

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

June 18, 2012
MINUTES

Call to Order

5:30pm: Chairman, Steve Barry called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Barry asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Present: Steve Barry, Chairman; Alan O'Neal, Vice Chairman; Bill Perron, Richard Pitman and R. Andrew Robertson, Selectmen

Also Present: Leslie Boswak, Town Administrator; Penny Touchette, Accounts Payable/Assessing

Recessed to Public Hearing

Chairman Barry opened the Public Hearing to take citizen input regarding issuance of a Discretionary Preservation Easement to Robert and Deborah Harvey at 145 North Road. Chairman Barry read the posting of the notice for the Public Hearing.

Mr. Harvey spoke regarding the significance of historic properties in town. He has two barns on his property that date to 1750 and 1850 and feels they are well recognized scenic landmarks in Deerfield. He offered a brief history of the barns and presented the Board with a number of photographs.

Harriet Cady asked if the Town has approved this type of easement to other preserved barns. Selectman Robertson confirmed yes, that he is aware of several barns in town that have been extended this easement. Kathy Shigo expressed support of the easement and asked Mr. Harvey how much of the barn is still in its original state. Mr. Harvey answered that all but the roof and siding dates back to the original 1750 construction.

With no further comments the Public Hearing is adjourned at 5:50p.

Motion – Selectman Robertson moves to approve the easement as proposed with the maximum 75% discount.

Second – Selectman Pitman

Discussion – Selectman Robertson noted that the barn is currently assessed at \$50,000 with taxes of \$1,075. At the full allowable discount of 75% the new tax owed would be \$796, a reduction of \$279. He is of the opinion that this property more than qualifies and thanked the Harvey Family for their thoughtful presentation.

Vote - All in Favor – Motion Carries

Scheduled Appointments

A. Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission – David Preece

Mr. Preece presented the Board with a status update for the proposed Upper Lamprey River Scenic Byway project, including a concept paper and a map of the proposed route. There are currently 14 State Scenic Byways in New Hampshire, a local example being the John Stark Regional Scenic Byway. The project aims to spark local tourism and benefit local businesses. The Commission is seeking two members from each participating Town to participate on an oversight council and expects meetings to be quarterly. They expect to return to the Board in July with a formal presentation and will be seeking letters of support at that time. As the work progresses they will eventually make a formal petition to the State for approval of the Byway.

B. Steve Boyson - Public Services of New Hampshire Substation Concerns

Steve Boyson of Cate Rd appeared before the Board seeking clarification as to what Town Lighting or Noise Ordinances may be in place. He has been experiencing ongoing issues with the recent expansion project at the PSNH Substation abutting his property. His concerns are with the lighting and noise, there is work being done around the clock and when the outside lights are on, they flood his property. PSNH had attempted to plant some trees, which he and his family attempted to look after, but they were inadequate and many have died.

Selectman Robertson indicated that he was not aware of any lighting ordinance in place, but that the Town had in the past approved a Noise Ordinance. Selectman Perron is familiar with the current expansion project approved by the Planning Board and noted that they expect work to conclude in July. L. Boswak clarified that there is currently no formal Noise Ordinance on the books. Vice Chairman O'Neal suggested that the Town should look at the Planning Board approval and confirm that what was presented lines up with the activities that are taking place, specifically with regards to around-the-clock work. A representative from PSNH was present and spoke to the Board. He acknowledged that

there have been two events in recent months that have required 24/7 work, but stressed that those events are infrequent. Recent upgrades to the substation are responsible for the added noise and light, but PSNH is committed to working with the Boysons to keep disruption to their property to a minimum. Mr. Boyson stressed that he is before the Board because interactions directly with PSNH have been yielding no results. Selectman Robertson asked what an "event" represented in terms of time. PSNH answered that each of the recent two "events" have lasted 3 to 4 days. With regards to other times that the lighting was turned on, he was not aware, but can look into. An instance of a break in at the substation was mentioned, where PSNH had to turn the lights on at an odd hour so that the Deerfield PD could inspect the property. PSNH added that they will speak with Kate Hartnett from the Planning Board and look into her recommendation of installing down lighting to help limit the disruption to Mr. Boyson's property.

Chairman Barry noted that the Board has no formal authority to take action as there are no Noise or Lighting Ordinances in place, but asked that Mr. Boyson keep the Town informed of his dealings with PSNH regarding the issue and the Board will research the site plans and keep Mr. Boyson in the loop.

C. Penny Touchette – Appraisal/AVITAR Assessing Items

Ms. Touchette presented the Board with a number of items where dealings with AVITAR have been inconsistent. On one property, she recommended tax abatement be made for Mark and Molly Brewer at 61 South Rd. This abatement had been previously denied, but Ms. Touchette presented the Board with evidence supporting the reduction.

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to approve the abatement for Mark and Molly Brewer of 61 South Rd. in the amount of \$2,500

Second – Selectman Robertson

No Discussion - All in Favor – Motion Carries

Ms. Touchette further presented the Board with items relating to properties on the Lamprey River. There are roughly 64 properties affected, where 12 do not note that it is on the Lamprey River or the value is zero with no supporting explanation. She feels that the handling of property assessments on the Lamprey is inconsistent at best and requests for abatement are denied without a thorough review of the property in question. Properties on Freeses Pond are assessed with less of an added enhancement than those on the River. Penny would like to see all properties on the Lamprey River visited and have someone speak with homeowners regarding the project. She feels consistency is needed. Vice Chairman O'Neal asked if the services received from AVITAR aligned with what they were compensated for. L. Boswak described the AVITAR contract was vague as best. Selectman Robertson suggested having the Town Administrator bring Ms. Touchette's concerns to AVITAR and to schedule a meeting to express the Town's concerns with handling of the properties in question. All agreed.

Regular Business/Signatures

- Approval of Minutes from May 29th, June 4th and June 11th

Motion to approve as written – Vice Chairman O'Neal

Second – Selectman Robertson

No Discussion – All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Accounts Payable – Two Manifests (\$436,525.26 - \$414,432 transferred to the School and \$9,880) totaling \$446,405.26

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

Discussion – It was noted that this is the last invoice for the School for this year.

All in Favor – Motions Carries

- 2012 Dog License Warrant

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to approve

Second – Selectman Robertson

No Discussion - All in Favor – Motions Carries

- Fire Truck Financing Agreement

Motion – Selectman Pitman moves to give the Chair permission to sign the loan paperwork as presented

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Notice of Abatement – Kevin, Lisa & Brian Cini, 20 Mountain Rd, in the amount of \$466

Motion – Vice Chairman O'Neal moves to approve the abatement

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- State of NH Department of Revenue – Notice that Deerfield will not use the PA-28 Form for 2013

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to sign the Form as written

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries

- Letter from the Board to Cheryl Bolduc of the Deerfield Fair Association Re: Non-Renewal of the Tax Exemption

Signatures executed

- Letter to the Town Administrator from Jennifer Verville Requesting Permission to Post a Sidewalk Sign for the Co-Operative Pre School 1 Week Each Month

The Board would ask that it not be placed in the Triangle at the intersection of Church Street and 107, but otherwise will be OK to post.

- Naming of the Nyyberg Driveway

It has been confirmed that Granite Place does not already exist in Deerfield or Epsom.

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to approve Granite Place as the name for the Nyberg’s driveway

Second – Selectman Robertson

No Discuss – All In Favor – Motion Carries

Unfinished Business None

Town Administrator’s Report

- The Town is in receipt of an email from Herb McKinney with the Conservation Commission seeking permission to use the Town seal on boundary markers to be put on Conservation Land. There were no objections.
- The Board was presented with the proposed 2013 Budget Schedule which included a Deliberative Session date of February 2, 2013. The Town would like direction from the Board as to where it would like certain items included, for example fuel. Vice Chairman O’Neal was of the opinion that the budget organization should be left as is for now and asked if Jan Foisy would be able to put together a projected default budget using this year’s figures. L. Boswak confirmed that they could get a rough projection. At its next meeting the Board will be asked to identify where it would like the bottom line budget number to be.

Other Business None

New Business None

Citizens Comments

Harriet Cady thanked Penny Touchette for bringing forward what she’s been seeing for years with regards to AVITAR and Town assessments. She described her own personal experience with appraisals and would suggest that the Town compare contracts and services provided to other communities in the State when considering a contract renewal.

Kathy Shigo echoed Ms. Cady’s comments, thanking Penny for her work. She also indicated that she recalls there being an Ordinance in place for Trucks, restricting their travel after 7pm and before 7am and would like to see that enforced as relates to the PSNH substation. She is of the opinion that the lights should not be on 24/7, as other residents would be prevented from shining spot lights on their neighbors, this company should be held to the same standards. She would also like to say again how great the need for paving of Nottingham Rd is. She has spoken with Alex and understands it is next in line. Finally, she noted that the American Legion is having difficulties financially and there has been talk of having to sell off some of its land/property. She would like to stress what an important part of the community that organization is and would like to see The Town support them as they work to make ends meet.

Meeting Adjourned

7:05pm

Motion – Vice Chairman O’Neal moves to adjourn

Second – Selectman Robertson

All in Favor – Meeting is Adjourned

Next Meeting Monday, June 25th at 8:00 am

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Board of Selectmen*