

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

Gorham Selectmen present: Jeff Schall, Grace LaPierre, Terry Oliver, excused absence

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Jeff Stewart, Rec Director; Dennis Arguin

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Schall.

2. Appointments:

a) Jeff Stewart – Proposed Libby's Warming Hut Improvements: RD Stewart presented the Board with a sketch/picture of an extension of the front roof line of the warming hut. He is proposing to have this extension so a bench can be placed in that area so residents using the skating rink will have a place to change into skates if the warming hut is closed.

Chairman Schall asked RD Stewart how he plans to manage the building. RD Stewart explained that he is looking into putting a timer on the door locks and heat. The plan would be to have the building automatically shut down at 9:00 pm. While he is looking to put the door lock etc. on a timer, he has spoken with other residents who expressed interest with taking turns locking the building up at night. The interior is not completely built out so he has not been using the building as such, but he anticipates that it will be done shortly. The soccer teams will also be using the building to store their supplies.

The Board agreed to have RD Stewart move forward with the proposed project to the Warming Hut.

Chairman Schall asked RD Stewart about the coed softball program. RD Stewart said that he understood that there had been a discussion about this at the last meeting. The program has declined significantly over the last five years, with this year only three teams were signed up. In order for the program to break even with expenses, four teams need to be signed up. Only three teams signed up to play this year, so the program has been cancelled for this year. The Board and RD Stewart discussed why and/or what has caused the program to diminish. The Board asked RD Stewart to make sure he tries to get the program going again next year.

3. New Business

a) Residential Property in Commercial Zone Assessments: TM Frost presented the Board with a list of residential property that is located in commercially zoned areas. In order for these properties to be assessed as residential property, the property owner needs to fill out and return a request annually to the assessing office. Of all the properties on the list, there are five properties that have not returned the form to AC Lutz. After further discussion, the Board requested that AC Lutz make one more attempt at contacting the owners via certified, return receipt mail allotting the owners ten days to respond before the properties are assessed at commercial assessment values.

b) Library Trustee Appointments: TM Frost presented the Board with two appointment requests from the Library Trustees. The first is to appoint David Graham to the position of Trustee as Rufus Ansley has resigned effective May 26, 2015. The other is to appoint Clint Emmett as Alternate Trustee. TM Frost stated that while she did not have the Appointment Certificates ready, if the Board agrees to the appointments, she will place the

Certificates in their mail for their signatures. **Selectman Oliver made a motion to approve and sign the Appointment Certificates for David Graham as Library Trustee as well as appoint Clint Emmett as Alternate Library Trustee, voted unanimously.**

4. Old Business

a) Labonville Abatement: Chairman Schall stated that he looked into the matter with AC Lutz and noted that the lot that is in question is in fact being over charged in assessment value. Currently the park is separated into two lots, with both lots being charged at a premium assessment rate. Only one lot should be charged at the premium rate. He went on to say that he is comfortable with abatement recommendation. Also, the park is in the process of doing a lot line adjustment and merge the two properties together. **Selectman LaPier made a motion to approve the recommendation for the KRT Appraisal for Labonville Trust at 502 Main Street from \$222,600 to \$60,500 for the 2014 tax year, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

b) Date for GLHA Mediation, Designation of Selectmen's Representative: TM Frost stated that she still does not have a date for mediation, but didn't know if the Board wanted to predetermine who will be the designated Selectmen's Representative for the matter. The Board decided that they would wait to see what the date is prior to the selection.

c) Public Works Roof Project Update: TM Frost stated that FD Vallee left a form for the Board member's signatures in their mail. The Board did see the form and executed it as requested. The project should start within the next couple of weeks.

5. Public Comment:

Dennis Arguin stopped by to check on the riverbank issue stating that after reading the newspaper article he thought that the project would be "dead in the water". The Board indicated that they had received the report. The report concluded that the Town's property (cemetery) was not in danger or jeopardy, therefore, there were no plans for the Town to move forward. TM Frost stated that she would forward the report to Mr. Arguin for his review. After further discussion regarding this matter, the Board agreed to place this matter on the next agenda.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager's Update: TM Frost stated that the Town of Shelburne asked that if an agreement is not reached regarding the police coverage, would the contract be nullified. The Board discussed their concern regarding the safety of the Town's employees. Police Chief Cyr and EMS Director Miller are currently working on pulling together actual costs versus the flat fee of \$250, which seems to be the sticking point for the Town of Shelburne. This matter will be put on the next meeting agenda. **Chairman Schall made a motion to effectively terminate the contract with the Town of Shelburne if the police matter cannot pulled together, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

TM Frost stated that on May 26, 2015, at 3:30 pm the placement and commemoration of the John Ellis Monument for the Town Common will take place. The monument is slated to be placed on the Route 2 side of the common by the ball field back stop area. Chairman Schall expressed concern regarding where the monument is going to be placed in light of the recent tragic incident. After further discussion the Board agreed to move forward with the monument location as it had previously been planned to be placed there.

b) Selectmen's Update: Selectman Oliver asked TM Frost if she had spoken with the Mill regarding the Town using their property for the playground. TM Frost stated that she had and the Mill is okay with the park being re-established. The agreement is currently in the hands of the attorneys. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$2,000 for equipment.

Chairman Schall discussed the matter of pulling together a plan for updating the Town's roads. TM Frost said that she and PWD Holmes are currently working on a prioritized list. The Board discussed the possibility of doing a bond to get the road work completed. It was agreed that this matter should be worked on and ready for this upcoming budget and warrant.

Chairman Schall stated that he feels that Mike Waddell is correct with stating that the Town should be in touch with Eversource (previously PSNH) regarding the property by the Town Garage, noting that the Town should be proactive with regard to the Town's use of the property. The Board asked TM Frost to contact Roy Duddy regarding this matter to start dialog.

Chairman Schall also asked if anyone has heard anything on the funeral home property. TM Frost informed the Board that the property is still for sale, however, someone has looked at the property and asked if the Town would be interested in leasing the property. The Board asked TM Frost to put out feelers to Gallus & Green Realtors to see if the owners may now be interested in entertaining accepting our offer now. TM Frost said that she would look into the matter, but would like to wait until we are a little closer to budget and warrant time.

Selectman Oliver asked if the Board was still doing at least one meeting a year at the Cascade Fire Station, noting that he felt that it would be well received by the Cascade residents. The Board does not have a problem with conducting a meeting there.

c) Approval of Minutes (May 11, 2015): Selectman LaPierre made motion to approve the Minutes of May 11, 2015 as presented, seconded by Chairman Schall, voted unanimously.

Prior to moving on Chairman Schall stated he had additional items for discussion that he wanted to discuss. He said that if the State comes back with approving Route 2 from Jimtown Road to the parking area for ATV traffic, the ordinance would need to be updated. Chairman Schall stated that he would like to get the local ATV club to step up with taking care of proper signage for the trails. He also said that he would like to see the club work with the State with regard to possibly installing an additional gate that would prevent traffic on the rail bed any further than the designated parking area. Additionally, he suggested that maybe the club and State could look at doing some sort of a buffer between the parking area and the back yards of the properties that abut that area.

Chairman Schall asked if TM Frost could have PWD Holmes touch up the yellow letter paint for the "Welcome to Gorham" signs.

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): None were presented.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II a & e: On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into non-public session at 7:30 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver – Aye.

On a motion by Chairman Schall, seconded by Selectman LaPierre, the Board came out of non-public session by unanimous roll call vote at 8:15 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver