

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

MINUTES of January 7, 2014

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

Others: Dan Kiley; David Beaufait, Moderator

BUSINESS MEETING

Due to inclement weather, the Monday, January 6, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was postponed until Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kluge called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Crate moved to approve the public and non-public minutes of December 16, 2013 as printed, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

NH Liquor Commission – Upper Valley Snow Sports Foundation @ Whaleback Mtn:

Upper Valley Snow Sports Foundation is requesting a liquor license from the NH Liquor Commission. If the Board feels this is not appropriate they can submit their objections. The Selectmen had no objections.

Town Clerk's Report – December 2013:

Revenues in 2013 of \$806,418.50 exceeded those for the previous calendar year which totaled \$761,687.37.

Tax Collector's Report – December 2013:

2013 property taxes are at 93% collected.

Wetlands Permit by Notification – Daniels Mobile Home Park Infrastructure Improvements:

An application was submitted to the State for maintenance dredging, grading, and reconstruction of drainage ditches at Daniels Mobile Home Park

IV. BOARD REPORTS**Planning Board:**

The Planning Board will meet tomorrow at 7:00 PM at the Public Works Facility to discuss amendments to Zoning Ordinance, a Site Plan Review for the Greeley House, a 5-acre Minor Subdivision by Birolini and a Major Subdivision off Evenchance Road.

Mr. Crate asked how far into the Conservation District the Evenchance subdivision would go.

Mr. Schneider, a direct abutter of the proposed Evenchance subdivision, explained that the Conservation zone is 900' and above and the rest is R1. The homes in the subdivision would connect to the NH Route 4A sewer line and would cross private property for which they would obtain an easement.

Mr. Kluge anticipates vigorous discussion.

Mr. Schneider reported that we've had interest in the property before, when this subdivision was first proposed, as a potential site for a municipal water source. We would not necessarily be putting a well there, but identifying a potential location.

Mr. Crate expressed concerns about drainage issues on Route 4A.

The Enfield Village Association will be coming before the Planning Board for a Site Plan Review for the Greeley House.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**Project Updates:**

Mr. Schneider reported that the salt & sand shed is in progress. The group constructing the shed also does plowing so the project has slowed a bit.

The Community Building is also in progress. The tile is installed. The wood floors have been resurfaced and have another coat of finish to be applied. Because the floor is clean it now shows the wear and tear in the boards themselves.

Mr. Crate asked about the status of the acoustics. He was informed that Mr. Schneider will meet with 2 of the firms next week to discuss concepts. One problem is a lack of a scale drawing of the building. Mr. Schneider is trying to track that down now. Paul Mirski may have a CAD drawing which he can email to Jim Taylor.

We now have the bulbs for the Veterans Park lights and we've been in touch with Langlois Electric for installation.

Mr. Crate had mentioned before about several streetlights that are working only intermittently. He asked to have a police officer on the evening shift to get pole numbers where lights are not functioning properly.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Kiley – Liquor License:

Mr. Kiley reported that Chapter 179 legislation just became affective which allows liquor sales as late as 2 AM if so adopted by the Board of Selectmen. This would be good for Whaleback and others in Enfield, such as Enfield House of Pizza, Mickey's, and the Shaker Museum. Mr. Kiley is in favor of adoption; it's good from a business standpoint.

VII. BUSINESS

Special State Primary:

David Beaufait came before the Board to discuss the Special State Primary Election which will take place on Tuesday, January 21st. Ray Burton died after many years of service as Executive Councilor. The State has set January 21st for the primary election. Only the republican ballot is a contested race. This is a primary only for this position. A small turn-out is anticipated. Dr. Beaufait has made arrangements to have a minimal crew of two clerks, one democrat and one republican. The theatre is in preproduction that week, so it would be a problem to hold the election in the auditorium. Dr. Beaufait feels this would be an ideal election to try using the Community Building as a polling place. There are no major conflicts at that building. Bill Coons' contract for the Shaker Bridge Theatre does not have this election date listed in its lease.

Paper ballots will be used without the ballot counting machine. This is only a primary. The election will take place at Town Meeting.

The Town Clerk and her deputy were not in favor of the change of location due to administrative concerns. Use of the conference room was considered as an option.

Dr. Beaufait said we would need the same number of polling booths based on the number of registered voters. He would put up about 8 of them.

Discussion of the use of the Community Building continued, with concern voiced over what the foot traffic might do to the floor which we just spent considerable money to refinish.

Dr. Beaufait suggested using the downstairs meeting room.

It was agree the upstairs hall could be roped off if the downstairs meeting room were to be used. The Selectmen could meet in the upstairs hall and so be close to the polling place when the voting closes.

Dr. Beaufait said we may want to have an out in the Shaker Bridge Theatre lease for floating election dates.

The notice of the primary has already been posted at Whitney Hall. It was questioned if there would be sufficient time to post a change of voting location. It was agreed that the location would change and be reposted if it is legal to do so. The Secretary of State will be consulted about noticing requirements, if needed. If voting must take place at Whitney Hall the Board of Selectmen can hold their regular meeting at another location.

CDFA Grant:

Scott Osgood was going to speak to the Board about this issue, but due to a conflict with his own hometown Selectboard meeting, of which he is a member, he was unable to attend.

Dog Park:

Mr. Osgood was also going to share his experience with the dog park folks who have asked Jim Taylor for assistance with a driveway permit from the State. Mr. Osgood will be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Schneider reported that letters requesting comments about the proposed dog park have gone out to abutters. One resident on Sloan Road expressed concern about the driveway and parking being close to their property.

In order for the State to come out and review the property for a driveway permit the owner of the property has to apply; that's us.

Mr. Schneider asked if the Board wants to say yes, we'll seek driveway access approval, even though we won't commit to the project overall.

Mr. Kluge said, as long as we're not committing to anything. Another tricky issue is if we want the property back after large amounts of money are spent on development of the dog park.

Mr. Schneider said they're looking to come back to the Board of Selectmen in February.

Mr. Taylor explained that the volunteers proposing this project are looking for a process. At some point the Board of Selectmen should hold a public hearing.

Mr. Schneider said we could have a non-binding article at Town Meeting. This is where we'd have the most people. It's not an inappropriate use for public property.

Discussion ensued regarding the holding of a public hearing to give abutters and the general population, both those opposed and those in favor of the project, an opportunity to provide input. Mr. Kiley said the Planning Board does not have jurisdiction over this project so it would be a Selectboard hearing.

Mr. Crate is leery of the project as this is being done by volunteers. What if they need help because they don't have enough volunteers? We could then end up paying for it.

Mr. Schneider said we'd be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the fence.

Mr. Kiley said if they don't have volunteers, the Town has the liability to staff the park.

Mr. Crate wondered if the Bicknell Brook Trail property on Grafton Pond Road could be used. It doesn't have a lot of neighbors and is closed to Route 4A.

Mr. Schneider said we'd have to be sure it conforms to the conservation easement.

Covenants on the Route 4A property prohibit buildings that are not recreation related. Mr. Schneider believes a dog park qualifies and a recreational purpose.

Mr. Crate doesn't believe there won't be dogs that scrap.

Mr. Schneider relayed his experience with the dog park in Hartford.

Insurance would be carried by the Town.

The volunteers proposing the dog park will be invited to the next Selectboard meeting. Discussion will focus on comments and concerns from abutters rather than a representation of the overall proposal.

Trash/Recycling:

A property in Enfield Center still poses a problem relating to toters left curbside between collections.

Mr. Schneider reported that looking at bins out for collection on Monday, January 6th, there didn't seem to be problems with plowing. We've been lucky so far.

Mr. Crate asked why they can't have dumpsters at the Enfield Center property. In response,

Mr. Schneider explained that it's a space issue. Getting the property owner to the table hasn't been easy. The owner lives out of state. The property manager lives on site.

Mr. Crate thinks smaller dumpsters should be OK.

The ordinance will make things mandatory. Mr. Schneider shared the recommendations of the Town's attorney that we be specific about a designated storage area, a foot distance from the sidewalk be included and the collection day. The Town's attorney also recommended increasing the penalty to the maximum of \$3,000. Garbage collection is a service, not a right. The Town can elect to not provide service.

Mr. Crate thinks we need something to make them pay attention.

Mr. Kluge is comfortable with withholding service as well.

Mr. Crate concurred.

Mr. Schneider received an email from Lakeview. There's been some back and forth with changing the number and location of dumpsters. They now want more dumpsters. Every other week and the number of dumpsters don't work for them. They want weekly collection.

Mr. Crate responded that they could pay for it.

Mr. Taylor believes their dumpster site is accessible to anyone. They don't have control over who dumps there.

2014 changes will include zero-sort recycling at the Transfer Station. Mr. Taylor said this will probably be happening next week.

2014 Budget:

The Budget Committee meets again on Thursday. The Committee has all department requests. Mr. Schneider has been working on estimates for non-property tax revenues. The goal for a property tax increase is at 2%. That would bring the rate from \$6.14 to \$6.26. Next year is a revaluation year and we expect to lose 5% to 8% of valuation. We're currently at 107%. We know the budget number to stay at 2%, though the tax may appear to increase a greater amount; we'll still be raising the same amount of taxes.

Mr. Kluge asked what percentage the rate would appear increase.

Mr. Schneider said it would look like 8%, when in reality it will be 2%. This is the average. Due to the revaluation some will be above that, some below. It will look bad. Five years ago the rate went down and looked good, but in reality it's about the same. It's a bit confusing with the change in property values.

Mr. Schneider said the TIF District is a wild card. Even if they haven't connected to the water and sewer extension the value of property in the extension area will increase because they are able to connect.

Mr. Crate pointed out that many people don't realize the bulk of their taxes are going to the school. He asked if Bob Cusick, Lee Carrier and Doug Pettibone would be at Town Meeting. He was assured they would.

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that some years the Town may have to exceed 2% when we have to do larger infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Crate feels the Boys Camp Road Bridge should be a top priority; the bridge is dangerous.

2013 Town Report:

The Board discussed potential dedication of the 2013 Annual Report. No final decision was made.

The Board inquired into the presentation of the Boston Post Cane. Marjorie Carr will be contacted about the status of this.

Administrative Items – Mascoma Savings Bank/Treasurer Authorization:

Sasha Holland needs to be authorized to deposit and sign checks against the Town's accounts as Deputy Treasurer at Mascoma Savings Bank. Mascoma Savings Bank provided a resolution form stating that they are the designated depository for specified accounts and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the Town of Enfield. In addition, the resolution authorizes the bank to pay withdrawal orders against said accounts in the name of the Town by Sasha Holland and Joyce Osgood.

Joyce Osgood has been previously designated as an authorized signer on the Town's accounts with Mascoma Savings Bank. Joyce Osgood as Deputy Treasurer is now the Acting Treasurer since the resignation of Lisa Gelinas from the position of Treasurer. Sasha Holland now needs to be designated as an authorized signer on these accounts as a new appointed Deputy Treasurer.

Mr. Crate moved to appoint Sasha Holland as Deputy Treasurer and an authorized signer on the Town's Mascoma Savings Bank accounts, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Employee Retirement:

Sergeant Scott Thompson is retiring from the Enfield Police Department, effective February 15, 2014. He is the third full-time officer to retire, excepting Chief Giese and Chief LaBounty.

Highway Commendation:

Mr. Crate commends the Enfield Highway Department for a job well done during this winter season. Their work compares very favorably to that in Lebanon.

Water/Sewer Commitment:

The Town's auditors have requested the Board of Selectmen's approval of Water & Sewer Commitments for quarterly billing. This is similar to the property tax warrants the Board approves twice annually. The first quarter billing commitment was presented and approved by the Board.

Skating Rink Status:

Mr. Kluge inquired into the status of the ice rink at Huse Park.

Mr. Taylor responded that there was a crack in the brand new liner because people don't stay off of it until it's frozen. The grounds crew is working on it. The Recreation Commission is looking into a grant to re-level the site so no liner is required.

Fire Hydrants:

Mr. Crate asked who is in charge of clearing fire hydrants. The one on Shaker Hill in front of the mill houses was not cleared. He was informed by Mr. Taylor that there is nothing in writing, but

the part-time grounds worker was shoveling them yesterday. This worker may not know where they all are, so Mr. Taylor will have Bruce Prior show him where they all are.

Next Meeting:

The next Selectboard meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:00 PM. When the location of the Special State Primary on this date is determined the location of the Selectmen's meeting will be reposted if it has changed from its usual location in the Whitney Hall Conference Room.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crate moved to adjourn at 7:08 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