

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting April 14, 2020

Members Present: Scott Young, Chairman, Bryant Scott, and Brian Monahan
In Attendance: James Hall from Dubois and King, Lynn Sweet, Greg Messenger, Matt Messenger, Dan Howard, Chris Bane

Appointments Scheduled: 5:30 - Greg Messenger and James Hall to discuss Barn Door Bridge repair
6:00 – Dan Howard

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:23

Minutes of the March 31, 2020 Selectmen's work session were reviewed and approved. Two Yield Tax Warrants were reviewed and signed along with an Intent to Cut Timber. Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

There was no attendance at the Citizen's Forum which was open for public discussion at 6:00.

Appointments

5:30 – James Hall, representing the engineering firm Dubois and King, was in attendance to discuss the plans for the upcoming repairs to the Barn Door Gap Bridge. His firm will be working closely with Road Agent Greg Messenger and former Selectman Lynn Sweet who has worked with his firm through several bridge projects for the Town. Mr. Hall explained the extent of the deterioration of the bridge and shared details of the plans for the rehabilitation of the bridge. He outlined a proposed time table for the work, which he hopes will be put out to bid at the beginning of June, with construction beginning in early July. By the end of August, he is anticipating the work will be substantially completed. Mr. Hall does not anticipate delays or issues due to the COVID-19 situation; their construction projects have been proceeding normally. His office will handle the bidding process and will provide oversight during construction.

The bridge will not be closed to traffic at any time during the project. The completed project will, on the surface, look very much as it currently does. New guardrails will be installed.

Mr. Hall brought with him the necessary wetlands permitting to be sent to NHDES which was signed by Selectman Young. Other signatures, abutter notifications, and fees will be handled by the Selectmen's Office and the completed permit sent to NHDES. Greg Messenger and Lynn Sweet will speak with abutters about a possible staging area.

Overall cost of the project was discussed. We anticipate the total cost to be just under \$200,000. Funds provided by the State under SB38 along with money from the Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund should be sufficient to complete the project.

Mr. Hall left copies of the plans, spec book, time table and cost estimates for review in the Selectmen's Office.

6:00 – Dan Howard was in attendance to discuss a building project for which a permit has been requested. The Selectmen gave him some background to help him understand the nature and history of the project and encouraged him to consult with David Copeland as he is familiar with this.

Continuing Business

No continuing business.

New Business

There was some discussion with Road Agent Greg Messenger about the status and use of Old Snackity off Barn Door Gap Rd., as to whether it is a Class VI road or Class A Trail. There was question as to whether the portion in question is in Strafford or Barnstead. In any case, use is restricted until May 31st, so there is time to check into it.

After discussion, the Selectmen agreed that they would like to move forward with the Memorial Day Parade and opening the beach for the summer season, providing lifeguards and swimming lessons. However, they will wait to hear the Governor plans to reopen the State before making any definite decisions about summer plans. Several local organizations also await that decision with events planned for July 4th.

With so many people working from home and finding hiking to be a healthy and acceptable activity during this Stay At Home Order, Blue Job has become heavily visited. Cars are parking along both sides of the road for quite a distance, raising serious concerns by both Police and Fire about safety and access. At their request, the Selectmen authorized No Parking signs to be placed along the left side (heading toward Blue Job) of First Crown Point Road to help remedy this situation.

Our assessing firm, KRT, will be in Town for the next 2 weeks to review 2019 and older open building permits. Information will be posted on the website. For security reasons, it seems better to do the data entry for the information gathered during those visits to be handled through the Town Office, rather than having it done through KRT at an off-site/less secure location.

Both ZBA and Planning Board continue to meet and have been doing so virtually through a Zoom account. The ZBA meeting on the 21st is a request for a rehearing on the cell tower application.

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

Scott Young – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Brian Monahan - Aye

The Board entered non-public session at 6:31PM.

A motion was made by Scott Young to leave non-public session and seconded by Bryant Scott to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Scott Young – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Brian Monahan - Aye

Public session reconvened at 6:52PM.

A decision was made during the non-public session.

The Selectmen invited Town Clerk Chris Bane to the meeting to discuss a couple matters. The Board had discussed and approved both an increase in pay for her deputy, Terri Marsh and a transfer of the task of tracking the Town assets from Chris to Terri. The Board asked Chris how she felt about opening up the office to the public. She thought things were going well in the Clerk's office with the closure in place. She thought the Governor might extend the Stay At Home Order beyond the May 4th date. Chris spoke about the upcoming State Primary Election (September) and the General election (November). The Supervisors of the Checklist are supposed to "sit" on June 2nd as the last day to change parties before the primary. The State cannot extend that deadline, so she wondered if there could be arrangements made to schedule appointments for that.

Upcoming Selectmen's Meeting are scheduled for May 5th and May 19th. They hope to have members of the various boards in attendance by appointment. Setting fines on several ordinances remains on their future agenda. Input from the Planning Board will be sought.

With no further business to discuss, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. With a vote in the affirmative, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.