

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Whitney Hall
Enfield, New Hampshire**

MINUTES of August 5, 2013

Board of Selectmen: John W. Kluge, Chairman; Donald J. Crate, Sr.

Absent/Excused: Fred Cummings

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Executive Assistant; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works; Richard A. Crate, Jr., Chief of Police

Others: Marcia Herrin, Alan Strickland, Kurt Gotthardt, Shirley Green, Howard Adams, Paul & Gabriele Currier, George & April Farewell, Bob Cavalieri, Harrison Trumbull, Katherine Stewart, Dan Kiley, Roger Dontonville, Bill & Vicky Brown, Marlene Patten, and other members of the public.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kluge called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Crate moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2013 as printed, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Grafton County FY 2014 Budget Proposal

Trustees of Trust Funds Report as of June 30, 2013:

Earning interest at 1%

Tax Collector's Report – July 2013:

First issue 2013 property taxes are at 95% collected, where we've been historically.

Town Clerk's Report – July 2013:

Revenues are \$25,000 above where they were this time last year. July 2012 revenues were \$58,000, while July 2013 revenues were \$75,000.

Roads Scholar Program:

Damien Hetzel achieved Roads Scholar Level One; Derrick Corbin achieved Senior Roads Scholar. There is only one level above Senior Roads Scholar; Master Roads Scholar.

Shoreland Permit Applications:

- North Village Lot Owners Association, Chosen Vale Ln – Raze existing building, build new building on same footprint moving over 14 feet and angling slightly. Install previous driveway and drainage system. Total impact 3,793 sq.ft.
- Sanders, 496 Shaker Blvd – Renovate existing patio, construct two patios, rehab existing stonewall, replace stairs in several locations.

Standard Dredge & Fill Application:

Liberty Utilities, Lebanon & Enfield NH – 1L4 Second Supply Line Project – This is the redundant supply line to the Enfield sub-station. Most of the work is being done in Lebanon.

IV. BOARD REPORTS**Planning Board:**

The Old Red Roof Frame Shop has a new owner who has obtained a State permit to establish a day care center. They will be living upstairs and there will be virtually no reconstruction of the building needed.

Enfield Village Association (EVA):

EVA moves forward with the Greeley house and fundraising for matching funds from the Byrne Foundation.

Conservation Commission:

The Commission met last week and discussed watershed issues along Crystal Lake.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. BUSINESS**Marcia Herrin – Dog Park:**

Marcia Herrin made a proposal for a Dog Park at the Shaker Recreation Park location using a portion of the property which is currently not used. She has been going to the Watson Dog Park in Hartford and feels there's a need for something closer to Enfield. She provided a handout that summarized her research.

The proposed dog park would have separate areas for small dogs and larger dogs. It would use a maximum of 1.5 acres of the Shaker Recreation Park property that is currently unused so would not preclude other uses of the park. There is the possibility of two abutters depending on the configuration of the dog park.

Dog parks provide exercise for dogs and reduce off-lease use of other town properties. Dog parks socialize both dogs and owners. Socialization of dogs reduces aggressive behaviors. Dog parks increase a sense of community and become a meeting place for residents and a venue for volunteerism. There are approximately 1,000 dogs in Enfield.

Fundraising for start-up and ongoing operations would be performed by volunteers. 20-30 active volunteers manage Watson Dog Park. Volunteers sign up to: supervise dog play and make sure Dog Park rules are followed, daily clean-up, provide toys, and obedience classes.

If the Town supports the project she proposes a one-year time frame in which to organize volunteers and raise the necessary funds. Ms. Herrin's proposal includes the Town's allowed use of the land, establishment of the dog park under the direction of the Enfield Recreation Commission, acceptance donations and liability coverage. The estimated start-up cost, to be raised by donations, is \$25,000, primarily for fencing and site preparation. Operating expenses (dog waste bags, garbage pick-up, snow removal, etc.) are about \$4,000 annually and would also be covered by donations obtained through volunteer fundraising efforts.

Marcia Herrin can be contacted at 4 Goodhue Hill Rod, Enfield Center, NH, 603-632-4084 night, 603-643-7677 day.

The Watson Dog Park, after being wiped out by the Irene flood, had help with repairs from FEMA because it was part of the Town. Funding for development and operation has been provided there, in part, by local businesses. Donations can also be made for a commemorative plaque.

Diane Bruce lives on Sloan Road. She does not think neighbors would like it. She pointed out that poison ivy is all over the place now. While Ms. Herrin felt there might be a potential for drainage problems, Mrs. Bruce said there are not puddles on the lot since ditches have taken care of a lot of drainage issues.

Howard Adams pointed out that there are much more important things to be concerned with than a dog park; handicapped accessibility of the Enfield Center Town House for one. A microphone system would also have been good for this meeting.

Brief discussion of the location within the Shaker Recreation Park was discussed. Ms. Herrin is open to working with the Town to determine the best location that doesn't preclude use of the park for other purposes, but still has access from the parking lot.

Ms. Herrin went on to discuss rules, such as barking dogs are taken away, as are dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior.

Katherine Stewart pointed out that when the Shaker Recreation Park was built there were donations made with plans for the rest of the park. Would the dog park fit in with the original ideas for the property?

Mr. Gotthardt asked about wear and tear. He was informed that a park in Atlanta has two sections and they alternate between the two to allow each section a time for recovery. The Watson Dog Park in Hartford is closed during mud season.

Mr. Schneider asked if the dog park is open in the winter, who does the day-to-day management, if the Watson Dog Park is located in a neighborhood, and how do they deal with dog bites – both to people and other dogs.

Ms. Herrin informed him that the Watson Dog Park is open through the winter. They pay for some snow plowing. Volunteers manage the park. Someone is not always there and the park is not locked. The Watson Dog Park is located in an area similar to the Shaker Recreation Park with ball fields and parking nearby. There is always the question of liability. There are behavior rules for both humans and pets. Hartford even has a dog trainer come on Saturdays. Children aren't allowed to bring dogs, though she doesn't know if children are not allowed at all as there are never children there. In answer to Mr. Kluge's question, she added there is no alcohol, no smoking and no food for people allowed.

Mr. Kluge thanked Ms. Herrin for her presentation. The Town will have to do some research into the property and its intended uses as well as liability. It becomes sort of permanent once \$25,000 is spent and fence is installed.

Ms. Herrin noted that fences can be taken down and there will be very little in landscaping.

Mr. Kluge asked Ms. Herrin if she would be adverse to something that was not guaranteed forever. She replied that no, it's the Town's prerogative.

Shirley Green asked if other Towns have tried this.

Ms. Herrin understands that Lebanon and Norwich did, but were unable to find a piece of land that was suitable and available.

Mr. Schneider feels the Recreation Commission is the next step if Ms. Herrin plans to attend that meeting.

Mascoma Lake Boat Launch & Beach Parking:

Mr. Schneider said that about three weeks ago there was an issue with the Mascoma Lake boat launch parking area. There has been an ongoing conflict where beachgoers and boaters have a hard time co-existing at the boat launch. There was quite a discussion on the Enfield Listserv. The Town has had a hard time with this.

Until pavement and lines are in place the courts are reluctant to uphold our parking regulations. One reason the handicapped parking spaces are paved is so people know where the spaces are and the handicapped parking regulation can be enforced. To pave the boat launch parking area would require State permitting, such as a Shoreland Permit. To pave it could cost about \$60,000. If a porous pavement is used more site work is required and the cost would increase to about \$100,000.

There is parking above with a designated crosswalk. That's where vehicle traffic transitions between 30 mph to 40 mph.

The pieces of property on the other end of the Shaker Bridge that are owned by the State, the old motel property and the abutting piece, are the ideal place for a non-motorized boat launch and perhaps another beach, though the bottom is a little mucky and shallow for a distance. But that property is not accessible by the Town until the State finishes with Main Street and the Rail Trail

project. We've had many years of discussion of the available option. The option that the Town wishes, and the State approves of, is not the same as what the Rail Trail group wants. We're still pressing the State with our views. We can't do anything with these properties until the State has finalized the project. Previously this site was used to launch non-motorized boats. We're open to any kind of discussion with the State on how to manage this property in the future. The State could own the property and the Town manage and maintain it.

Mr. Kluge said it doesn't seem to make sense to pay \$60,000 to \$100,000 to pave the boat launch if the other side isn't finalized yet. He asked if it would make sense to put up 2 signs, one on either side of the entrance, stating the parking at the boat launch is for boat trailer parking only.

Chief Crate responded that signs make no difference. When asked if he had recommendations, he noted that as Mr. Schneider said, paving and lines would help. When we did have someone handing out permits parking issues were resolved. We hired the individual for the summer.

Discussion ensued regarding the duties of Lake Hosts. While they are already there, NH Lakes doesn't want them to do anything other than their specific lake host duties.

One resident pointed out that his wife had trouble crossing NH Route 4A with a 2-year old and 7-year old and will no longer go to the beach. He asked who cares who parks at the boat launch.

Mr. Kluge replied that if cars are parked at the boat launch they can't get trailers in and the launch can't be used. What Mr. Kluge wonders, and it's not determined, who actually owns it?

Chief Crate believes the State owns the property. The boat launch was paid by boat permit fees. Now the Town maintains it. If paved, we might be able to use the lot as dual use parking. It is limited parking to begin with. The Police Department is running radar at that location for that very reason.

Mr. Gotthardt inquired about the ownership of the lot.

Mr. Schneider responded that if you ask 6 different people you'll likely get 6 different answers. Fish & Game says it's owned by the State and maintained by the Town. It was always considered a Class VI Road.

Mr. Gotthardt noted there is a designated boat launch strip.

Mr. Schneider thinks it's OK to uphold our ordinance.

Mr. Gotthardt pointed out that the Town would still need a presence there to determine the owner of the car.

Diane Bruce reported that about 2 years before the Shaker Bridge construction started the boat launch had washed out. The State had to come out to fix it. At the time there were signs every 3 feet and the State made the Town remove the signs.

Chief Crate stated that the signs were removed after the Town lost a couple of cases in court.

Harrison Trumbull said it seems the problem is inadequate beach parking and inadequate boat parking. You can see beachgoers use the boat launch. People have gotten into a bad habit. Get someone to direct people where to park and break them of the habit. It might be worth paying someone for a few hours each day.

April Farewell said that if you stand at the crosswalk you can see in both directions quite a ways.

Mr. Kluge said we have some homework to do – figure out the legal status and have discussion about whether it makes sense to hire someone. We're looking at something for next summer, a way to alleviate tension next summer.

Curbside Trash/Recycling:

Today was the first day of the new curbside trash & zero-sort recycling program. As of this week, we are changing to every other week collection with trash and recycling being picked up on the same day, though not necessarily the same time. Casella ordered a new truck and it came without A/C so they are waiting for another truck. They are currently loading the bins by hand. Residents who have not gotten their containers can put out their regular trash containers.

There were almost 11 tons of materials picked up with 3.57 tons of recyclables. That's a recycling rate of about 36% vs. the high teens, so the program did what we wanted. For every tone we take from solid waste to recycling is a savings for Enfield. The Town spends about \$500,000 or about 10% of the total budget on solid waste. Enfield was the only community in the Upper Valley doing weekly pick up. Some communities do every other week, some do curbside recycling only, some have no curbside pickup.

There are other container options available. There is a 32 gallon container available and a small inventory at the Public Works Facility. This is a one-size-fits-all solution that does not always work for the individual. Containers may be too big to handle or difficult to get to the collection location. We ask for patience as we transition through this.

Mr. Kluge pointed out that for those people who like to go to the Transfer Station that will be an option.

Mrs. Carl Patten said, due to ill health, they cannot get the containers down to the road for collection. There are other elderly individuals in Town who have the same problem. How long are we tied into this program? How long before the Town closes down the Transfer Station? The paperwork says containers have to be on the even side of her street; that works for her, but others will have to put their containers on the opposite side of the street from their homes. Where are they going to put them; in the new ditch? What about snow? In the summer there will be bugs with trash being held for two weeks. In the winter the containers will freeze. A raccoon got into her container. She tries to make sure her rubbish doesn't go down until the morning. Bears are also a problem. She does not think this program was thought through.

Mr. Kluge asked Mrs. Patten if a smaller container would help.

Mr. Schneider added that the smallest container is a 32 gallon container that is comparable to what many people have used. People can obtain these smaller containers by calling Jim Taylor (632-4605) or Mr. Schneider (632-5026). We didn't want to assume people couldn't move the container. The

64 gallon trash container was chosen because it's about what the average household produces in 2 weeks.

Mr. Kluge reported that in any discussion of the Selectmen they have wanted to keep the Transfer Station open. We have a great crew running it and we want to keep that.

A member of the audience expressed concern about pick up on Livingstone Lodge Road where it would be difficult to place bins on only one side of the road due to the ditch and the need to stay 3' away from any obstruction.

Some individuals don't want 2 weeks of rubbish in their garage so on the off-week will take their trash to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Taylor has spoken to Casella about additional rubbish pick-ups at the Transfer Station on off weeks. Casella is also looking at Livingstone Lodge Road again. They hope to have a one-way trip down Livingstone Lodge Road but are evaluating it.

A resident who lives on Lewin Road is the youngest person on that road and is a ½ mile from the collection location. He doesn't foresee residents getting their bins to the collection point. He called Casella he got a different story – that the Town had no plan or smaller sizes of totes. He added there is no place along Lockhaven to put the bins unless they go in the road.

Mr. Schneider responded that Casella is the contractor, but we're the customer so they'll do what we want them to do. It has always been our intent to allow smaller containers.

Mr. Taylor reported that Casella has delivered about 150 small containers.

Mr. Schneider explained the issue of going down private roads includes the criteria that they be maintained in the winter and have a place to turn around. If the road meets those standards we'll encourage them to do so. As for the size of the container, we'll accommodate residents.

Mr. Adams asked what the cost per household is and what was the initial cost?

Mr. Taylor replied that the existing program is about \$18/month/household. The Town is implementing this program within the existing budget of \$451,000.

Mr. Adams asked who recommended and decided this. He was informed by Mr. Kluge the Board of Selectmen made the decision to do this project after three years of discussions, presentations and 173 responses to an on-line survey – about the same turnout as Town Meeting.

Mr. Adams asked why this will work when past recycling didn't. He was informed that the difference is zero-sort.

A brief discussion followed regarding assistance with unloading vehicles at the Transfer Station. Mr. Adams was displeased with an experience he had.

Mrs. Bruce spoke to Casella about the tote lids, which do not latch. Folks in Plainfield have sprayed a solution of water & bleach on the cover of the container to deter wildlife.

Mr. Gotthardt made mention of the collection calendar being wrong. He was informed that it was not wrong, only confusing.

Mr. Gotthardt asked for updates to be posted.

George Farewell never got a return call from Casella and anticipates more problems in the winter months.

One resident asked for a second trash toter for an in-law apartment and was told she could rent one or purchase special bags from the Town. She would be willing to get a bigger trash bin to share.

Katherine Stewart said people are pretty positive about recycling. There was discussion about an information campaign and she hasn't seen it. Listserv is a small group. People's anxiety is related to the "not knowing." Two week is a long time to put your trash in a secure location. The financial questions are also important. She sees economies of scale. Who's responsible for picking up strewn trash? She also pointed out issues for summer residents who are not here often and may only be here on an off-week.

Mr. Kluge responded that we can't make the Town responsible for everyone. Individuals need have their own responsibility. The communication hasn't been what it ought to have been. We relied a great deal on Casella which was a day late and a dollar short. While information was disseminated in the Town Manager's report not everyone is connected to the Internet, Enfield Listserv, etc. If we can spread the word ourselves it would be helpful. Maybe we need to put something out on paper.

Mrs. Stewart suggested employing the Library to get information to people.

Mr. Kluge went on to say that every penny we don't spend on trash we can devote to infrastructure. If we can save a little bit it's worth doing. And recycling is a good thing to do.

Dan Kiley pointed out this is the first day of a three-year process. He thinks the Town should be given a few months to work things out. There are over 580 households on Listserv and, at most, 200 people go to Town Meeting, so Listserv is probably the best form of communicating except for a direct mailing to each home.

Shirley Green said that 2 or 3 years ago the Town added Sunday hours at the Transfer Station for those who leave Sunday night. People need to take some responsibility. And with any changes there will be wrinkles to iron out.

A member of the audience has a relative with an apartment building with 2 unites. They didn't have enough barrels. Can they get more? They were told to contact Casella.

Mr. Gotthardt asked if there is a process by which side roads are evaluated. On Ibey Road 90% of the houses are on one side of the street and it's flatter on that side, yet they have to place toters on the other side.

Mr. Schneider noted that is not a heavily traveled road.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of toters for apartments. In some instances a small dumpster vs. toters may work.

Mrs. Stewart pointed out that a large part of taxes are paid by lakefront property owners and noted the problems with service to these residents.

Mr. Kluge called a close to the discussion. The Board moved on to other business.

Sewer Connection Waiver Requests:

The Board received sewer connection waiver requests for 3 Hardy Road and 503 US Route 4.

Mr. Crate moved to grant both requests for waiver, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Discussion of Acceptance & Expenditure of Unanticipated Funds:

Shirley Green raised funds through donations in the amount of \$755 for Old Home Days expenses. Mrs. Green asked if it was possible to retain unexpended funds to help with expenses in 2014. She was informed that would not be possible, that unexpended funds had to go to the general fund.

Mr. Crate moved to accept and expend these funds for Old Home Day expenses in 2013, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Surplus Property:

Mr. Taylor submitted a list of property to the Board that he recommends they declare surplus property. The property would then be advertised and put out to bid.

1. 1995 John Deere Tractor with Loader and Mower Deck
2. 1999 F-350 Diesel Truck with broken frame
3. Landscape Trailer
4. Trailer with Mesh Cage
5. Dump Trailer
6. Fire District Safe
7. Small Compactor with Motor
8. Portable Ajax Generator
9. Portable Homelite Water Pump
10. Portable Diaphragm Pump

The generator is in rough shape.

Mr. Crate moved to declare the property as surplus, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

32 Johnston Drive – Sanborn:

The Sanborn's own a house on approximately 2.5 acres of Town-owned land on Johnston Drive that was acquired when the railroad finished operating. This property is on the lake side of the rail trail. They pay rent that is the equivalent of the property taxes for the property. They have a lifetime lease which allows them to live there for the rest of their lives but it can't be inherited and it can't be sold. In the past, the Town has done some minor property maintenance, never building maintenance.

The Sanborns are asking for both some road maintenance.

Mr. Crate would like to look at the property and discuss it at the next meeting.

Mr. Schneider was out there in early July and the road is down to rock, is manageable, but needs work. Mr. Schneider added they are also looking for a reduction in their rent, which is the equivalent to reducing their property taxes.

Mr. Kluge said he'd have a problem both reducing rent and doing maintenance.

Diane Bruce, an insurance adjuster, said that as a landlord, if they've put you on notice and they damage a vehicle the Town could be held liable.

Mr. Kluge sees the Town eventually doing something about the road, but not also reducing the rent.

Long-term this property could be lake front property for the Town.

This issue was tabled.

Jones Hill Construction:

Mr. Schneider was pleased to report the Jones Hill construction project is completed. The speed limit is 30 mph.

Mr. Kluge extended his congratulations to the Public Works Department and everyone involved in this project.

Mrs. Currier asked what will happen when rocks resurface.

Mr. Schneider responded that at a fraction of the cost this project should give us 10 solid year and we hope it addressed the problem with rocks coming up.

Mr. Currier asked what was going on with Crystal Lake and Mascoma Heights. He was informed by Mr. Schneider that those projects are regular road maintenance.

Mrs. Stewart wondered if there would be a potential savings with the emulsifier layer, etc.

Mr. Taylor said they were able to perform a mini-lab experiment with 2 sides of the road, side-by-side, done differently. One side was done with a ground up layer, the other with the typical shim layer.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Property Tax Refunds, PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property Form – electing not to use Inventory Forms in 2014, Junkyard License, Veterans Tax Credit, Excavation Tax Abatement, and MS-5 Financial Report.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 3, 2013, Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main St.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crate moved to adjourn at 7:56 PM, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.

John W. Kluge, Chairman

B. Fred Cummings

Donald J. Crate, Sr.
Enfield Board of Selectmen