

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 2, 2021

PRESENT: Cindy Silver: Select Board Chair and Kevin Meehan and Norman Brown: Select Board members, all comprising a quorum of the board.

ALSO PRESENT: Kathi Marshall: Assistant to the Select Board, Joshua Sjostrom: Forestry Service Supervisor, James Quirk, Jefferson property owner, Terri Larcomb: Deputy Town Treasurer, Nancy DeCoursey: Conservation Commission Member, Nancy Greenlee: Historical Society Member, Peter Schroer and Diane Quirk

Cindy Silver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and those attending stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL

Kevin made a motion to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll items for the week ending July 31, 2021 and to authorize Kathi to pay invoices and payroll. Norm seconded the motion. The motion passed, and accounts payable and payroll were approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 7.26.2021

Norm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7.26.2021 as recorded. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A: 3 (None)

PUBLIC INPUT

Joshua Sjostrom: Joshua was present to discuss the traffic and parking issues that are occurring on Starr King Road. In the past several years there has been a serious increase in recreational traffic up to the hiking trails. The overflow traffic has been parking on the side of the road when the parking lot at the top is filled. In many cases drivers are ignoring “no parking” signs. Often overflow traffic parks so closely to residential homes that navigating in or out of the driveway is extremely difficult. Joshua said he would like to open up a partnership with the town to help solve the parking and traffic issues on Starr King.

Nancy Greenlee said overuse of the trailhead has been going on for some time, but last year it reached its peak. She mentioned that vehicles were now backing into the forest to make their own parking spaces when the parking area is full. Drivers also disregard the stanchions placed at the end of her driveway. She is concerned because the road is narrow and when vehicles are parked on the road, it is difficult for two vehicles to pass each other, and it certainly cannot be safe if emergency vehicles had to access the trailhead. The previous Saturday there had been 41 cars parked in the parking lot and down the road. Drivers are also using Nancy’s driveway to pull into while allowing other vehicles to pass by up and down the road.

Nancy also mentioned that it was so crowded one day that 15 vehicles were parked along Route 2. Visibility was impeded, and in order to make a left-hand turn out of Starr King you had to pull your vehicle well into the lane with oncoming traffic. She contacted Lancaster DOT and they came out immediately and posted “no parking” signs, which solved the problem. For Starr King Nancy suggested a sign to be posted in the parking lot at the top. It should have instructions where to go if overflow parking is needed. Years ago the town used the grassy parking area below the Waumbek’s main parking lot. It is used by snowmobiles in the winter.

Nancy's husband suggested placing rocks on the side of the road as they would be more natural to the environment as opposed to signs or cones. Nancy said she wants people to continue to enjoy hiking on Starr King, but she would like to be able to access her own property without having to navigate around vehicles that are blocking entry or exit.

Norm said it was worth approaching the Waumbek to see if the town could continue to use the grassy parking area. They may agree to it again. However if the public does not respect the property and Waumbek employees are left to clean up or repair the area, they may cancel the town's permission to use that parking area. Norm said the town might be able to mow that area for the Waumbek. Joshua said his assistant, Travis, has reached out to the Waumbek and they referred him to the owner. Norm said the management at the Waumbek is new, but the owner is the same.

It was decided the Forestry Service would contact the owner and keep the board updated on what transpires. Norm said he didn't want the town to get involved at this point, because he didn't want the Waumbek to feel pressured with both the town and the Forestry Service seeking help with the parking issue. Norm offered to meet Travis up on Starr King to see what can be done about the parking issue by Nancy's property.

J.Quirk/Chambers Road: Mr. Quirk came before the board to clarify the status of structures erected on his property on Chambers Road since he felt they had been misrepresented at a previous meeting. It was stated that Mr. Quirk had what appeared to be a "home made" septic system. He presented to the board his septic design and approval. He also mentioned the tubes in the ground that appeared to be set in preparation for a building or home. The question arose at the previous meeting as to whether or not Mr. Quirk had the proper permits. The completed and approved building permit was presented. The proposed building was to be a shed to house his canoe and snow machine. Due to Covid the previous year he had been unable to complete the shed. Norm suggested he obtain a new building permit for the same structure so he would be current with his permits.

Peter Schroer / Hyfield Lane: Mr. Schorer spoke to the board about a possible safety hazard on Hyfield Lane—a catch basin that has existed there for many years. It was put in to alleviate water run off into a nearby resident's garage and basement. A culvert was installed diagonally across Hyfield Lane, but the culvert became plugged and so did the ditch. And now the catch basin is full of water. It has straight sides so if anyone were to fall in, especially a child, they would have a very difficult time getting out.

Mr. Schroer had photos of the catch basin and showed them to board members. Norm said the town will have Mark take a look at it.

Nancy Decourcey: Nancy was interested in any update on 1369 Presidential Highway. To date there seems to be no approved septic system and there is a family living there. David Govatski, Chair of the Conservation Commission, filed a complaint with DES about the resident at that address using a bulldozer in a wetlands area of the property. Ken Kaveny of DES said he will work with the town to follow through on this situation. Norm suggested that he have a conversation with the landowner and thought a representative from DES should also be there. He suggested Rick Triess. Norm said he will contact Rick Triess and set up a meeting, because Rick has the authority to act on any infractions.

Liz Milligan & Library Trustees: Liz presented the updated *Memorandum of Understanding*, detailing the Library's responsibilities and the town's responsibilities with regard to the upcoming renovations on the old school building. The only question Liz had was if the new lighting would be dimmable if needed. Norm said he

would send a text to Mr. Hebert to find out. Norm suggested the board hold a public hearing to discuss with town residents what renovation changes are being done, what the projected cost will be, and how the town will pay for it. He also suggested posting a notice that the actual contract is at the town office and the public is invited to come and look it over during office hours. The public hearing was scheduled for August 16, Monday, at 6:30 p.m.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A: 3 (None)

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS AND/OR BOARDS

Board members read and accepted the Highway and Business Office reports for the week.

NEW BUSINESS

GOFFER Funds/Jeanne Shaheen: At the previous meeting Cindy mentioned that Jeanne Shaheen was encouraging small municipalities to apply for special funding. She wondered if it was the same money that the town had already applied for. Kathi went to the senator's home page and called up her last two press releases and her last two public statements. The funds she was talking about were the same the town had already applied for.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Veterans' Memorial Fund: Cheri had given Norm her update for the week on donations for the memorial. There was a total of \$2,650.00 (\$2,500 was from Passumpsic Bank). Total donations to date equal \$11,935.86.

Kathi mentioned that the donation checks were currently being deposited into the general operating fund. If those funds are not used by the end of the year they will not be available to use for the modifications to the memorial. After consulting with Linda, Kathi proposed that the checks go into the Honor Roll Fund which was originally set up for the Veterans' Memorial. Norm thought there were some stipulations as to that monument and these donations might have to go into another account. Kathi said she would check with Jason.

Audit Update: Most of the audit information has gone to the auditors and while there are still some requests coming through, the major part of the audit has been completed.

Use of old Town Hall parking lot: Kathi did receive a letter of inquiry from the Heart Cycle Bicycle Group asking for permission to use a small portion of the old town hall parking lot on Monday, September 20, at 1 p.m. They will have one vehicle set up a table for the cyclists who are heading to Gorham. They will be there about an hour or so serving sandwiches and drinks to the cyclists. The board approved their use of the premises.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mower Miles: There are 1,343 miles on the mower that Rodney uses to mow.

Applebrook: The caretaker at the Applebrook is accumulating quite an amount of recyclable goods for the BnB. Norm said they are a commercial entity and she needs to hire someone to take their recyclables. Norm said there are several people who will haul those recyclables for her. She can also do it herself.

Norm said he has gotten a complaint about another commercial entity that has been taking recyclable goods to the transfer station that are dirty and not washed out. Kevin said he also received that complaint. Norm said they are not cleaning out canned goods, and they appear to be left outside and then they take them to the transfer station. Norm said he has a photo and will get a copy to Kathi so she can draft a letter saying if they intend to use the transfer station, they must adhere to the rules.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II (None)

PUBLIC INPUT

Playground: Terri mentioned her sister and brother-in-law went down to the school to mow the thistles, and they plan to put vinegar on them to kill them. Cindy asked Terri if the board was made aware that they were going to be there to do that, and Terri said they just wanted to help and so they went down to do it.

Cindy said she appreciated that they wanted to help. Her only concern was that it was town property and if anyone had gotten hurt in the process the town would be liable. Cindy said she certainly was not against it, she just wanted to make sure the board knew if a non-employee was going to mow on town property.

ADJOURNMENT

Norm made a motion to adjourn the weekly Select Board meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Select Board will be Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Jefferson Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,