

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, April 4, 2022

Selectman Ernie Day called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Present were Selectmen Les Babb, Ernie Day, and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Also in attendance were Jeff Nicoll, Rob Cunio, Brian Taylor, Carol Taylor, Roberta MacCarthy, Scott Brooks, and Jamie Mullen.

Department Head Updates

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks reported things are picking up and approximately 70 permits were purchased over the weekend. He researched pricing on security cameras and came up with a Vosker V200 with 100' range, solar powered, and security box for approximately \$400. It would require a cell phone to send the images to. He and Ellen will get together to come up with options for the cell phone. Cell phone coverage may be poor in the area. Justin stated that Stoney Hollow on Bennett Road is operating as a commercial entity and is in violation of the Transfer Station Ordinance. The Board agreed that a letter should be sent. Lastly, reported that an Effingham resident inquired about being able to use the Freedom Transfer Station as it is closer than Effingham's Transfer Station. This is not allowed.

Fire-Rescue Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 1 fire alarm, 1 active covid case, 1 outside fire, 3 medical aid with 1 cardiac (save). Tomorrow, the tracks will be removed from the mule and the tires will be put back on that and the rescue sled. The annual hose testing will also take place. Rob is still waiting on approval for the AED purchase through the remaining grant funds available. The AED was very successful in a medical call this past weekend. Permits are now required for all fires. The outside fire resulted from a balloon into power lines and it caught the area around it on fire. The top layer is reportedly very dry. Daily fire danger updates are being posted.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported roadside cleanup is in progress, delineating sign/post replacements, pothole repairs, and rock sorting at Watts Pit in preparation for gravel crushing. Ellen sent out the contract for the salt/sand shed last week and the vendor is not looking for payment until all specs and plans are available. 2 hard copies and 1 digital plan will be supplied.

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen reported his new Administrative Assistant Jocelyn is working out well. With training and assistance given from Effingham's Administrative Assistant, they were able to sort and go through over half of the office files. Jamie will be presenting a conditional offer of employment to a part-time officer tomorrow. The estimated arrival date on the new cruiser is still unknown and a VIN number has not yet been assigned. Jamie will continue to try to locate one that may be more readily available but anticipates the price to be \$3-\$5k more. He was able to save \$5,000 from acquiring the radio from the Fire Department, and with the third full-time officer not going to the Police Academy until fall, he may have enough in his budget to cover the cruiser increase. He will review the numbers with Ellen. Jamie will call NEVO to see how soon the F-150 can be stripped and transferred over to the Highway Department. Ernie and Melissa were in agreement to lock in what may be available for a vehicle. Jamie brought Ellen up to speed on a few personnel issues.

Conservation Commission – Chair Jeff Nicoll presented the Board with a draft letter regarding the proposed Effingham gas station for review. The document consists of 10-pages with the 4 main bullet points communicated being the recharge area, storm water plans, water quality, and checks and balances. Melissa verified that Anne Cunningham had part in writing the letter. Jeff confirmed. Les suggested the removal of one line that implies we are telling them how to do their job. Agreed. Jeff questioned how the meeting should be handled. The Board was in agreement that Jeff and Anne should be in attendance to call out the letter submitted and be available for any questions. The Board thanked Jeff for the letter and commented that he did a great job backing up with information to achieve what they want. The Effingham Planning Board meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 4/7.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on March 28, 2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Public Input:

Roberta MacCarthy stated she is happy with the letter going out regarding the gas station.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Short-Term Rentals (ongoing discussion) – Ellen presented a letter drafted in response to several letters received requesting grandfathered status of short-term rentals. The Board was in agreement to issue the letter with Ellen as signor. Brian Taylor questioned if the letter will be made available on the website under the STR FAQ? Confirmed. Les stated he spoke with Jerry Knirk and a Freedom resident should be in attendance at Thursday's meeting at 11:30 am at the State House in LOB 301-303. Anne Cunningham will be asked to attend. Melissa and Rob worked together to come up with a Life-Safety Inspection Report to accompany STR conditional use permit applications. Ernie questioned if there is anything regarding fireworks in the STR information? It is outlined in the ordinance.

Review of Town-Owned Property Inventory – The list of properties was reviewed. The Board was in agreement to have Les contact Gerard Constantino to obtain an opinion of value for the properties located on Map 1C, Lot 12 and Map 22, Lot 9. Both properties are noted to have beach access.

Appointments to Boards/Committees – ***Les made a motion to reappoint Robert Oram to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

Melissa questioned if David George could be a member of the FAC as a non-resident? Les responded that when the committee was established it was specified that members had to be residents of Freedom. Ellen stated that the Conservation Commission is in need of members. There is still no update as to whether Matt Tyler wants to be reappointed. Melissa will reach out to Linda Mailhot to see if she is interested. The Board will work on recruiting members. The minutes from the ZBA meeting were referred to for reappointments.

Non-Public Session:

Les made a motion to enter into a Non-Public Session at 7:24 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for reputation. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion reconvene public session at 7:36 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Following review of the minutes from the ZBA meeting, *Les made a motion to appoint Dennis Anderson and Peter Keenan as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, each for three-year terms. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.*

Les made a motion to appoint Heidi Glavin as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Melissa seconded. Majority vote carried.

The Board requested Ellen send a letter of appreciation to Jake Stephan thanking him for his time serving on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Discussion on the reappointment of the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer positions. Les stated that classes must be taken within a certain time after the appointment is made but the classes are not being offered. New rules put in place since Covid has lessened the authority granted to the Health Officers.

Ellen read a response received from Brian Wiggin regarding the request for removal of items from the 3 Ossipee Lake Road property.

Ernie made a motion to appoint Sean Coriaty to the Forest Advisory Committee. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion carried. Ernie suggested Sean be invited to attend this week's meeting even though he may not be sworn in by then.

The Board reviewed an email received from Anthony Cloutier expressing concern for the traffic noise and request for an engine brake ban. The Board agreed a response should be generated suggesting tree cover or planting bushes to reduce the noise.

Ellen presented two quotes received for roll-off containers for a property cleanout. North Conway Incinerator, although less expensive, has many restrictions to what can be put in the containers. Waste Management was based on a quote received online. Ellen will reach out to see if there is government pricing available.

Les stated the Deputy Tax Collector position can now be appointed. Ellen was asked to check with Ann for her thoughts.

Les left the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Non-Public Session:

Ernie made a motion to enter into a Non-Public Session at 8:11 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (1) for legal. Melissa seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:30 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Being no further input, Ernie made a motion to adjourn. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting– 3/28/2022	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session x2 – 3/28/2022	Approved
Accounts Payable – Week ending 3/25/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 3/23/2022	Approved
Letter – to Effingham Planning Board re: Meena, LLC proposed gas station	Approved
Employee Time-Off Request	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood – David & Linda Bucknell (M9, L30 & M4, L25 & 25-1)	Approved
NH DES Annual Facility Report – Active Solid Waste Facilities	Approved

Correspondence

Notice of Decision – ZBA Petition for Rehearing – Granted (Map 19, Lot 8)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Special Exception – Granted (Map 25, Lot 4-1)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 30, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 30, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 30, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 30, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 30, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 30, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Special Exception – Granted (Map 24, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA Variance – Granted (Map 24, Lot 12)	Reviewed
Request for Appointment – Justin Brooks – FAC	Reviewed
Letter – Robin Tyner re: Requesting grandfathered status under RSA 674:19	Reviewed
Letter – Green Mtn. Conservation re: Upcoming events	Reviewed
Letter – to various landscape contractors re: Proposal for summer maintenance	Reviewed
E-Mail – Robin Tyner re: Requesting grandfathered status under RSA 674:19	Reviewed
E-Mail – Jeffrey Boudreau re: Requesting grandfathered status “ ”	Reviewed
E-Mail – David Smith, Ossipee Lake Alliance re: Gas station article in CDS	Reviewed
E-Mail – to Brian Wiggin re: Removal of personal items from property	Reviewed

E-Mail – Anthony Cloutier re: Route 25 traffic noise concern
E-Mail – to Brian Pinard re: STR requirements in Totem Pole
Report – Facilities Update – April 4, 2022
Bulletin – NHMA Legislative Bulletin 15 – April 1, 2022

Reviewed
Reviewed
Reviewed
Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen N. White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio