

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

August 17, 2015

Selectmen Present: Chair Abigail Arnold, Brad Howell, and Scott Carbee

Staff Present: Interim Town Administrator Barry Brenner

Also present: Susan Cripps-down, James Gann, Polly Freese, Betty Behrsing, Jan Hicks, Robin and Ben Haubrich, John Arnold, Tom and Kay Anderson, Larry Laber, Pat Terry, Isabella Hill, Sue Jonas, and others unidentified

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

Appointments

1. Crotched Mtn. Ski Area - Pat Terry said that the *Sprint to the Summit* was not a Crotched Mtn. event. He said that it is being hosted by "Live Free n Ski" a registered non-profit organization. Brad felt the Board had discretion to allow the event to go forward as planned. Abigail agreed but cautioned Pat to go back to the Zoning Board if he plans to have this event next year and either appeal the Zoning Board's Decision or amend the original Decision to include summer activities. Larry Laber said that Bennington gave Crotched Mtn. permission to use the property back on July 1, 2015, so he had plenty of time to let Francestown know about their plans. Abigail explained to Pat how to appeal the decision.

Consent Agenda

1. Payroll Manifest for 8/10/2015 and 8/17/2015
2. Payables Manifest for 8/10/2015 and 8/17/2015
3. NH DRA MS-535 Financial Report

MOTION: Scott moved to accept the Consent Agenda items, seconded by Brad. All in favor.

So moved.

Items to Sign

1. Driveway Permit Application for Map 8 Lot 78, approved by Road Agent with conditions.

MOTION: Scott moved to approve the driveway permit application, seconded by Brad. All in favor.

So moved.

2. Health Officer Appointment form – Kay Anderson has volunteered to continue to serve.

MOTION: Scott moved that the Board sign the form to appoint Kay Anderson as Health Officer, seconded by Brad. All in favor.

So moved.

3. Intent to Cut for Map 8 Lot 57, Old County Road
4. Intent to Cut for Map 6 Lot 32, Palmer Road

MOTION: Scott moved to approve Intents to Cut, seconded by Brad. Abigail abstained.

So moved.

New Business

1. Abigail asked if the lilacs between the Library and the Store were on Town property. Scott said that he thought they were. Abigail asked Barry to have Warren trim them back from the sidewalk, before Labor Day.
2. Abigail reported that the overlay has been completed on Potash Rd. and a little extra was applied because there was extra sent but the Town will not have to pay for the extra.
3. Brad spoke with Matt Serge and Bart Mayer. Matt said the Town should be most concerned with the Fairpoint case. When asked, Matt admitted that if we stayed with Upton it would be more cost effective for the Town because Upton represents more parties. He feels he is in a better position to handle the case because he is more familiar with the case and the people involved. There is a fair amount of litigation ongoing and Brad opined that it would cost less if the Town stayed with Upton and it would be a good way to save the Town money. Scott disagreed and wanted the Town to stay with Matt Serge.

MOTION: Abigail moved to reverse the Board's decision to go with Matt Serge and to ask Upton & Hatfield to represent the Town in the ongoing abatement litigation with PSNH and Fairpoint, seconded by Brad. Abigail in favor. Scott opposed.

So moved.

Correspondence

1. 2 weekly Reports from Officer in Charge Douglas for August 2-8 and August 9-15
2. Monthly Report from Animal Control Officer for July
3. Interim Town Administrator's weekly reports for July 27th, August 3rd, and August 10th

4. Letter from Ben and Robin Haubrich encouraging the Board to appoint Fred Douglas as Chief of Police in Francestown
5. Public Notice that Town Counsel advised the Town to publish regarding firearms in the custody of the Police Department which may be claimed by the owners
6. Two emails from Amy Smagula regarding Scoby Pond milfoil and a grant application for invasive aquatic plant control projects
7. Letter from NH Division of Public Health Services with the results of water sampling at Haunted Lake – the samples met EPA condition requirements
8. Lead Compliance Sampling Program of tap monitoring – lead is below the lead action level
9. Letter from the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool with an Information Statement regarding instructions of how to deposit and how to redeem funds
10. Town of Bedford notice of a Zoning Board hearing on construction of a new ground mount wireless telecommunications facility and to construct a cell tower
11. A solicitation from the Insurance Doctor soliciting the Towns' business next year
12. A copy of an application to the Cogswell Trust for the Town Hall. Barry said the Chair of the Heritage Commission has 2 requests before the Board. The first request is for Brad to cosign with Elly for funding to the Putnam Foundation for \$15,000 for the capital campaign. The second request is that the Board consider allowing the Commission to place a sandwich sign on the common as a fundraiser. The Board approved the requests.
13. A letter from DRA indicating State Aid appropriation amounts for 2015 will be similar to last year

Liaison Report

Brad reported that the Heritage Commission is in the process of applying for several grants and is continuing its fundraising efforts. A construction manager has been chosen and they have started the design and development process. The project is moving forward.

Administrative Update

Barry said the Town Administrator contract is in draft form and he will send to the candidate for his review.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Abigail moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 2015 as written, seconded by Scott. All in favor.

So moved.

Ben Haubrich asked for an updated amount of legal defense costs in the suit against the Town. Abigail reported the July bill was a little under \$12,000. Ben asked what the total charges have amounted to so far. Abigail replied there was a \$5,000 bill in June. Brad said bills for the trial and post-trial motions are still to come.

Abigail reminded the public that there is no meeting next Monday night but the Selectmen will be meeting for a nonpublic session on Monday morning.

Abigail said she had Barry pull the RFP for the painter of the Town Office and the painters can dispose of the construction materials at the Transfer Station. The Board agreed the painters should be instructed to use the Transfer Station during normal business hours instead of asking George to open it special for them.

Bixby Brook – The Board received a letter from John McGee at NH Fish and Game. He has indicated that he doesn't have enough time to write the grant application and recommends the Town put it off until next year. The Board found it acceptable. Barry will let Barry Wicklow know.

ADJOURNMENT: Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Marti Callahan

Approved on August 31, 2015

Board of Selectmen Chair, Abigail Arnold

Selectmen Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Brad Howell