

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

June 22, 2015

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Present: Steve Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman; Rebecca Hutchinson, R Andrew Robertson and Jeff Shute Selectmen

Also Present: Jan Foisy, Town Finance Director/Interim Town Administrator, Mark Tibbetts, Fire Chief

Work Session: Deerfield Fair Board of Directors

Members of the Deerfield Fair Board of Directors, David O'Neal (President), Glen Martin (Vice President), Dick Marquee, Bill Marston, Deb Wyman, Don Wyman, Alan O'Neal, Dave Whatmough, Felix Gardner, Jr. and Dwight Barnes were present. Chairman Barry distributed to the group copies of a letter from the State Fire Marshall along with an accompanying cover letter from Fire Chief Tibbetts. The correspondence was reviewed and Chairman Barry spoke that the Board has concerns regarding electrical safety at the Fairgrounds, that the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal share those concerns, and that it is the Board's desire to work with the Fair Association to resolve the concerns as soon as possible.

Alan O'Neal asked to clarify whether the letter from the Fire Marshal was given to the Select Board for delivery to the Fair Association and asked whether the individuals copied on the letter dated June 12th had yet received their copies? J. Foisy answered that the physical copies of the two letters would be mailed June 23rd, but that the Board wanted to deliver the letter in person. It was asked whether the Fair Association would want to have its Attorney and/or Code Enforcement Officer Rick Pelletier present for the work session, Selectman Robertson responded that the intent was for the Selectmen to get the letters to the Board of Directors first, answer any general follow up questions, and to then schedule more in depth follow up as necessary. Selectwoman Hutchinson added that the hope was to have a conversation about what is already being done and what has been planned for work at the Fairgrounds to make sure that the Select Board understands fully what is going on.

Selectman Shute spoke that he has met personally with both Chief Tibbetts and the Fire Marshal and that the Fire Marshal sees the issue not necessarily with the Town of Deerfield, but more as an overall State Fair problem. The Town and the Fire Chief want to work fully with the Fair and have no intent or desire to shut down the event, but that may not be the direction the Fire Marshal would like to head in, thus the desire to meet in person and work together to address the concerns. The Board does not expect for all of the necessary work to be completed by September, but Selectman Shute stressed it is important to have a defined plan in place and to communicate that plan. The Electrical Disconnect is the main concern of the Marshal. Selectman Shute offered to serve as the liaison between the Board of Selectmen and the Fair's Electrical Committee.

David O'Neal spoke that the Fair Association is waiting on several bids on several projects. The Town's concern is well taken, and he guaranteed that several of the projects will be completed by this year's Fair. He indicated that the Fair has been delayed in receiving bids and does not want to move forward with only 1 proposal. Don Wyman updated that the Fair is looking to re-wire Barns D, E and G and to have disconnects installed in other buildings. The main disconnect requires that a new pole be installed south of the current Eversource metering point so that electricity for the entire fairgrounds can be dropped from a single ground-level point. That work is expected to be completed in July.

Selectman Shute spoke that the Fire Marshal wanted to do a site inspection and suggested doing that walk through as soon as possible as many of the potential concerns cited in the Fair's larger report were not formal problems. He suggested that the Fire Marshal wants a site visit may be motivated by no one outside of the Fair Association

having seen the full report. Alan O'Neal spoke that the Electrical Committee has been on site several times recently reconciling the grounds to the last formal visit and that a meeting with Rick Pelletier is planned in the coming days to review codes and interpretations of such. David O'Neal responded that the full Board of Directors will discuss the matter, along with the receipt of tonight's letter, at its meeting this Thursday. He added that the Association has been working to identify and prioritize the projects, and that it would be useful to have more defined direction from the Fire Marshal. Selectman Shute suggested that having a 5-year plan in place would be well received.

With no further discussion, Chairman Barry adjourned the work session at 6:00p.

Next Meeting Monday, June 29th @ 5:30p

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.

Pending Approval by the Board of Selectmen