

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting January 17, 2017

Selectmen in attendance: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott and Scott Young

In attendance: Tax Collector, Judy Dupre, Barbara Romano, Dana Vitch, Police Chief Mike Richard, George Lovejoy, Blaise Swanwick, Norm Finnegan, Brenda Finnegan, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse

The Selectmen's Meeting commenced at 5:30PM.

Board members reviewed bills and payroll and approved payment. Correspondence was reviewed and discussed as necessary. Minutes from the January 3, 2017 meeting were read and approved. An announcement for applicants for the position of Deputy Tax Collector was also read and approved. It will be posted at the Post Office, on the website and in the Town Calendar. Intents to Cut Timber were reviewed. One was signed; further information needs to be obtained on the other before it will be signed.

The Selectmen had a rather lengthy discussion George Lovejoy, President of Blue Hills Foundation, about destructive activity that has been taking place on land owned by Blue Hills Foundation in the Little Niagara Road area. Mr. Lovejoy gave a brief overview of the mission of Blue Hills Foundation for those in attendance who were not familiar with the work they do to protect and sustain land and to make it available, via foot traffic, for the public to enjoy. About a year ago, the Selectmen established a Class A trail which allowed a gate to be installed to limit destructive snowmobile and ATV traffic, yet allowing access for fire protection. Those gates have been destroyed and repaired, but once again severely damaged. Mr. Lovejoy fears that Blue Hills could be cited for the environmental damage being done to the land. Discussion followed about how the problem might be addressed, including working with NHDES since one neighboring landowner is very interested and works for Fish and Game. Mr. Lovejoy has quite a bit of local support to solve the problem; it was suggested that neighbors might be of assistance in monitoring the use of the trail. Police Chief Richard suggested that he might be able to talk with neighbors and will stay in touch with Mr. Lovejoy as well. Mr. Lovejoy was assured of the Board's full support.

Blaise Swanwick was in attendance to show the Selectmen the initial ideas he has for updating the website and to get their feedback. He proposes to restructure the current website for ease of navigation as well as make it more attractive. It will be tablet and mobile friendly. The Board members were very pleased with what he had already done. They asked about the scope of what he was willing to do as pro bono work and made a few suggestions. It speaking about a timeframe for completion all agreed it would be great to announce the website's "facelift" at Town Meeting.

Barbara Romano addressed the Board of Selectmen, during public session, to file a formal complaint with regard to violation of the Right to Know Law. After citing the Right to Know Law, she elaborated about her attempts to secure information from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Hill Library. Ms. Romano stated that it had been time consuming and costly, i.e. sending certified letters to obtain the information she had requested. Some discussion followed as to the reasons for delay; Ms. Romano noted that she has now received all the information that she had requested.

Ms. Romano's complaint moved onto the police report that she had obtained. She requested a formal written statement retracting a portion of the report she cites as "defamation of character". She also requested a formal letter of apology to herself from the Police Department, copied as well to the Board of Selectmen. Finally, she is seeking compensation of \$57.10 to cover the cost of certified mailings. Ms. Romano asked when she might expect this matter to be addressed, Ms. Sweet explained that the Selectmen would discuss it and get back to her sometime shortly after the next Selectmen's Meeting on January 31st.

Norm Finnegan, Parsons Hill Road, was in attendance to express his frustration in trying to get internet service in this area. The Selectmen explained that this has been an ongoing problem. TDS, the other provider in the area does not seem interested in improving service. Metrocast is willing to take lines to that area, but has been limited in not obtaining an easement from one landowner. The Board suggested he write to Ed Merrill from Metrocast, perhaps with the signatures of other residents in the area. Mr. Merrill has been helpful in addressing problems most recently.

Ted White will be offering swimming lessons at Bow Lake Beach once again this summer. Dates will be announced in the Spring.

Two Coe Brown senior projects came to the attention of the Selectmen. Sam Whitehouse will be collecting cellphones for veterans and would like to put a collection box at the Town Hall. Kayla Whitcher would like to hang ~21 American flags on utility poles along Water Street. She will work with the appropriate utility company (Fairpoint, it is believed) and the Selectmen's Office. Chief Whitehouse expressed willingness to help and be involved.

At this time a motion was made by Lynn Sweet 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:

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

The Board entered non-public session at 7:00PM.

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

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

Public session reconvened at 7:10PM.

No votes were taken during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Scott Young and seconded by Lynn Sweet to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

Possible Warrant Articles by petition were discussed. The State has relaxed the service requirements to obtain the Veterans Credit, but individual towns must adopt the changes. Mr. Scott and Mr. Young would benefit from the adoption, so the Board will not put it forward, though it may be brought forward by petition.

The Selectmen reviewed some legal advice they received from the Town attorney.

Compactor 1 at the Recycling Center went down. Ben Francum, Recycling Center manager, thought it might be a fuse and will have Craig Hastings fix it. Mr. Young will check on the repair.

No meeting date has been established to meet with NHANG as yet, but Board members would like the Building Inspector and both the Police and Fire Chiefs to accompany them when they visit the NHANG site.

There being no further business to bring before the Board a motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:02PM.