corner update – Ben reached out to Attorney Frizzell and they laid out a time line and informed the board however any proposal will need to go to Town Meeting for a vote. As long as the board agrees with the timeline and requirements then an agreement would be drafted this year outlining everything and a new survey would need to be done. In 2024, the proposal will go to town meeting, then a lot line adjustment will go to the planning board and then Mr. Davidge will hire a contractor and the project should be finished by fall of 2024. Once project is complete, deeds will be signed to swapped property ownership and it is recommended that it state in the deeds, nothing can be added to that section of land turned over that would eventually encroach on the town property again.

Alan Savage feels they are setting a precedence. Alan asked if the attorney was asked if the Town was within their right to cut the hedges down. Ben stated they are.

Leon asked what will the estimated cost eventually be. Shane stated there will be no cost to the Town. Leon also mentioned any attorney costs should be on Mr. Davidge as well. Alan Savage also mentioned you need to go to the planning board about the stonewall where it is on a scenic road.

Rob confirmed that Davidge has agreed to trim the hedge on the Prospect Road side and asked when will that trimming take place. Shane is going to contact Davidge to ask what that timeline will be and come to an agreement.

Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds – John Davidge made a donation to the Greg Cloutier Memorial Park however the fiscal agent is the Lancaster Rotary Club. Ben would like the board to accept the funds and then a check will be issued to the Rotary Club for the same amount.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the \$100 donation for the Greg Cloutier Memorial Park. All in favor. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds – Donations in the amount of \$900 have been made to the Main Street Beautification project.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the \$900 in donations for the Main Street Beautification project. All in favor. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds – Donation made in the amount of \$100 have been made to the Main Street Beautification project.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the \$100 donation for the Main Street Beautification project. All in favor. Motion carried.

INFORMATION:

- NHDES permit application for air permit was received for Ammonoosuc Asphalt, 653 Main Street
- Planning Board Monthly Meeting Notice for June 14, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Land Use permits –
 - Eric & Sally Livingstone, 6 Grandview Drive – Install flush-mounted rooftop solar array.
 - Mark Fixter, 137 Prospect Street – Construct wraparound 10’-wide deck on both gable ends and one side of existing 14’x24’ workshop, all on piers.
 - Christopher & Jessica Williams, 279 Main Street – Interior renovations to include replacement of flooring, removal of showers and conversion and reduction of 2 full baths to ½ bath, installation of 2 hair rinsing sinks; construction of 2nd egress stairwell for front doorway.
 - Ronald Therrien, 41 Second Street – Construct 14’70’x6” concrete pad & install 14’x70’x13’ (1987) Allison Custom MH.
 - Sign permit –
 - Jessica Williams dba Mary’s New You, 279 Main Street

Ben mentioned the new website went live. A tutorial was given last week to the office staff, so bear with us while we transition and learn the new site. Rob Christie mentioned he was unable to find the calendar on the site. It was mentioned, it is there.

Leon mentioned the VFW is holding a “Meet your hometown Heros” on June 11th at the town hall and parking lot.

Troy mentioned the June 11th Drag Queen Story Hour event at the library was discussed at the last meeting. They rented the space and it is too late in the game to change anything.

There were several members of the public in attendance that wanted to express their concerns with the event and also several in attendance that wanted to express their support of the board and library trustees in their position in this situation. The board wanted everyone to know that measures are being taken to make sure everyone will be safe during the event for those attending and those that will be protesting.

Rob Christie wanted to share that a fellow Conservation Commission member Donald Frenette passed away recently. Rob wanted to recognize and honor him for his service to the Town.

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

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner

Leon Rideout