

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting June 30, 2020

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

In attendance: David Copeland, Judy Dupré, Ashley Leighton, Duane Hyde from SELT, Phil Auger, Scott Young

Appointments: 6:00 –Ashley Leighton
6:30 - SELT

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

The Selectmen reviewed several items of correspondence. Board members received and accepted the resignation of the Town Clerk, Chris Bane. A letter of appreciation was signed to thank her for her commitment and service to the Town.

Payroll and payment of bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Minutes from the June 16th Selectmen's minutes were read, amended and approved as amended. A notice of pay rate was signed.

Road Agent Greg Messenger, with the remaining funds in his Capital Improvements budget, requested the Selectmen's approval to pave Barberry Lane in Whig Hill Estates. The proposal was given unanimous approval

Appointments

6:00 – Ashley Leighton was in attendance to speak with Board members about her application to become an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Selectmen discussed the responsibilities of the job and asked her if she had questions. By unanimous decision Ashley was appointed to the position of Alternate member of the ZBA. The Selectmen encouraged her to listen and ask questions while she was learning, gave her some materials to read and study, and thanked her for being willing to serve the community.

6:30 – SELT – Duane Hyde from SELT (Southeast Land Trust) was in attendance to speak with the Selectmen about a conservation project that Strafford's Conservation Commission has decided to fund. The Leighton family had approached SELT about preserving a large tract of land, approximately 400 acres. About 30% of the land is in Strafford with the remaining land in Barrington. SELT was quite impressed with the property, the management of its beautifully maintained wood lot, and its conservation potential. Strafford's Conservation Commission reviewed the project and was eager to participate. Both the Town Barrington and Strafford's Conservation Commission will be financially contributing to the project; both towns will have a legal interest in the property.

Mr. Hyde gave an overview of the SELT which is about 40 years old and has conserved approximately 23,000 acres in Rockingham and Strafford County. Their focus is mainly on drinking water supply, farmland and wildlife, with some projects more recreation focused. Mr. Hyde presented a budget overview, and some agencies from whom SELT will pursue funding. The

property has two woods roads and they will build a trail to connect those. The Selectmen asked about public accessibility, pointing out that parking on Province Road is not possible. SELT plans to make a small parking lot for approximately 10 cars a priority soon after acquisition. SELT has come seeking the Board's approval of the proposal and of the Town's legal interest in the property so that SELT may apply for funding for the purchase beyond what Barrington and Strafford are contributing. Selectmen, by unanimous decision, approved the project. SELT is planning to announce the project to the community through its website and a mailing.

Old Business

The Selectmen discussed the current reopening plan and how the Town Office was functioning under it. As it seems to be working satisfactorily, the board, by unanimous decision, voted to continue within those guidelines for the month of July and revisit the situation in August. Along with Emergency management Director, Scott Whitehouse, they will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and how it is affecting the functioning of the Town Office

New Business

Chairman Scott Young administered the Oath of Office to Terri Marsh, former Deputy Town Clerk, who is now serving as Town Clerk, pursuant to RSA 41:18. Board members and Ms. Marsh spoke about her new position. She stated that she thought the reopening was going well. She noted that residents coming into the Town Office have been respectful of one another and seem happy that we are open. Ms. Marsh expressed her desire to keep open good communication with members of the Board.

The Selectmen discussed some upcoming changes of duties for office personnel. When any positions become available they will be advertised locally.

At the request of a Strafford resident, consideration will be given in the upcoming months to a possible dedication of the 2020 Town Report.

Tax Collector Judy Dupré was in attendance to discuss several matters. She inquired about the sale of a piece of tax deeded property about which there has been some interest. Ultimately it will go out to bid or up for auction, but there are no immediate plans to do that. Ms. Dupré discussed the status of a second tax deeded property as well. She also commented that she thought the reopening was going very smoothly.

With Building Inspector David Copeland, the Selectmen discussed a resident's concern and dispute with a neighbor about the use of a Right Of Way and the appropriate application of zoning ordinances. The matter, being a civil issue is beyond the jurisdiction of the Board to settle. The Building Inspector will monitor the situation and assist within the limits of his jurisdiction. The Selectmen will meet on the 14th of July and again on the 28th.

There being no further business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21PM.