

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

MINUTES of January 22, 2014

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

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

Others: Robert LaCroix, Kurt Gotthardt, Jamie Buffington, James Bonner, Marcia Herrin, Dan Kiley, Steve Powell, Diane Bruce, Reverend J. Melendy, Larissa Pyer

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cummings moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2013 as printed, Mr. Crate seconded. Mr. Cummings and Mr. Crate in favor of the motion, Mr. Kluge abstained, motion carried.

Mr. Crate moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014 as printed, Mr. Kluge seconded. Mr. Crate and Mr. Kluge in favor of the motion, Mr. Cummings abstained, motion carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Trustees of Trust Funds 2013 4th Quarter Report:

We're realizing interest of about 1%. Associated with this is how we invest the money. Mr. Schneider met with the Trustees of Trust Funds to discuss what we'll need in the upcoming year which affects the Trustee's investment strategy. The Trustees want to invest for the longest term possible. Mr. Schneider spoke to them about what is needed in 2014. Not much is needed in 2015. In 2016 we may see some expenses come up, such as a fire truck.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Enfield Village Association (EVA):

EVA is putting on a presentation at the Community Building on the Greeley House renovations this evening.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board discussed some small amendments to the zoning ordinance.

EVA came in for a site plan for the Greeley House, which was approved with no conditions.

The Evenchance Subdivision will have to start over. There are no huge issues, though conditions were imposed, including a good analysis of water flow on that parcel. Abutters asked that utility lines be put underground and Mr. Iskandar didn't bat an eye. Abutters are also concerned about water drainage issues.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. BUSINESS**Dog Park:**

Marcia Herrin provided two conceptual plans for the proposed dog park, now called the Mascoma Valley Dog Park. Conceptual Plan, Option 1, provides a parking lot that is parallel to NH Route 4A. Conceptual Plan, Option 2, provides a parking lot that is parallel to Sloan Road. The Mascoma Dog Park supporters sent out letters to abutters of the proposed dog park at the end of December. They received a couple of responses. Diane Bruce, of Sloan Road, was quite concerned about the location of the parking lot which would be right behind her home.

There are two conceptual plans; both are based on access at the service road. The dog park committee prefers these over expansion of the existing parking lot. Another concern expressed to the committee was the location of the porta-john. The placement of the porta-john is just a landscape architect nicety and its location can be easily changed. It was also pointed out by Mr. Schneider that there are porta-johns on site and the other end of the Shaker Recreation Park.

Steve Powell spoke as a resident and abutter who doesn't own a dog. He owns a home on Bradford Lane and is not directly affected by the proposed dog park. He did point out that there is an 8' berm between the proposed dog park and the residences on Bradford Lane so you wouldn't be able to see the dog park from the Bradford Lane.

Mr. Kluge asked to what the committee attributes the small response.

Marcia Herrin's assumption is there wasn't a lot of negative response. The property is going to be used for something at some point. On person told her it's better than a tennis court.

Ms. Herrin hears there was talk at the previous Selectboard meeting about the potential use of the Grafton Pond Road/Bicknell Trail property for this purpose. That property is in a conservation easement with Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT). She believes UFLT would not be in favor of it.

Rev. J. Melendy said dog parks are community building, are not just for dogs, but are recreational for people. If she considered moving from a private home to a condo she wouldn't consider it without a place such as this to exercise her dogs. Area dog parks are well maintained. Aggressive dogs and/or owners are asked to shape up or leave.

Larissa Pyer, the groups Lebanon counterpart, said this project has a lot of Lebanon support as well. She has been working with Marcia Herrin and has delivered a similar proposal to the City of Lebanon. She hasn't heard back yet. The Lebanon Parks & Recreation Department is supportive and she has spoken with them about their 5-year plan and how a dog park would fit. The group is committing to only one park so they hope for approval from one place. UFLT did deny another proposal in Lebanon so they aren't likely to be in favor of one in Enfield. In Lebanon they sent letters to 5 abutters. Three of the five abutters attended a public meeting regarding the Lebanon dog park proposal and were strongly opposed.

Mr. Kluge invited questions from the Board of Selectmen; there were none.

Mr. Schneider asked about the discussion with the Lebanon Parks & Recreation Dept. and what their thoughts or concept were.

Ms. Pyer replied that Lebanon Parks & Recreation had no plan to building. The Lebanon Skateboard Park was done in conjunction with a Lebanon Parks & Recreation project and it was suggested that the dog park supporters could partner with Lebanon so parking would not be needed by this group, but would instead be covered by the City.

Ms. Herrin explained there are two locations in Lebanon that have been considered: the Fellows Hill Park and the Farm Stand area, also Bagley Field behind the CCB. The Bagley Field location needs a pedestrian bridge and this is years down the road with no promises.

Mr. Schneider pointed out that in both conceptual plans for the Enfield dog park they have the service entrance parallel with Sloan Road.

Ms. Herrin said there's no need for a service road parallel to Sloan Road, but it is instead a feature added by the landscape architect.

Mr. Schneider stated that when the State allowed the Town to access the property they provided one main entrance and two emergency entrances.

Diane Bruce noted that in the newest plans they've put in a row of trees that would block some noise.

Mr. Schneider asked if they thought 10 spaces would be enough.

Ms. Herrin replied that is about what Hartford has. A dog lasts an hour, or less in many instances.

Mr. Schneider asked if it was a four season dog park.

Ms. Herrin responded that Hartford is closed at times because of ice. The supporters would have to find if they have money to plow. They hope for a 4 season park. Hartford closed the park during mud season as well so the turf can recover.

Ms. Herrin noted in the Selectboard meeting minutes that they would consider a non-binding article. The supporters would be happy to attend Town Meeting to talk about the proposed project.

Mr. Schneider asked where they are with their fundraising process.

Ms. Herrin said they received \$300 from the Animal Clinic of Enfield to help them incorporate with the State. They are holding back on fundraising because they may not get approval. They decided to become a non-profit so they can start fundraising as soon as they receive the go-ahead without worrying about red tape.

Mr. Schneider explained that insurance won't be an issue, but the Town needs more firmness in the size of the project.

Ms. Herrin said they'd need 1.5 acres and would be happy for 2 acres with it being a maximum of 2 acres.

Bob LaCroix looked for confirmation that this is to be paid for 100% with fundraising and volunteers.

Ms. Herrin said Hartford did fundraising and spent \$50,000 to set up and \$3,000 - \$4000 for maintenance.

Mr. Kluge asked what the next step is.

Mr. Schneider said that if the Selectboard is comfortable with the proposal we would need to have an agreement.

Mr. Kluge asked if there was virtue in presenting this at Town Meeting to get a sense of the community. The Board discussed this and approved the inclusion of an article on the Town Meeting warrant. The dog park supporters will present it.

Diane & Roger Bruce own on the corner of Sloan Road and the proposed dog park. Mrs. Bruce, who arrived late to the meeting, explained that her back porch is a few yards from the proposed project and she had concerns about the pictured location of the porta-john. She has concerns about it being within sight of her house or of kids tipping it over as it is just yards from her well.

Mr. Kluge said she can be rest assured the porta-john would not be there.

Mr. Schneider also informed Mrs. Bruce that the service road was brought up and is not a necessity.

Mrs. Bruce informed the Board that she and her husband are putting a dog park in their campground in Springfield, VT. It just needs to be done with the least conflict. She has no problem with parking; it's just dogs having a good time. She doesn't have a dog any more, but likes the idea of a dog park.

Mr. Cummings would like the warrant article worded in such a way that it allows the Town to move forward if it garners good support. Mr. Cummings also cautioned the dog park supporters that they should not look for monetary support from the Town.

Ms. Herrin assured him that the group doesn't want a cent of Town money.

Ms. Pyer agreed. The dog park supporters want the Town involved as little as possible.

Bob LaCroix – Land Donation:

Mr. LaCroix proposes donating the parcel of land to the Town which lies on Lovejoy Brook Road in the wellhead protection zone. He previously proposed swapping with State owned land that he asked the Town to purchase (2012 Town Meeting, Article 15). Mr. LaCroix now proposes donating the approximate 1.5 acres of land to the Town with the exclusion of a right-of-way to a back property that has no other access. The land would have to be appraised and the right-of-way taken into consideration. Mr. LaCroix stated that the NH Dept. of Environmental Services wants the Town to acquire this lot.

The State wants \$46,000 for the railroad land on McConnell Road. The Town has right of first refusal. Mr. LaCroix would like the Town to provide a letter of support for the sale of the State owned land to Mr. LaCroix.

If the Town wants move forward with this, Mr. LaCroix will pay \$46,000 for the State railroad land. He will then donate the property in the wellhead protection area, to include a gravel right-of-way to his back lot.

Mr. Schneider said this should go to the Town for a vote. The Town will lose taxes on the donated parcel, though we will pick up taxes on the railroad parcel.

Mr. Kluge clarified that the Town would be giving Mr. LaCroix the right to buy the lot that the Town has no interest in buying.

Mr. Schneider stated that the rectangular railroad lot is of no use to the Town.

Mr. LaCroix stated that the railroad lot will open up something commercially as it abuts his property.

Mr. Kluge and Mr. Cummings were supportive of an article on the 2014 Town Meeting warrant.

Mr. Cummings moved to place an article on the Town Meeting warrant to accept the donation of the lot in the wellhead protection area, Mr. Kluge seconded. Mr. Cummings and Mr. Kluge in favor of the motion, Mr. Crate abstained, motion carried.

Bob LaCroix – Abatement Documentation:

Mr. LaCroix has business financial information for the Selectmen in support of an abatement request. The financials are not something he would like to disclose publicly.

Mr. Cummings moved to enter non-public session at 6:42 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to come out of non-public session at 6:48 PM, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Bob LaCroix – Lovejoy Brook Road Culvert:

In 2011 he complained about the culvert on Lovejoy Brook Road being undersized. Ken Daniels said it was expensive to get wetlands work done. Mr. LaCroix paid for permits for expansion of the storage facility on Lovejoy Brook Road but he doesn't think the owner of the facility will do the expansion until the culver is replaced. The owner of the facility plans to build a heated storage facility; that's tax money.

Mr. Taylor explained that the Town has applied for State funding for the culvert replacement and hopes to hear back in the spring. Funding will not be available until summer. Engineering could be done in 2014 and the installation could be done in 2015.

Mr. LaCroix asked the Board if there was any intent to include an article on the warrant for replacement of the Lovejoy Brook culvert. He was informed by Mr. Cummings that it would be a tough sell if funding doesn't come through.

Mr. Taylor said the total cost for the project is about \$280,000. The Town's portion would be \$75,000 and can be in-kind. The project includes widening the brook and installing an 8 x 12 or 8 x 16 box culvert. If it's not funded by the State he'd expect it to go to Town Meeting in 2015.

Mr. Kluge said it's been in the back of the Board members' minds. It won't happen as fast as Mr. LaCroix would like.

Mr. Cummings recalled discussion of an article on the warrant to add the project to the TIF list of projects.

Mr. Taylor said the match or all funding could be from TIF funds.

DPW Equipment:

Mr. Taylor presented information on the purchase of a screen for sand. He explained that this is something that should have been purchased 10 years ago. It's a high priority due to freezing of

the sand pile. A lot of good, usable sand is there. The funding could come from this year's Highway New Equipment budget, but he'd like to purchase it before Town Meeting so it can be used this winter.

Mr. Taylor said they were looking at the screen from Nash Equipment at a cost of \$6,000. The other two are out of our price range for this year.

Mr. Crate didn't think the Nash screen looked very rugged.

Mr. Taylor responded that if there is one the Highway Dept. could rent this year they could put a more expensive one in the budget next year.

Mr. Crate would recommend the Grizzly screen as it has more cross members and tips back. He thinks the Nash Screen would bow.

The Board recommended looking at the Nash screen in person and see how it's put together before making a decision.

CDFA Grant:

Mr. Schneider introduced Scott Osgood, Town Planner, to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Osgood explained the CDFA Grant which is under the auspices of the Community Development Finance Authority who takes Federal money and parses it out. The Mascoma Valley Food Co-op people are trying to bring fresh food here. In December CDFA announced planning grants; one was to the City of Berlin for a food co-op. There is a successful food co-op one in Littleton and the Monadnock Region. The Mascoma Valley Food Co-op group identified a need for a market study. This grant would do that.

Mr. Osgood explained the potential for this grant of \$12,000, which can include administrative costs. The survey would cost \$5,000 - \$10,000. The timing is good.

Mr. Osgood handed out information on the process. The due date in 2014 is April 25. Mr. Osgood requested permission to apply for the grant. The recipient is required to go to a training class regarding implementation of the grant. This grant could be a great benefit.

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission prepared a food desert map which identified access to good food in the entire area, including prices, and resources within walking distance and driving distance. We're not in bad share, but could be in better shape.

The Board unanimously supported Mr. Osgood's pursuit of the grant.

2014 Budget:

Mr. Schneider provided the Board with a memo outlining the budget changes from the initially proposed budget to the most recent version of the budget. The end goal to stay within 2% of the Town tax rate was achieved. A 2% increase would mean a rate increase from \$6.14 to \$6.26. Some reductions are shown in the phone and internet expense lines. The biggest change is in the

personnel administration line. The budget in personnel administration is estimated for the worst case scenario, but the budgeted figure ends up closer to past performance.

The budget does what we need it to do. We'll be replacing some equipment, engineering for the boat launch area is included, and there's a proposal for an increase in firefighter wages. There's an additional \$30,000 for gravel road treatment and \$150,000 for pavement maintenance. This budget accomplishes quite a few things and the reductions don't affect day to day operations.

Mr. Cummings asked if there was any wiggle room at all. Can we add \$4,000 to get a sand screen that lasts longer?

Mr. Taylor said the problem with something that will last is that it won't be ready. The one in Berlin is the \$6,000 type.

Mr. Crate is not opposed to the proposed Nash screen, but he doesn't want something that will hold up for less than 5 – 7 years.

Discussion ensued regarding potential sources for renting a screen to get the Highway Department through this winter season. Mr. Cummings wants to see the Highway Department get something that will last.

Mr. Kluge asked about the Parks & Recreation budget.

Mr. Schneider explained that the increased costs in that budget are for the part-time regional recreation program which has an offsetting revenue.

Mr. Kluge requested clarification of the "old" vs. "new" budget in the memo. The "old" budget was the budget initially presented the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee wanted to reach a target amount and Mr. Schneider adjusted to reach that target resulting in the "new" budget.

Mr. Schneider explained that wages are also budgeted as worst case scenario, but salaries are also budgeted at something closer to historical averages.

Mr. Kluge asked if any of the changes in the Recreation budget has a relationship to programming and he was assured by Mr. Schneider that it did not.

Mr. Cummings added that the money in the Recreation budget includes more hours for the regional recreation director and is actually adding services.

Mr. Schneider feels it's a good budget. We were able to achieve some savings. The Budget Committee meets again on January 23rd at which point this budget will be reviewed.

2014 is a revaluation year. We anticipate a reduction in property values so while the rate will look like it's rising dramatically, it will only be about 2%.

Mr. Kluge asked when the revaluation would take place.

Mr. Schneider replied that it would begin this spring. The previous revaluation was done at the peak of the market.

Mr. Cummings will ask the Budget Committee to add \$4,000 as a contingency for the sand screen.

Mr. Crate said the solid waste budget doesn't look like it went down a lot.

Mr. Schneider explained that the big reduction is in disposal costs which are down from \$160,000 in 2012 to \$133,000 in 2014.

A brief discussion ensued regarding sanitation savings. The overtime line in sanitation has been reduced as there will be less overtime hours to staff the Transfer Station. Savings may be seen in several different lines. On the revenue side we may take a slight hit to recyclables at the Transfer Station with the introduction of curbside zero-sort.

Mr. Taylor explained that zero-sort was going to start this week, but they were unable to find a dumpster that would allow them to do so.

Mr. Crate asked where the new Casella truck was as that was a selling point for the whole curbside program.

Mr. Schneider explained that they are still using 2 trucks. They had a truck, but it wasn't set up for summer as it had no air conditioning. Mr. Schneider will reach out to Casella to see where they are with that.

2013 Town Report Dedication:

The Board discussed the dedication of the 2013 Town Report as well as what to feature on the cover of the report. The Board agreed to use a photo of the new highway dump trucks for the cover of the report.

Mr. Crate commended the Highway Department on the work they've done this winter.

RSA Chapter 179 Legislation:

The Board discussed RSA Chapter 179 legislation relative to allowing liquor sales on premises until 2 AM if so authorized by the legislative body. Currently liquor sales on premises are allowed until 1 AM.

Chief Crate explained that adding the additional hours will give people an additional hour to drink and they may over consume. It also stretches the Town's resources one more hour. We might need to shift officer coverage which could affect over time. A change could potentially increase DUI's. There are only three establishments in Enfield that serve alcohol: Whaleback, Enfield House of Pizza and Mickey's Roadside Café. They aren't asking for this and until they request it, why open up the issue?

Mr. Cummings agreed.

Mr. Kluge agreed this issue should be tabled until a request is brought to the Board.

Mr. Crate moved to table this issue, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings has been asked about the Town's open container ordinance. He was asked if there could be an exception for the adult softball at Shaker Recreation Park.

Chief Crate said that under our ordinance there could not be an exception.

Mr. Taylor said if you let one group do it you have to let anyone do it.

Mr. Crate does not think it's a good idea.

Mr. Cummings asked if there was a way to do something for a specific location.

Mr. Crate doesn't think it sets a good example and he won't vote to change it.

Mr. Kluge said he would rather not unless there is a special event.

Mr. Kiley said it's the Town's property and it's the Town's liability.

Administrative Items:

The Board signed a corrected ballot form as provided by the Town Moderator.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Streetlights:

Chief Crate asked if the Board voted on the streetlight changes he recommended after review of the Energy Committee's proposal.

Mr. Kluge replied that the Board made no motion.

Mr. Cummings explained that he was not in favor of a proposal to shut off large groups of lights, but would prefer they came with a list of particular lights and reasons for removal on an individual basis.

Shaker Hill Road Icing:

Dan Kiley reported that the water on Shaker Hill Road near his home is now ice about 6' out into the road. He's gone to the State the past three summers because there is no longer a swale and it needs fixing. There is still water running underneath.

Mr. Taylor said the State has pipe and fixtures left at Shedd Street to fix it.

Mr. Kiley added that they cut asphalt but never came back.

It was suggested that pictures be taken of the icing of the road.

DPW Projects:

Salt has been delivered to the new Salt/Sand shed at the Public Works Facility on Lockehaven Road. The shed was finished on Monday.

The NH Route 4A sewer line repair was completed last Friday. They will do a final cleanup of the site in the spring. Our engineer has been out there.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room. This is the last day to petition the Selectmen to include an article on the 2014 Town Meeting warrant.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cummings moved to adjourned at 7:41 PM, Mr. Crate 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