

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5
FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2015

Selectmen Present: Chair Abigail Arnold, Betsy Hardwick, and Scott Carbee

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley and Police Chief Stephen Bell

Also present: Scot Heath, Polly Freese, Jan Hicks, Ben & Robyn Haubrich

CALL TO ORDER: Abigail called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Appointments

1. Scot Heath – Scot said he is representing the Hillsborough Nightriders Club. The group is trying to relocate a section of State Corridor Trail 6 to get access to Crotched Mountain Resort. They are looking to get permission to cross Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area this year. If permission is given in writing the users will be covered by the State's insurance. Chief Bell said some of these trails have been used sporadically, but he thought it would be beneficial for a club to be organizing things. There was a discussion about how this could be an economic benefit to the Resort and Tollbooth Tavern. Robyn asked if the trails would be standard and Scott responded they would comply with state standards. Ben asked if ATVs would be prohibited from using them and Scot said probably.
2. Chief Bell – Chief Bell stated we had a drug arrest and a car accident last week. He has been working on the alarm issue at the Annex and Beltronics should be in this week to take care of it. Polly asked if there was increased traffic on the Turnpike and Chief Bell stated he has seen increased traffic all over Town due to the ski area opening.

MOTION: Betsy made a motion that the Board support the request by the Hillsborough Night Riders subject to approval by the Conservation Commission, seconded by Scott. All in favor.

Discussion took place regarding identifying which trails/roads would be approved for use and the possibilities of other trails to be added in the future.

MOTION: Betsy withdrew her last Motion and made a new Motion to support the request with approval to be fine tuned at the next meeting. All in favor.

Items to Sign

1. Payables Manifest for 1/5/2015
2. Payroll Manifest for 1/5/2015
3. Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate for 2014
4. Request of Payroll Vacation Time to Carry Over for Mike Branley
5. Request of Payroll Vacation Time to Carry Over for Steve Bell

Old Business

1. Request for waiver of penalty on one of the Taylor properties. Mike checked and none of the inventory forms for the other Taylor properties have been returned but Wilmington Trust is asking for a waiver of the penalty on only one of the properties: Map 18/Lot 11. Abigail and Betsy voted to deny their request, Scott was in favor of granting their request. The Board denied the request for a waiver of the penalty.

New Business

1. Weekly Administrative Report dated 1/2/2015
2. Chief Bell's Weekly report for week ending 12/25 to 12/31
3. November Bank Reconciliation Summary
4. Copy of letter to Steve Griffin regarding expecting responsibility for any damage that may occur to the trees on the Town Common as a result of the septic system replacement at the Old Meeting House
5. Letter from Charlie Pyle indicating that he would like to be considered for appointment as the Town's Assistant Treasurer. Abigail was in favor of appointing Charlie. Scott disagreed stating that Charlie resigned from the position last time.

MOTION: Betsy made a motion to appoint Charlie Pyle as Town's Deputy Treasurer. Abigail and Betsy in favor. Scott opposed.

6. Scott stated there are a lot of trees/vegetation leaning over the road since the ice and snow storm and thinks it should be addressed. Abigail indicated she would discuss with Gary.
7. Scott brought up that there is ice skating on Bixby Pond. There is a sign indicating it is a hazardous area. He would like to see a warning be made to these individuals.

Liaison Reports

No meetings during holidays. Nothing to report.

Administrative Update

Mike said that he talked with Mr. Clark from Everett Farm. He indicated that they are planning to transfer the other lot that is still owned by Everett Farm into Kelly's name soon, around March. Mr. Clark is asking that the land use change tax bills not be issued. The timing is an

issue and they weren't able to transfer both properties at the same time but they are going to be under common ownership, and thus, have sufficient acreage for current use. He asked that Mike bring this request to the Board. The Board discussed the issue and agreed that the properties no longer qualify for current use and they thought it would set a bad precedent to waive the land use change tax bills. The Board agreed to not waive the tax bills. Mike will notify Mr. Clark.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Abigail made a motion to approve the Minutes as follows:

December 1, 2014, as written

December 8, 2014, as written

December 15, 2014 as amended – under Liaison Reports, ¶ 4, add “and asked for approval to accept for conservation.”

seconded by Betsy. Approved by all.

Ben asked if the hazardous area sign for Bixby Pond has to be posted by the road. He feels it would be better in by the pond area. Betsy stated that she received correspondence from Land and Water Conservation, who visited the site, stating they were unhappy with the sign. They felt it was unfriendly and would turn people away. Ben suggested moving it away from the road. Polly asked about liability issues without a sign.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Monday January 12th at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on March 9, 2015

Board of Selectmen Chair, Abigail Arnold

Selectmen Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Betsy Hardwick