

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting 9 December 2014

Members present: Steve Leighton, Chairman and Lynn Sweet

In attendance: Liz Evans, David Whitcher, Bob McClellan, and Lissa D'Anjou

The meeting was called to order at 5:58PM.

Liz Evans came to the Board Meeting representing the Conservation Commission to advise the Selectmen that the Conservation Commission had held a public hearing on December 1, 2014 and had subsequently voted to contribute \$34,000 to Bearpaw for the acquisition of a conservation easement. 160+ acres of the land out of the 450 acres to be conserved is in Strafford. She requested that the Selectmen approve the expenditure. Liz also wanted to advise the Board that the Conservation Commission had recommended that Strafford be given an executory interest in the property; Barnstead and Pittsfield, the other 2 towns involved were receiving executory interest. The project has been put together by Bearpaw with contributions from LCHIP, NHDES, the 3 towns and a number of private contributors. Once the final conservation easement deed is drawn up it will be brought to the Selectmen's Office for signing. The Board approved the expenditure.

Minutes from the November 24, 2014 meeting were read and amended. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and the payment of bills with further detail on one bill was requested. Correspondence was read.

Progress on the First Crown Point bridge was discussed. The guardrails are in place and the new bridge is open to traffic, though the temporary bridge has not yet been pulled. The final paving will be done in the spring along with replacement wing walls which are on order.

Reports of timber cuts were reviewed and 3 were signed. Lynn will follow up with the logger who submitted one report to request further information.

David Whitcher, Water Street, spoke to the Selectmen as a representative for Bryan Payne who has a conservation subdivision currently before the Planning Board. The primary subject of discussion was the road into the subdivision. David presented several reasons that the Town should not require the road to be paved, including the expense of such a job, the storm water runoff from a paved road onto wetlands, and the likelihood of the paved surface being ruined by Mr. Payne's construction equipment routinely using the road. Additionally, he stated that this would be a "one time case". He believes the Planning Board is not inclined to require the paving and the conservation benefit to the Town of 67 acres in exchange for 3 lots being created is merits a waiver on the road requirement. The Selectmen countered David's points with their concern about the steep grade of the land open to conservation wetlands below and stated that by petition and vote at Town meeting, it could become a Town road, thus it needs to be built from the start to Town specs. They also disagreed that a decision such as this would only be a "one time case". While stating their opposition they acknowledged that the final decision rests with the Planning Board; the Board of Selectmen do become involved in the bonding process. The Selectmen suggested the

possibility of seeking a variance for more than one house on a lot, thus avoiding the subdivision/road discussion.

The Selectmen reviewed the report from the Department of Labor concerning the Town's recent safety inspection. All departments have been notified as to what needs to be done in order to comply with the suggestions outlined in the DOL report. The Selectmen's Office will send a response outlining what measures toward compliance have been met by January 14, 2015. Some discussion followed about the location for storage of the Emergency Management trailer.

Several Recycling Center matters were discussed including uniforms and jackets for the men who work there and the repair of the backhoe. Lynn will follow up on both matters. The Recycling Center will be closed on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:14PM