

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

MINUTES of March 21, 2016

Board of Selectmen: Fred Cummings; John W. Kluge; Meredith Smith

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works; Richard Crate, Jr, Chief of Police; Karol Hammer, Recording Secretary

Others: James Bonner (video); Susan Brown, Dan Kiley, Kurt Gotthardt, Keith Thomas, and others

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. BOARD ORGANIZATION

Mr. Cummings nominated Mr. Kluge to Chair the Board for the coming year. Mrs. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed assignments, following which the Chair suggested these assignments:

Budget Committee:	Mr. Cummings
CIP Committee:	Mr. Cummings
Planning Board:	Mr. Kluge
Heritage Commission:	Mrs. Smith
Enfield Village Association:	Mrs. Smith

Mr. Kluge made and Mrs. Smith seconded the nomination of Mr. Cummings to the Budget Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Smith made and Mr. Kluge seconded the nomination of Mr. Cummings to the CIP Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Smith made and Mr. Cummings seconded the nomination of Mr. Kluge to the Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kluge made and Mr. Cummings seconded the nomination of Mrs. Smith to the Heritage Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cummings made and Mr. Kluge seconded the nomination of Mrs. Smith to the Enfield Village Association. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Staff will continue to participate in and report to the Board regarding the following:

- Conservation Commission: Ms. Bonnette
- Energy Committee: Ms. Bonnette
- Old Home Days Committee: Ms. Bonnette
- Recreation Commission: Ms. Jopek
- TIF Committee: Mr. Osgood

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cummings made and Mr. Kluge seconded the motion to approve the March 7 Public and Non-Public Board meetings minutes as presented.

Mrs. Smith requested a correction to the minutes on page 6, in the discussion of the Lakeview Sewer Extension, as follows: in paragraph 12 of the topic, the sentence:

They had become involved because of the discovery of a previously forgotten historic district, the Enfield Shaker Scenic Byway along Route 4A.

...should be replaced with:

“They had become involved because of the discovery of a previously forgotten historic district, the Enfield Shaker National Historic Register District along Route 4A.”

Mrs. Smith said the correct citation should be: “Enfield Shaker National Historic Register District.” There is an Enfield Shaker Scenic Byway, but that was not the subject of the discussion in the Minutes.

Mr. Cummings amended his motion to include Mrs. Smith’s correction. Mr. Kluge seconded. Motion passed with two (2) ayes and one abstention (Mrs. Smith was not on the Board March 7).

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

None

V. BOARD REPORTS

None

VI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Police Department Hires:

Mr. Schneider reported that offers had been made to two individuals to fill full-time Police Department vacancies.

The first candidate, Alyssa, is a recent graduate of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, with a degree in Sociology. She is from Salisbury, MA, and has multiple family members in law enforcement.

The second candidate, Jarod, graduated from Northeastern University, with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Both candidates, should they accept the offered positions, will attend Police Academy training for sixteen (16) weeks, beginning in May.

These two hires will restore our Police Department to full staff.

Planning & Zoning Positions Combined:

Mr. Schneider said that, as of April 1, Scott Osgood would become Enfield's Planning and Zoning Officer.

New Bookkeeper:

MaryAnn Crandall had accepted the position of full time Bookkeeper, and would be starting within the next week.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Enfield Outing Club Charitable Exemption:

Mr. Gotthardt noted that the time for charitable exemptions was approaching, and wanted to remind the Board of the conditions under which it awarded an exemption to the Enfield Outing Club in 2015. He said the Board had told the Outing Club that the 2015 exemption was given for only that year, and that the organization would need to achieve 501(c)3 charitable organization status by the same time in 2016 in order to have the exemption renewed.

Mr. Gotthardt's research has yielded no evidence that the Outing Club had achieved charitable organization status; it is not listed as such in State or Federal directories.

Mr. Cummings stated that his opinion had not changed since making the condition last year. Mr. Kluge echoed the sentiment.

Mr. Kluge asked when their time would be up. Mr. Schneider said exemptions would be considered in June. Mr. Gotthardt said the Board made its decision on June 18 last year.

Mr. Cummings said the Outing Club made a lot of claims to get the exemption last year, so the Selectboard gave them the exemption under the condition that those claims be realized. A year should have been enough time to prove them.

Barn Falling Into River:

Mrs. Brown raised concerns over the barn that is falling into the river next to the Rail Trail. She goes by it on her walks and noted that it had slipped another foot in the past week.

Mrs. Smith said she had called Jay Aubie at DES, but learned that the Shoreline Protection Act doesn't cover an old barn with structural issues. DES suggested approaching Emergency Management personnel.

Mrs. Brown thought the Rivers Commission could get involved. She said she'd be glad to be helpful but wasn't sure how.

Mr. Schneider said that, well aware of the situation, there wasn't much the Town could do. Phil Neily had been to see the barn, and the State also was aware. Help had been offered to the property owner, but he's progressing as he pleases.

Mr. Kluge asked Chief Crate if there was something Emergency Management could do. Chief Crate promised to call Emergency Management personnel in Concord. He already had spoken to the DOT and learned that they can't do anything because it's private property. He is concerned because, while the barn is private, its falling into the river will affect public waters.

Mr. Schneider said he would explore options with Phil Neily.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire:

Mrs. Brown said she is in her eleventh (11th) year as a CASA advocate/volunteer, and is frustrated that the Town of Enfield has not supported the organization yet. She said they request \$500 from each town they serve each year, and that Enfield is among the few that don't contribute.

CASA helps children all over Grafton County, children in every town, including Enfield. She felt \$500 was not a lot to ask. Their appeal letter was sent to the Town in August 2015, with a request to be put into the appropriations for charitable organizations. She said the letter was accompanied by the organization's budget and statistics and included an offer to provide more information upon request.

Mr. Cummings suggested that Mrs. Brown speak with Diane Heed, as the person who prepares the lists for the Budget Committee.

Solid Waste / Recycling:

Mr. Thomas asked what would need to be done to get the Town to go with recycling. He has been frustrated to see fewer than expected people recycling. He also is struck by the amount of money the Town pays for solid waste and recycling collection, and feels other approaches would be more economical and encourage recycling. He favors a 'tag per bag' system, where residents would buy stickers and put a sticker on each bag they put in the trash, but still have recycling picked up for free.

Mr. Cummings suggested that, when the solid waste contract comes up for renewal in 2017, there will have to be some serious discussions of the options, which include shifting to private collection, stay with tax-funded collection – and any number of set up options within each.

Mr. Cummings agreed that solid waste is costing the Town a lot. Casella is the only organization in the area big enough to handle Enfield's demand. But, if we do away with that, our current facility isn't big enough to handle having everyone bring their trash and recycling there.

Mr. Kluge said that he hoped Mr. Thomas would attend the Public Meeting when discussions do begin, as there will be at least one.

Mrs. Brown suggested starting the discussions well enough ahead of the current contract expiring to let people really have their say.

Mr. Taylor said that whatever system we use has to be administered consistently across Town. Mr. Kluge agreed, saying the current system is leading to the "uglification of Enfield."

There was general discussion of the unsightliness of some properties where multiple collection barrels were lined up next to the street almost all of the time, many with trash spilling from them.

Chief Crate suggested that properties with that many bins should switch to dumpsters, saying it solved a similar problem in Enfield Center very well.

Mrs. Brown said that the Town program doesn't allow for recycling everything it should, like food containers, Styrofoam, foam blocks, and packing peanuts.

VIII. BUSINESS

Town Meeting:

Mr. Kluge said that the Town needs to work more firmly with the Shaker Bridge Theatre regarding Town requirements for use of its own space. He felt the theatre was taking over the property entirely, so it has been difficult to manage elections.

Mr. Cummings agreed. He has a significant problem with one group having near-exclusive access to a Town space. This discussion has happened before and it's getting worse.

Mr. Kluge said the theatre-in-the-round setup is causing the new problems. He acknowledged that the theatre benefits the Town, but these problems can't continue.

Mrs. Smith agreed that the theatre is a strong benefit, bringing people from all around (New London and Sunapee, for example) to Town.

Mr. Schneider said the price the Town charges is up to the Board, that different terms can be worked out, and that the Town can add language to the lease that specifies requirements for the space needed for different types of uses of the space.

Mr. Cummings said they had the identical discussion last year.

Mr. Cummings said, other than that, Town Meeting went well and that Mr. Schneider had done a good job of addressing the Undesignated Funds and how the situation had come about. People respected that he took ownership of what happened. Many had come to the meeting expecting to find the 'smoking gun' and that wasn't the case.

Boys Camp Bridge and Boat Launch:

Mr. Schneider said the Loan officer was working on the loan, and the contractor anticipated starting in early April and finishing work in May.

Mr. Taylor said the paving may need to happen a month or two later, to allow everything to settle.

Lakeview Sewer Connection Fees:

Mr. Schneider said the USDA asked if the Town was planning on charging individual units at Lakeview a connection fee. They need a formal decision.

He said that since Lakeview would be paying for the extension, the Association was the investor. Because connection fees are intended to repay the investor then, he felt connection fees should not apply to this situation.

Mr. Taylor said that the units would be metered. Mr. Schneider said yes, they should be metered and charged for their measured use, but not be subject to connection fees.

Mr. Cummings made and Mr. Kluge seconded the motion to charge the Lakeview units only meter fees and no connection fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schneider said the USDA also wanted to know if the Town had any interest in owning infrastructure on Lakeview property. He explained that the USDA would pay only for work on applicant property. Since the Town is the applicant in this case, USDA funding would not cover anything the Town would not ultimately own.

Mr. Cummings and Mr. Kluge stated that they had no interest in the Town owning all the service lines.

Mr. Schneider said the Town would, however, own the pumping station. Mr. Taylor agreed, saying the Town would own the Main and the property owners would own everything that went from the Main to their units. The Town does own some Main on private property, in Shaker Village, for example.

Mrs. Smith agreed that the Town should not own the connections from the Main to the units, saying that if they get plugged up, the Town would be responsible.

Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway

Mr. Schneider shared a letter from William Rose of the NH DOT, asking whether the Town wants to maintain the designation, because it is on the list to be de-designated on December 31, 2017. If the Town is interested in maintaining it, we would need to:

- Have an adopted Corridor Management Plan in place, and
- Have a corridor management committee/entity

Mr. Schneider noted that Nate Miller had been copied on the letter from DOT and suggested that he might be approached to help.

Mr. Cummings asked why the Town should keep the designation.

Mrs. Smith said it is important to the Shaker Museum. People look at maps for byways and plan trips to include their locations.

Mr. Kluge said that it appears to require only one meeting per year, so the level of effort is minimal.

Mrs. Smith suggested that the Shaker Museum would probably help.

Mr. Cummings said he still didn't understand why – or why we had it to begin with.

Ms. Bonnette said it had been designated during the initial discussions of sidewalks.

Chief Crate asked whether it involved any prohibitions that would affect safety, and Mr. Schneider said that no. Those only come in with a Scenic Road.

Mr. Cummings expressed reservations, given the Town's experience with the underpass.

Mr. Schneider said he would talk with Mr. Miller and report back with his findings. There is plenty of time still to think about it.

NH FastRoads:

Mr. Schneider shared the statement of FastRoads' delinquent taxes. He said it is a struggling organization that provides services to the Town and to approximately 100 residents. Taking the property would not serve the Town well. He suggested abating the 2014 taxes.

Mr. Cummings made and Mrs. Smith seconded the motion to abate the FastRoads' 2014 taxes. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Items:

The Board signed the MS-232 Appropriations Actually Voted, which, Mr. Schneider explained, was the budget approved by the voters at Town Meeting, presented in a different form that gives full totals of everything.

Other Business:

None

Adjournment:

Mr. Cummings made and Mr. Kluge seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 4, 2016, Whitney Hall Conference Room

John W. Kluge, Chairman

B. Fred Cummings

Meredith C. Smith
Enfield Board of Selectmen