

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting May 14, 2019

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman and Scott Young

In attendance: Scott Whitehouse, Don Clifford, Paul Eaton, Parker Eaton, Ruth Swasey, Steve Reinfurt, Gloria Reinfurt, Judith Dupré

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:35PM.

The Selectmen reviewed and signed bills. Board members reviewed and signed an Intent to Excavate, a Report of Timber Cut and a Report of Excavation. Three abatement recommendations were reviewed and approved as written. The Selectmen heard a report of the Safety Committee concerning the installation of improved outdoor lighting on the building and in the parking lot.

Several matters pertaining to the Recycling Center were discussed. Selectmen Young reported that a representative from Martineau Electric had met with Eversource and it was agreed that both the transformer and the wire at the Recycling Center need to be upgraded. The first 100' are free to us as customers, but it will be necessary to pay for any additional line. That repair will solve many of the electrical problems we are experiencing with the compactors. Work on the new building for the electrical equipment at the Recycling Center is now complete, and the old concrete building may be demolished.

The Selectmen's Office has been informed by Waste Management that the concrete pad under the Compactor 1 has deteriorated, and they will no longer deliver containers to that site as they have deemed it unsafe. The Selectmen's Office will secure a quote from them for the work as well as one from a local contractor. There was a brief discussion about the challenges this repair might entail.

The Selectmen approved the wording of a new agreement for payment of late taxes submitted by Tax Collector, Judith Dupré presented the wording on the agreement for payment of taxes. Several changes have been made including the tax deeding date which will be near or on August 26th in 2020. Notices will be sent out via registered mail.

Paul and Parker Eaton, Spencer Lane, were in attendance as a follow-up to a previous meeting they had attended where quite a bit of discussion with Atlantic Broadband about service to the Parsons Hill/Evans Mountain area of Town had taken place. The Selectmen explained a bit of the history of the situation and were pleased to report that the matter was now resolved. Atlantic Broadband has completed the installation of internet service to that area. Parker is completing a Boy Scout citizenship merit badge, so he continued the discussion with several additional questions.

Don Clifford, Tasker Hill Road, had two matters to discuss with the Board. He understands that the assessing agent representing the Town is inspecting properties in Town. He reports there are complaints on Facebook and voiced a complaint of his own. The Selectmen requested that he and others put any complaint in writing and bring it to the Town Office. He also voiced a concern about new construction along Water Street, believing the project should have been brought before the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Selectmen explained their understanding of the situation.

Steve and Gloria Reinfurt, Parker Mountain Road were in attendance also as a follow-up to a previous meeting with 3 point of business to discuss with board members. Parker Mountain Lodge's application is currently before the Zoning Board of Appeal. They believe there may be a conflict of interest situation with Ashley Rowe if he is to be a voting member, as his father is also in the process (with the Planning Board) of securing permission to operate as a wedding venue. The Selectmen believe that Ashley would understand the possible conflict of interest and would step down.

Steve and Gloria Reinfurt have been in attendance at Planning Board, Zoning Board and Conservation Commission meetings where the approval of Parker Mountain Lodge's operation as a wedding venue was discussed. They had prepared "important information" in the form of a letter which they had hoped would be disseminated to all the boards. They were disheartened that board members had not received the information prior to their meetings. They noted the importance of all board members being educated in the duties of their position. The Selectmen will address this concern.

Mr and Mrs. Reinfurt pointed out that Mr. Carter of Parker Mountain Lodge is has presented a "change in tactic", now seeking only temporary approval for the operation. They cautioned about granting even that as it would set a precedent from which there is no turning back. They continue to believe the conservation issues are significant. They hope to be helpful in making Strafford a better place all around.

The upcoming site walk at Parker Mountain Lodge to be attended by members of the Planning Board and Zoning Boards is open to the public, as are all board meetings. The site walk begins at 5:00PM on May 20th.

Ruth Swasey was in attendance to discuss the status of the Town's response to the deteriorating house on Deer Lane. The Selectmen explained that they have been working with the Town attorney and are moving forward with the health and safety concerns the situation presents. They have just signed an order which will be served to the landowners by their local sheriff's department. They gave Ruth a copy of the order along with the report of the Fire Chief/Health Inspector; they welcomed her to contact the office for updates in the resolution of the problem.

Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse and the Selectmen had a lengthy discussion about the dispatch system, which is 20 years old, available to the Fire Department through Lakes Region Dispatch. Lakes Region is in the process of rebuilding the whole system, but there will be a cost over a 7 year period to participating members. Discussion continued with the cost benefit of using Lakes Region. Chief Whitehouse pointed out several other services, beyond dispatch, that benefit his department. He will continue this discussion with Board members with more detailed presentation of what he sees as the benefits to the Town and his department.

By unanimous decision of the Board "Old Whig Hill Road" will now be named Lauriston Lane. Property owners on the road will be notified.

The Selectmen read correspondence from Eric Rowe in reference to the Class VI portion of Evans Mountain Road.

The Selectmen's Office will arrange for the Chairmen of the Zoning Board of Appeal and the Planning Board to attend a Selectmen's Meeting (possibly June 4th) for a yearly status update.

The matter of "junkyards" was discussed. It seems to be increasingly necessary to evaluate and amend our current zoning ordinances with some consequences for violation. Some legal counsel and further discussion will be necessary.

The Selectmen's Office will schedule a meeting with a representative from NHDES Dam Bureau, at their request, to learn about future plans for dam repair and maintenance.

The pallet shop on Parker Mountain Road has not fully completed the agreed upon cleanup. The Selectmen will follow-up.

The Selectmen's Office received a proposal from Atlantic Broadband for internet phone service, however it is incomplete. The Selectmen's Office will secure a more complete proposal before any decision can be made.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Scott and seconded by Ms. Sweet to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:59PM.