

## Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting

18 March 2008

Members present: R. Stephen Leighton, Chairman, JoAnn Brown and Lynn Sweet

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Stephanie Gray, Carolyn Page, Cal Schroeder, Harmony Anderson, Phil Auger, Mary Dempsey and Jim Anderson were among those attending.

Harmony Anderson and Phil Auger provided information on Conservation Commission's ongoing projects, and the matches to be met for funding. Project to protect the Isinglass River is nearing completion, however some additional funding/match is needed. Commission is hoping to use value from Town owned property located on Spruce Pond Drive (Map 8, Lots 14, 15 and 16, also Map 4, Lot 21-1), along with part of the Annie French lot located on Province Road for additional match value. They plan to apply for grants, including one to Waste Management, to help meet the funding match required. They are requesting authorization to apply to NRCS (formerly Soil Conservation Services) for a grant under the Wetland Reserve Program. If awarded, the value of the grant could also contribute to the match value. All costs (i.e. appraisal, legal, development rights, etc.) of placing a perpetual conservation easement on these properties would be paid by the Federal program. It was noted that a perpetual easement would allow grazing, late season mowing, woodland management by a licensed forester. The perpetual conservation easement on these lands could be used as part of the match. Basically, the costs paid by the Conservation Commission are reimbursed by the government. The intent of this discussion is to request approval from the Board of Selectmen to make application for this grant, and to verify that the reimbursement would go back into the Conservation Easement Fund. If application is accepted by NRCS, it would then go into a batch of applications to be considered for a grant. It was understood that this is the first step in this process, and there is no commitment to take any further action.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted, unanimously, to authorize the Conservation Commission to file an application with the NRCS for a grant under the Wetland Reserve Program, and begin the process. Mr. Leighton will sign the application when ready.

Article for Municipal Building to be considered at Town Meeting was discussed, along with information to be provided to explain the need and future costs (i.e. use of rooms, costs of operation and maintenance, etc.).

There were questions regarding the Police Department budget and activity in Strafford, number of calls, types of calls, burglary rate and comparisons with neighboring Towns. It was suggested that the Police Chief have this information available when justifying his budget.

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting  
18 March 2008

Page 2.

Cal Schroeder stressed concern over violation involved in a timber cut off Evan's Mountain Road (a Scenic Road since 1987) and enforcement. Board advised pictures would be needed from before the cut and after to determine the extent of the violation.

After review and consideration, a motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes taken at the March 4, 2008 meeting of the Board.

A complaint has been received regarding the number of large trucks and activity on Leighton Corner Road. Scott is checking into this.

It was noted that the Road Agent has posted the roads. Copy of posted notice is attached.

After comparison of expenditures for road maintenance from January to March this year, and the same time frame for 2007, Board will discuss budget options with Road Agent. Maintenance of roads is running approximately \$66,000. ahead of last year's costs due to the weather. Thought is to reduce the Capital Improvements article and increase the article for General Highway and Maintenance by the same amount, to avoid any further impact on the tax rate.

Certificates of Recognition were signed for the following Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle Scout: Jordan A. McKenney and Zackary M. Lacroix.

Correspondence was read.

Appointment slips were signed for Susan Arnold (ZBA), David Perkins (Conservation Commission) and Charles Burnham (ZBA).

There was discussion regarding budgets, preparation and limited attendance at budget hearings.

Work session will be held on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. to review items to be presented at Town Meeting, and to meet with the Road Agent.

Barnstead will be contacted to ask whether their article to close Snackerty Road passed or failed. This article was included on Strafford's warrant due to receipt of notification from Barnstead indicating that they were including a similar article on their warrant.

There being no further business before the Board a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.