

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting May 19, 2020

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman, Bryant Scott, Brian Monahan

In attendance: David Copeland, Judy Dupré, Charlie Burnham, Jean Ewen

The Selectmen's meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

Appointments: 5:30 David Copeland

5:45 Tax Collector Judy Dupré

6:00 Charlie Burnham and Jean Ewen (nonpublic requested)

Appointments

5:30 David Copeland spoke to the Selectmen about several concerns and requests he has as the Building Inspector. He is not receiving consistent notification of all Planning Board and ZBA meetings. He understands that he is not a member of either board and some meetings do not require his attendance or input, but he would like to know what applications are being considered and the opportunity to attend if he believes it would be helpful. Last year, there was a meeting with the Selectboard, Planning Board and Zoning Board which he found quite helpful. He wanted to encourage the Selectmen to organize another such meeting. He would like to see the Planning Board and ZBA records filed by map/lot rather than by the name of the applicant. When property owners change, it becomes difficult for him to locate files. David stressed the need for copies of all Planning Board and ZBA decisions along with Planning Board subdivision plans to be submitted to his office, as those decisions impact permitting.

Mr. Copeland discussed with the Board the status of a permitting situation on First Crown Point Road. No building application has been made, though a phone request indicated that permitting was being sought. The Selectmen alerted him to the fact that this is a pending legal matter and updated Mr. Copeland that small progress toward compliance had been made. But, due to delay in previous compliance, the applicant must complete, from the beginning, the Planning Board process along with the ZBA process if necessary.

5:45 Tax Collector Judy Dupré was in attendance to discuss the lexan sneeze screens to be installed in her office and the Town Clerk's office. The bids were reviewed from 2 local contractors; the lower of the 2 will be asked to complete the work. They had previously discussed installing a 1/4 or 3/8 inch thickness lexan; however, after consideration, the Selectmen believe 1/2 inch would be more appropriate and would like her to get a quote for that and have the selected contractor complete the work as soon as possible.

Ms. Dupré told the Board that the First Issue Tax bills were being printed that week and should be in the mail before the end of the week. Forgiveness of interest on First Issue was discussed and rejected by unanimous decision.

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

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

The Board entered non-public session at 5:56PM.

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

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

Public session reconvened at 7:00PM.

No votes were taken or decisions were made during the non-public session.

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

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

Old Business

The Board briefly discussed several pending legal matters. They reviewed correspondence received by Town attorney with regard to waiving fines on a Cease and Desist Order served last fall. The Board was unanimous in their decision to waive fees only if/when all the necessary requirements of the Planning Board (and Zoning Board, if necessary) and Building Department are fulfilled. Additionally, they would like to recover ½ the legal fees incurred by the Town in handling this situation. The Selectmen's Office will notify the Town attorney of their decision.

At a previous meeting, Eric Rowe discussed with the Board concerns he has for the maintenance of Evans Mountain Road. At that time, he asked the Board members to consult the Town attorney about the Town's obligation to assist with road maintenance

New Business

Payroll and bills were reviewed and approved. Minutes of the May 5th Selectmen's meeting were read, clarification was given, and the minutes were approved.

The Selectmen received email notification of Rick Ferreira's resignation from the Zoning Board of Adjustment; the Board will accept the resignation and express their gratitude for the many years Rick has served the as member and chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Selectmen discussed possible candidates to appoint to the board to fill out Rick's term. Several people have expressed interest. The appointment will be only a 1 year appointment, so they agreed it was best to move a current alternate into the position and revisit the 3 year appointment next year.

Bryant Scott made a motion, pursuant to RSA 21-P:43, to accept and expend CARES Act gifts or grants. Furthermore, 1st Responder stipends, as part of the CARES Act will be paid out in a lump sum payment only after funds are received from the State. A vote was taken:

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

The Selectmen addressed a resident's complaint a "junkyard". One of the Selectmen will visit the property and reach out to the resident making the complaint. It is quite possible that the newly passed ordinance will not address this situation as the property in question has been in that condition for quite a while and would be grandfathered.

The Selectmen discussed two weapons discharge complaints. Both were actually taking place in Barrington, just over the Strafford line. The Barrington Police Chief along with one of his officers addressed both with an order to cease and desist. However, the owner of the property is building a legal gun range further from his house in the near future. The Selectmen's Office will notify the resident who submitted the complaint.

Along with many towns across the country, no Memorial Day parade has been initiated or planned for Strafford this year. It is the hope of the Selectmen that all community members will take time to remember with honor those who have fallen to procure and protect the freedoms we so richly enjoy.

Some discussion about opening the beach for the summer followed. Portable toilets, as usual, are to be delivered for Memorial Day weekend, and their cleanliness and safety will be monitored. The Selectmen was to move forward with lifeguards, but will delay a decision on swim lesson for a bit. The Selectmen's Office will speak with American Red Cross to be sure certifications are still valid.

The Bow Lake Camp Owners Association, who sponsors the annual 4th of July Fireworks, have understandably cancelled that event this year. This has been disappointing to many residents. The Selectmen Contact the BLCOA to see if they would consider rescheduling the event, perhaps to Labor Day. A brief discussion followed about the crowds usually in attendance, especially on the dam itself. The Selectmen's Office will contact BLCOA and both the Fire Chief and Police Chief with the idea for them to consider.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence from the Library outlining their plans for a Community Garden on the vacant lot next to the Library. A building was removed from that land several years ago and the soil was never tested, so they will recommend a soil test. The Selectmen expressed their enthusiastic support and think the garden to be a great community/children's project.

The Selectmen received Town Clerk Chris Bane's requests with regard to her office's current and future needs in response to the Covid-19 situation. Board members will review the requests at home and discuss them at their next meeting. NHMA will conduct a Webinar on June 3rd with regard to opening up Town Halls.

The Selectmen's Office will obtain several quotes for sealing the cracks in the town Hall parking lot, in anticipation of completing the work this summer or early autumn.

The Selectmen will hold a work session on May 28th 5:30 to work on several matters, including a fee structure for zoning violations. They would like input from Planning Board Chairman Charlie Moreno as they work on fees; the Selectmen's office will contact him for availability by phone.

The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting is on June 7th. Several appointments are already scheduled. The meeting will end by 7:00 so the Supervisors of the Checklist may use the Conference Room to "sit" for their required registration of voters or change of parties (last day to do that before the September Primary).

Scott Young, as Chairman of the Selectmen, signed a Notice to Evict for occupants of a property recently tax deeded to the Town. Police Chief Mike Richards will deliver the Eviction Notice.

There being no further business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01PM.