

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

MINUTES of May 18, 2015

Board of Selectmen: Fred Cummings; John W. Kluge

Absent/Excused: Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works; Paula Gillen, Recorder

Others: James Bonner; Dan Kiley; Meredith Smith, Suzanne Hinman and others from the Heritage Commission; Bob Cusick; Dr. David Beaufait; David L. Stewart and others from the Enfield Outing Club; representatives from Whaleback Mountain; and others

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the regular and non-public session minutes from April 20, 2015, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Approval of the regular and non-public session minutes from May 4, 2015 was tabled.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Grafton County Commissioners FY 2016 Recommended Budget:

Mr. Schneider explained tonight is their public hearing for the budget. It is increasing 2.9% overall, with a 3.47% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

UVLSRPC Priorities for 2017-2026 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Mr. Schneider states on page 2 of the report the Town is the #2 priority, which is the rail trail property. The Town is #4 priority on page 4 for improving Route 4 from the Main Street intersection to the Lebanon line. That is one of the more dangerous sections of road in the state and has been documented as such with a number of accidents. A number of years ago there was a

road safety audit done which involved highway, fire department, police, EMS and others to look at that section.

Algonquin Road Improvement Request:

Mr. Schneider stated the Town received a letter in the past week from an Algonquin Road resident asking the Town to pay more attention to the road. He talked to Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works about it, and he has a copy of the letter. The road definitely needs attention and is one the Town does spend time on. Some residents would like it paved, the rest do not because it could make it too fast. The Town does its best to make sure it is safe and passable for the public.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Kluge stated on Tuesday the Planning Board spent quite a bit of time reviewing and fine-tuning the draft update subdivision regulations. They had a presentation from Mr. Vermeer regarding a proposed solar installation involving 372 solar panels at the property that used to be the Tupper property, which abuts the Oak Grove Cemetery. The Planning Board determined that was a commercial enterprise. He would have to go to the ZBA. The current panels are 20 feet high, the proposed panels are 14' high, and he is aware there will be concern from abutters.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. BUSINESS

“Old Motel” Property (Temporary Use Agreement):

Mr. Schneider states the State is interested in entering into a longer term arrangement with the Town about managing the piece, which they describe as 1.7 acres. It is a little bigger than just the motel piece. This is very similar to what the Town had previously with them where the Town assumed day to day management and maintenance of the property when it was a dead end and did not have through access. The Town spent about \$1,000 putting in hard pack, mowing, and minor improvements. The Town already maintains the access road in the winter. Mr. Schneider would not anticipate spending significant money since if the road needed to be fundamentally fixed, he does not see the Town being responsible for repairs. It would be a year-to-year agreement and the Town would be able to revisit it if the road needed attention. It allows the Town to be more in control of that piece regarding parking issues and nighttime activity. It would allow better use of the property with possible use as a boat launch as it was before to take some of the burden from the 4A boat launch. It provides an opportunity to put together some data regarding usage on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Kluge states it is a good first step. Mr. Schneider states adding it to the Town's insurance is nominal and the Town can manage events there if other groups, such as Old Home Days, want to use it as they do not have to go to the State. Bob Cusick states he has read the agreement and suggests research into funding and possible improvements, for example, putting in a kids' playground, parking, picnic tables, etc. It is lake front and is going to be a great benefit to the town. Meredith Smith states the Heritage Commission is planning the Old Home Days parade on Saturday, July 25 to go down Main Street from Whitney Hall, terminating at that area. The area will be mowed so people can picnic there

and get to know their neighbors. It is the first activity planned for that space. The Kearsarge Community Band will be in the parade. There is over \$4,000 in the Old Home Days account thanks to Shirley Green.

Mr. Kluge moved to accept the agreement granting Town management of the “old motel” parcel. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Bob Cusick asked if Selectmen can appoint an ad hoc committee. He and Meredith Smith would like to be on it to talk to land planner. The Selectmen are comfortable with them picking their own people. Mr. Cusick and Ms. Smith will have a list of candidates for the next meeting. The list will include Scott Osgood.

Heritage Commission – Historic House Marker Program:

Meredith Smith of the Heritage Commission reviewed the program, which is to identify historic houses in Enfield. This would be a town-wide program in which the homeowner would apply to the Heritage Commission with documentation for their old house, and they pay for the plaque themselves. The Commission will utilize a sign company in Maine which has gotten good reviews on signs and how well the plaques hold up. The Commission is still in the process of deciding the age cut-off. The State of NH uses 50 years, other places use other cut-off dates. Mr. Kluge states it does not require any town funding or involvement so does not require Town approval. Ms. Smith states the Town is a tourist attraction and tourists look at old houses and signs. Mr. Kluge states 50 years seems to be too recent but the Commission will decide. Samples of the plaques were shown in two sizes at a cost of \$45 and \$55. Bob Cusick asks if any famous/historically significant people have lived locally. If so, it could be an additional tourist attraction. Ms. Smith suggests the addresses of homes with plaques could be added to the driving tour list the next time it is updated. Mr. Kluge suggests identifying Shaker-built houses. The Commission will proceed with the Historic House Marker Program.

Old Home Day Dance/Enfield Center Town House:

Mr. Schneider states the dance is being relocated from Huse Park to the Enfield Center Town House. Arrangements have been made with Union Church across the street for parking and the Committee is in the process of working out a deal with a neighbor, Mr. Muzzey, to allow additional parking. Porta-potties rental has been arranged. There will be 3 major clean-up days. Entertainment is booked. Mr. Cummings will talk with Chief Crate but is concerned if Mr. Muzzey does not agree to allow parking, the parking will be challenging. Jimmy Proctor might allow parking. The alcohol policy is BYOB (bring your own bottle). No alcohol will be sold at the event.

Harris Brook Reservoir Signs (Rules and No Parking signs on street):

Mr. Schneider reported the rules were reviewed at the latest Conservation Commission meeting. Mr. Cummings and Mr. Kluge state they are fine with the proposed sign. Mr. Schneider states there cannot be “no parking” signs as it is not located in Enfield and it was not a requirement of the driveway permit from the town of Canaan.

Dog Park Rules:

Mr. Cummings was concerned the list he saw may be different from the list which is being distributed to the public, specifically regarding no unaltered dogs allowed. He requested the dog

park people come in. Other issues were age limitation from a liability standpoint as well as type of collar. Mr. Cummings requested an explanation for the difference in rules lists since they provided preliminary approval. Mr. Schneider stated the dog park people will come to the next meeting. Bob Cusick discussed pros and cons of different collars and their usage. He researched other dog parks' rules and states they are generally more restrictive than the currently proposed rules regarding age limitation, neutering, etc. Mr. Cummings stated the rules are not unreasonable and he understands both sides of the arguments.

Selectboard Summer Schedule:

Mr. Cummings reviewed the summer schedule which is one monthly meeting occurring on the first Monday in June, July and August, with the August meeting being held at Enfield Center.

Lakeview Septic Systems:

Mr. Schneider is still waiting for the letter of deficiency from the State. Phil Neily, Health Officer, has been out there on behalf of the Town and also at the request of the State. He went out today and found no sign of running water.

Transfer Station Hours of Operation:

Jim Taylor is still collecting data but there is not a lot of traffic after 5 PM. Don Crate spoke with Mr. Schneider and Mr. Cummings about Sunday hours. Mr. Cummings stated no one likes to work on Sunday and it is difficult to staff. There is not a lot of all-day traffic but the hours are useful for summer folks. Discussion ensued regarding possible revised hours of operation and summer/winter hours. Mr. Schneider will track usage to see what hours are most utilized but it is a little late to change the publicized hours for this year.

Curbside recycling has reduced traffic at the transfer station per Mr. Taylor, although there is the same amount of trash. The compactor will make recycling easier. Trash management altogether is 10% of the Town's budget, \$500,000.

Expense Reports:

Mr. Schneider will have a better understanding of where the Town is at after he inputs the current payroll, but believes it to be on track four months through.

Dustin Road - "The Common":

Deferred.

TIF Committee Appointment:

Position open.

Comstar – Request for Abatement:

Mr. Schneider stated for nonresidents the Town has taken to hard billing as a matter of convenience. The Town does not do hard billing for town residents. This is a hardship for someone who does not live in town.

Mr. Kluge moved to accept the request for abatement. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Charitable Exemption Applications:

Outing Club: Mr. Schneider recapped from the 5/19/2014 minutes the attorney's concern regarding membership, that if there are qualifiers such as taking an oath and needing approval, the organization does not qualify for a charitable exemption. David Stewart, president of the Outing Club, discussed the group's concerns about the ability to be selective in allowing membership. He outlined the benefits of the club regarding furthering firearms safety and contributions to the community such as Christmas party, gifts donation, scholarship, etc. He stated the Club has done everything the Planning Board asked of them relative to their desired expansion of the facility. However, they did not obtain 501(c)3 status. Mr. Cummings reiterated the assessor's concern is they are not 501(c)3. The attorney's concern last year was due to membership requirement, which is unchanged. Mr. Schneider confirmed when the Board became aware of the group's membership requirement, they could no longer classify the group as a charitable organization. Mr. Stewart suggested the board has the ability to provide an exemption.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cummings moved to adjourn at 7:05 PM with intent to reconvene in approximately 30 minutes. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

RECONVENE

Mr. Cummings moved to reconvene at 7:45 PM. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Outing Club (continued):

Mr. Cummings moved to grant an exemption for this year contingent upon the group obtaining 501(c)3 status by this time next year. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Whaleback: Representatives from Whaleback stated the Upper Valley Snow Sports Foundation is 501(c)3. They are asking for an exemption for a second parcel of land. Mr. Schneider revealed the assessor is not recommending an exemption at all, that while Snow Sports Foundation is doing good things, it did not meet the level of a charitable foundation. The definition of charity is broad, and the assessor feels it is not met. Representatives discussed what the mountain provides to the town, including half-price tickets for Enfield folks as well as scholarships and partnership with Mascoma Valley Parks and Recreation. Mr. Kluge is comfortable giving the group the same status but now the group wants to include another parcel of land, a leased parcel. The Whaleback Property Holding Trust owns the parcel.

Mr. Cummings moved to grant the exemption, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Chosen Vale: Mr. Schneider related it is the same issue dealt with in the past, a difference of opinion regarding monies raised by renting out certain parts of the property. Should those parts be taxed? Nothing has changed.

Mr. Kluge moved to accept the request for exemption. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

New England Forestry Foundation: Mr. Schneider revealed in the past the application has been denied. They do not occupy the property, it is forest land.

Mr. Kluge moved to deny the request for exemption. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Other Organizations:

Mr. Cummings moved to approve exemptions for the following organizations:

Living Waters Bible Church

United Methodist Church

Union Church of Enfield Center

Enfield Historical Society

Upper Valley Humane Society

Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Administrative Items:

- **Abatement & Exemption Applications**

Hawthorn Revocable Trust: Mr. Schneider revealed Norm Bernaiche recommended denying the exemption but approving the abatement. It is not owner occupied.

Mr. Cummings moved to approve the abatement and deny the exemption. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Independent Property Maintenance: This is the property at 59 Main St, the laundromat. Mr. Schneider stated Mr. Bernaiche recommended there be an abatement. The property owners are on board with his recommended changes.

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the request for abatement. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ellen F. Antell, 305 Round the Lake Road: Per Mr. Schneider, Mr. Bernaiche recommended a reduction in assessment.

Mr. Cummings moved to approve the request. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Graves Family Revocable Trust: Mr. Schneider stated the recent property appraisal was \$385,000, it is on the market for \$425,000, with an assessed value of \$399,000. Mr. Bernaiche was not recommending approval

Mr. Kluge moved to deny the request for abatement. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Northern NE Telephone Operations DBA Fairpoint: Mr. Schneider stated this appeal is in litigation. It is the telephone pole issue. Mr. Bernaiche recommended denial.

Mr. Kluge moved to deny the request. Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Terry and Alyson Danyew Ellison: Mr. Schneider stated this is a reassessment of the view, changing the value from \$327,000 to \$315,000. Mr. Bernaiche recommended the reduction.

Mr. Cummings moved to approve the request. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Keith and Margene Thomas: Mr. Schneider revealed Mr. Thomas has been before the Board a couple of times due to debris issues at the head of the lake. His fundamental argument is that the whole process is not consistent or fair. Mr. Bernaiche is making an adjustment based on completion of building of the home. Thus, he is making a recommendation to lower it this year. Next year it could go up if the house is completed.

Mr. Cummings moved to accept the assessor's recommendations. Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

- **The Board reviewed and approved the following documents:**

Intent to Excavate

Other Business:

Regarding the flag on the Main Street flag pole, Mr. Schneider states a new flag has been ordered. The flag pole is not on town property.

Mr. Cummings requests Mr. Taylor speak with janitorial staff at the Community Building about refilling empty paper towel dispensers. He also issued a reminder about replacing the soap dispensers in the bathroom which are archaic and do not work very well.

The Bingo board is up, it looks good, and there have been a lot of positive comments. Bingo continues to go well.

VIII. Miscellaneous

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 1, 2015, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main St.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 8:12 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.

Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman

John W. Kluge

B. Fred Cummings
Enfield Board of Selectmen