

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
March 15, 2016

Members of the Board of Selectmen present: Lynn M. Sweet, Bryant Scott and Scott Young

In attendance: Mark Montross, Michael Roush, Norman and Brenda Finnegan, Jim Rousseau, Eric Rowe, Phil Auger and Dan Kern.

The meeting was called to order a 5:30 PM.

Scott Young was welcomed as a new member of the Board.

The election of Chairman to the Board of Selectmen went as follows. Bryant Scott nominated Lynn Sweet and was seconded by Scott Young. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Ms. Sweet accepted the position.

After a short discussion, all were in agreement that Ms. Sweet would continue to serve as the Selectmen's representative to the Planning Board, and that Mr. Young would be the liaison to the Recycling Center.

It was noted that in the future, the Board plans to meet with all department heads, discuss any concerns they might have, along with their plans and goals for the future. They will also be working with department heads on revisions and updates to the town's personnel policy. Information on staff, job descriptions and other information for reference is also being compiled for a binder, along with copies of the current personnel policy.

After explaining the process to Mr. Young, the Board members reviewed and approved payroll and payment of bills.

Board noted the "pretty seamless" transition taking place from our retired Chief to our new Police Chief, Michael Richard.

After a short discussion, Board members made the decision to begin future meetings at 5:30 PM. The change would allow time for general business (i.e. review of payroll, invoices and checks for payment) to be addressed prior to scheduled appointments beginning at 6:00 PM.

Correspondence was read.

A letter from Fort Mountain Companies, requesting an extension on a timber cut on Map 4, Lot 21 (Sheila Holmes/SYT) was received and granted.

A letter from the O'Ders was received, requesting fill and leveling out of a portion of the open section of Foss Road. It was noted that the Road Agent has addressed that. The O'Ders are also asking about the possibility of them placing a gate in the area beyond the house "so car traffic and four wheelers don't use this as a thruway", keys could be given to abutters, police and fire. Ms. Sweet will do some research pertaining to this.

There was a short discussion pertaining to the upcoming NHRS compliance audit.

A proposal for beach cleanup was reviewed and approved (incl. raking and removal of waste/debris from both sides of the beach). The anticipated work is to be done in 2 stages. 1st prior to boarding of dam and 2nd a couple of weeks before Summer.

Bill Booth, Building Inspector, was in attendance to review and to provide a copy of his proposed Notice of a Zoning Violation/Cease and Desist Order on Map 37, Lot 11, pertaining to the operation and maintenance of a wholesale ammunition sales and storage facility. It was noted that both the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector have inspected the building. Concern was raised over issues not meeting code, including the need for a mechanical room around the furnace and a smoke and fire alarm system. Operation of the business will also require a special exception pursuant to Article 1.5 of the Strafford Zoning Ordinances, as well as compliance with Chapter 3.1 of the Strafford Planning Board Site Plan Regulations.

Mr. Montross and Mr. Roush, Parsons Hill Road, attended to discuss property located at 71 Parsons Hill Road, in particular, the size and condition of the building on the property, and the lack of running water. Mr. Roush also mentioned concern over the electric box at the top of the hill, a missing flood light, a separated switch box and a spike in his electric bill, and noted that he did report it to the police, and has contacted Eversource who has opened an investigation. Mr. Roush met with the Board over 16 months ago regarding the same property. They stressed that the residence was not allowed under the covenants specific to the properties involved, and the covenants were established at the time the subdivision was approved by the Planning Board. Board noted that the Town does not enforce covenants. Any enforcement of the covenants would be a civil action. Board will have the Building Inspector inspect the property located at 71 Parsons Hill Road, accompanied by an officer, to check the status of the property. Contact information was also requested, so that Bill Booth can keep them updated on the ongoing status. Mr. Scott also suggested a "game" camera as an option for Mr. Roush to monitor the area around the switch box and flood light.

Jim Rousseau brought up the question of videotaping the Selectmen's Meetings. Use of the Community Channel through Metrocast was mentioned. He would not mind donating hardware. Mr. Rousseau mentioned handing a letter to SEA & School Board also. He would like to get more transparency for data, especially during budget process for Town and School. Maybe more would attend budget hearings. Further discussion followed about possible costs. Board would have to do research on any and all costs associated with this process. Many questions were raised beyond cost, including process for operation and oversight.

Board made reference to the recently televised Mosquito Control Group meetings held in Litchfield, that no one attended with the exception of the Board members. Reference was made to past years and how attendance drops off by the end of April and no one attends the Selectmen's meetings.

Eric Rowe attended to discuss his request to run underground power across land located at the end of Evans Mountain Road. Ms. Sweet gave some background on the proposal. Mr. Rowe gave background on discussions he has had previously with the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen. Conservation Commission and Selectmen seemed okay with the idea. Dan Kern was going to check with Bear Paw, as it seems the language in easement does not allow. Mr. Rowe suggested the lack of overhead power line across the scenic view way would be for a public benefit per the easement. Easement defines purposes, rights, permissions not to be reasonably withheld, ancillary structures, but not limited to roads, fences, Mr. Rowe noted that the property was acquired by the Town in 2008.

Charlie Moreno has just started work on the stewardship plan. No inferences intended, Mr. Rowe understands that no funding was available until recently. It was later pointed out that the stewardship plan had nothing to do with power lines. Mr. Rowe expressed that the power line has everything to do with scenic values of property. There was discussion on overhead power lines vs. underground lines. Without crossing the town land, it would involve additional 2 new poles 40' high. There was discussion about the lay out the road, but plans show it as Class VI road per Mr. Auger. It was noted that there has been conflicting information on the status of the road. After a lengthy discussion and viewing survey maps, it appears that Mr. Rowe might be able to run underground power in the shoulder of the road which is not part of the easement. Ms. Sweet, Mr. Young and Mr. Auger will set a time to meet with Mr. Rowe at the site. The members of the Board are in agreement that Mr. Rowe has been a good steward of his property. Everyone hopes this will provide a good solution.

Mr. Finnegan asked about Metrocast and any progress on Parsons Hill Road. It was noted that Metrocast is researching the project; however, it looks like they will have to work with the abutting property owners on the road for easements.

After review of the applications submitted for renewal, and a letter of recommendation from the Library for two Alternate Library Trustees, the Board was in agreement to make the following appointments.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Members

William Lord – 3 years
Herman Groth – 3 years

Alternate Library Trustees

Pamela Boyer
Victoria Gracia

Conservation Commission Members

Kerry Omand – 3 years
Carolyn Page – 3 years
Elizabeth Evans – 1 year

Appointment slips were signed by the Board of Selectmen.

An informational request packet, intended for use by KRT Appraisal when contacting property owners, was reviewed and approved.

The Selectmen thanked all those who attended.

Mr. Finnegan, a School Board Member, expressed the hope that the Boards would periodically attend each other's meetings and work together.

At this time a motion was made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Ms. Sweet to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Roll call vote was taken as follows;

Lynn Sweet - Aye, Bryant Scott –Aye, Scott Young - Aye

The Board entered non-public session at 7:30 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Scott to leave non-public session and seconded by Ms. Sweet to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows;

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young – Aye

Public session reconvened at 7:40 PM.

No votes were taken during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Ms. Sweet and seconded by Mr. Scott to seal the minutes of the non-public session. A vote was taken:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young – Aye

There was discussion pertaining to ideas and possible changes to be incorporated into the update of the personnel policy. Copies of the current plan were provided to the Selectmen for review and to help determine what areas need to be addressed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM