

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2022**

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Rob Cunio, Kelly McClare, and Rob Troon.

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 May 9, 2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates

Fire Department Chief Rob Cunio reported 27 calls for this month; it has been very busy with a mix of medical and fire calls. There are 6 active covid cases, 9 medical aid, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 fire alarm, 5 mutual aid-woods fire and a report of a State Fire Warden and other person that were struck by lightning in Glen. Rob and others took a field trip to the Town Forest in the rain last week, and all went well. Hydrants were flushed on Tuesday and the one on Watson Hill is out of service. The screen and pipe were covered in debris so it will have to be evaluated to determine if it is a brush/debris issue or requires dredging. The fishing derby went well and was well attended. The official approval has been received on the AED's. Rob is finishing up the inspection on the Masonic Lodge for an assembly permit. Pump testing was completed – thanks to Totem Pole for their assistance. The Tahoe will be going in to Crest on the 25th for recall work. Two hydrants in the village are left to be flushed but one has plantings around it that are causing concern. Les suggested sending a letter to the property owner requesting they remove and relocate the flowers so they are not disturbed. Rob would like to complete the flushing on May 31. Rob stated another meeting of the town forest trail committee will take place on Wednesday.

Emergency Management – Director Kelly McClare reported on the status of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update stating all went smooth and there was a lot of good input provided by the committee. The State has accepted the updated plan and is awaiting approval by the Board of Selectmen. A few key changes were changes recommended by the Feds including the addition of the pandemic, climate change/solar issues, and adoption of FEMA requirements that have been updated since the last plan was adopted. A total of 17 projects were identified. Kelly reported that he, Ellen, Freedom Elementary Principal, representatives from the SAU office and Courtney Jordan from HSEM met last week to discuss an emergency generator for the school as a secondary shelter location. Grant funding is available for the purchase and installation. Les questioned the SAU involvement and further suggested the School Board be brought in on the discussion since the building is owned by the Town of Freedom and the board members have independent authority. Kelly stated the school location was identified as a good secondary shelter location especially in light of the recent pandemic where separation and distancing was necessary. ***Ernie made a motion to adopt the updated plan as written. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

Rob stated he has requested documentation on the sprinkler in the furnace room during the inspection and has not yet received it. He was referred to the SAU business office to obtain this information and has been unable to. Les suggested Rob speaks with a School Board member to discuss the issue. Kelly stated that a side discussion that took place at the meeting with the SAU is that they may be looking to collaborate a regional fuel/heating agreement with area towns.

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks permit sales are still high and they are starting to clamp down on those without valid permits. The sign has been out for awhile now so there is no excuse. Brush, leaves and pine needle disposal has been busy. There will not be any burning anytime soon with weather conditions and they may have to stop taking them temporarily until conditions change or brush can be hauled away. Demo materials are down with only one can going out every three week rather than one every week.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported Greg Colby was in Friday and will be back again Wednesday to help prepare for the audit the week of 5/23. Porta potties were placed by United Site Services again this year due to limited availability from local distributors. The costs are higher than when they were provided by Garland but there is a municipal-discounted rate the town is receiving. It was noted that there are several items in the red folder to be acted upon that can be addressed once they have been reviewed.

Public Input:

Rob Troon stated he is attendance to find out about information being relayed to Totem Pole property owners that they cannot obtain a Transfer Station permit anymore.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Review/ Adopt Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan – Previously discussed.

Review Transfer Station Ordinance/Policies - Ellen explained that there have been many questions primarily with the campers at the Bluffs and Danforth Bay and the topic has been added to provide clarification for all departments responsible for selling the permits, so everyone is on the same page. Rob Troon stated that dumpsters are provided at Totem Pole from May-October and debris is stockpiled and removed privately, not through the Transfer Station. The dumpsters are available for household trash, and roll off containers are brought in during holidays to assist with overflow. Justin stated that Danforth Bay campers attempt to unload TVs, mattresses, etc. and they are no longer accepted. Ellen referred to the ordinance for clarification on whether campers in Danforth Bay and the Bluffs can obtain a permit and it is unclear although it has been the practice to not allow. The ordinance states that permits can be purchased by residents and taxpayers. Some campers in Danforth Bay and the Bluffs choose to be taxed rather than register their campers. Additionally, there is no guidance regarding commercial use that would prohibit an agricultural business in town from utilizing the Transfer Station. Clarification is needed on both. Les responded that most commercial contractors have dumpsters because the Transfer Station is for residential trash only. It was discussed that vacant property owners are not eligible to receive a permit because a vacant parcel should not be generating trash. Ellen suggested ***the ordinance be updated to reflect that residents and landowners of improved properties are eligible to***

purchase a permit. The Board was in agreement and suggested legal review of the ordinance for any other recommended changes.

*Sale of Tax Deeded Properties (Intervale Ave. & Pequawket Trail) – A real estate agreement was prepared by Costantino Real Estate for review. Ellen stated that the selling price needs to be determined and was suggested at \$99,000-105,000. **Ernie suggested a listing price of \$99,000. All were in agreement. Les made a motion to sign the real estate agreement with Costantino Real Estate. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

Melissa discussed funds availability for infrastructure as found in the recent NHMA publication.

A letter received from Paul Elie regarding his request for appointment to the Forest Advisory Committee was discussed. The Board requested a response be sent thanking him for his interest but notifying him the committee is full.

Rob Troon expressed potential interest in the Conservation Commission and will attend tomorrow's meeting to confirm if he has an interest in serving.

A proposal received from GW Brooks for repairs to Jackman Ridge and culverts in the Town Forest was reviewed. Melissa stated that there is grant funding available to be applied for to assist with the repair expense. Les stated that Scrub Oaks has access to more funding. Ernie stated this is the same road that was repaired a few years ago for \$10,000 and the new quote is for \$34,000. The road is noted to be in terrible condition and may be resulting in stormwater runoff issues into Danforth Pond which may make it more eligible for grant funds. Justin suggested a rubber cutting edge water bar approach like they use on the trails up north to help with deflecting the runoff.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:40 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (1) for legal. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Melissa-yes, Ernie-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:37 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Jayne Britton questioned if the contents of the Masonic Lodge were included in the acquisition. The Board confirmed but noted the masonic lodge items belonging to Carroll Lodge are not the town's property. Jayne reported that she is working with John Roman to sort out some issues.

Discussion regarding the request for Fiscal Municipal Agent on the feasibility study proposed by GMCG and the Saco Waters Alliance. **Les made a motion to deny the request and suggest they find an alternative municipal fiscal agent since Freedom is already ahead on improving their culverts. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.** Ellen will send an email to inform them of the decision.

Discussion on a request for access to the Masonic Lodge to retrieve an item contained within. **All were in agreement that a request for removal of Lodge contents should be directed to members of Carroll Lodge, and that the town should not be involved.** A suggestion was made to have the Lodge members move the contents outside for pickup at a mutually convenient time.

Ellen reported that the front door key access to the Town Office was repaired and a quote for re-keying is in progress, again, since the last vendor failed to provide a quote.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting– 5/9/2022	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Sessions – 5/9/2022	Approved
Accounts Payable – Week ending 5/13/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 5/11/2022	Approved
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	Approved
Agreement – Costantino Real Estate re: Intervale Ave & Pequawket Trail	Approved
Supplemental Intent to Cut – Operation No. 21-165-03-T, Michael Eldridge	Approved
Letter to STR property owners re: Notification of Conditional Use Permit App	Approved
Report – Forest Fire Report/Bill re: Tamworth Fire 5/10/2022	Approved

Correspondence

Minutes – Town Office Advisory Committee Meeting – 5/4/2022	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA App. # 7-5-1-22 & 7-5-2-22 – SE Granted	Reviewed
Notice of Decision – ZBA App. # 7-5-1-22 & 7-5-2-22 – Variance Granted	Reviewed
Letter to Mark McKinley re: reappointment to Heritage Commission	Reviewed
Letter to Brandon Buttrick re: appointment to Heritage Commission	Reviewed
Letter to Scott Cunningham re: reappointment to Heritage Commission	Reviewed
Letter to Steven & Catherine Kent re: decline of property offer & return of deposit	Reviewed
Letter to Barry Keith re: 2022 Town Forester Agreement delay in processing	Reviewed
Letter to Bill Carney re: thanks for serving on Heritage Commission	Reviewed
Letter – Bergeron Technical Services re: Assessment of Masonic Lodge	Reviewed
Email – Anne Cunningham re: Suggested correspondence for STR owners	Reviewed
Email – NH DOT re: Project 15987 reimbursement request, status update	Reviewed
Email – Tom Gross, Saco Headwaters Alliance re: Culvert Feasibility Study	Reviewed
Email – GOFERR re: Locality Equipment Matching Program Approval	Reviewed
Email – JoJo Howlett re: Question on regulating authority of STRs	Reviewed
Email – Employee vacation notification	Reviewed
Quotation – GW Brooks & Son Inc. re: Jackman Ridge Trail Repairs	Reviewed
Article – Ossipee Lake Alliance re: Ossipee’s position regarding Meena LLC	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed	Reviewed
Report – Chief Rob Cunio re: Assembly Permit Requirements for Masonic Lodge	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