

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF GORHAM
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 6:00 PM
GORHAM TOWN HALL**

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

Also present: Robin Frost, Town Manager; Kirstan Lukasak, Berlin Daily Sun; Ron Donato, Phil Ross, Larry Leighton, Dennis Arguin, Keith Parent, Mike Waddell, Elmer VanHousen, PJ Cyr, Police Chief; Brian Lamarre

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chairman Schall.

2. Appointments:

a) Dennis Arguin – Moose River Bank: TM Frost presented a breakdown of the projected costs for the proposed work for the Moose River Bank to Mr. Arguin for his perusal. Mr. Arguin stated that as he just received the pricing information, he would like to be able to review it more thoroughly. He went on to say that it seems as though there is a lot of people who want this project to move forward and asked if the matter could be brought before the Town at annual Town meeting. The Board explained to Mr. Arguin what would need to be done in order to place the matter on the annual Warrant. TM Frost stated that she would be available to assist Mr. Arguin in this matter.

3. New Business

a) July 4th Celebration Committee Requests (Road Closing, Parade): Chairman Schall stated that the July 4th Celebration Committee is requesting that a portion of Railroad Street be closed as usually happens for this event. TM Frost stated that the Committee is also asking if the Board of Selectmen will walk in this year's parade. The Board agreed to close the portion of Railroad Street (area adjacent to the Town Common) and will decide on the parade at the next meeting.

b) Coos Cycling Club – Permission for Trail: Chairman Schall stated that the Coos Cycling Club is looking for permission to build a new trail on the Town's property behind the Ed Fenn School. Jason Hunter of the Club has had conversations with both TM Frost and Water & Sewer Superintendent Dave Patry. The trail will have an approximate width of three feet and construction equipment may be needed in some areas. Mr. Hunter stated that the forest in that area is uncut and esthetically pleasing to the eye and would make a great area for cycling. The Water and Sewer Commission will be meeting next Monday, therefore, the Board has tabled the matter until the Commissioners have met. The matter will be placed on the next agenda.

c) Boston Post Cane: TM Frost stated that a resident had come forward with the name of Barbara Barnett to be nominated as the next Boston Post Cane recipient. Selectman LaPierre also suggested Helen Lamontagne as she is over 100 years old. Chairman Schall stated that the same process should be done as the last recipient. The Board instructed TM Frost to move forward with the ad for the new Boston Post Cane recipient.

d) Major Road Construction: TM Frost stated that she met with PWD Holmes and put together a list of road work that needed to be done. The road work is listed in highest priority to lowest. Road work ranges from asphalt removal/repaving and drainage to complete overhauls of road, which will include engineering, drainage, etc. TM Frost asked the Board if they would okay reaching out to an engineer to get a Request for Proposal completed so that estimates may be received for the proposed work. The Board stated that the work needed to be completed and gave TM Frost and PWD Holmes the authority to move forward. Chief Cyr asked whether

sidewalks would be included. TM Frost and the Board agreed that a list should be compiled for the sidewalks and included in the estimating process.

4. Old Business

a) John Ellis Memorial: Chairman Schall stated that quite a few people are at this meeting to speak about this very sensitive matter. While there are several people in favor with leaving the monument where it is, at the request of the Board, Brian Lamarre was asked to reach out to the VanHousen/Welch family with regard to the matter. Mr. Lamarre said that he spoke with the family and while they do not have a problem with the monument itself, they would like to see if it could be moved a little bit. The family is present at this meeting to show their support for the monument and see if the situation can be fixed.

Ron Donato – Mr. Donato stated that at the last meeting he was really not given an opportunity to speak with regard to this matter. He presented the Board with a petition requesting that the monument be moved from its current location, which contained 35 signatures. Mr. Donato went on to read a memo, please see attached memo dated June 15, signed by Mr. Donato.

Chairman Schall extended his sympathy to the family. He said that the Memorial for Mr. Ellis is a good thing, as he helped a lot of the local children. The family is asking for the Memorial to be moved, and he would like to entertain that option.

Dennis Sinibaldi – Mr. Sinibaldi had a conversation with Mr. Ellis' family and everyone who had something to do with the committee, and they all offer their sincere condolences to the family. There was never any ill intent or disrespect to the family. While an awful incident took place, they feel that this monument is something good. The committee thought maybe a park bench could be added next to the monument. Mr. Sinibaldi read the attached email written by Mr. Don D'Ercole, please see attached email to TM Frost from Mr. D'Ercole dated June 13, 2015. Mr. Sinibaldi expressed that the committee was not trying to be disrespectful to the family, but was in fact trying to do something nice for a man who did so much for the community.

Elmer "Buddy" VanHousen – Mr. VanHousen said that it was not their intention to disregard everything Mr. Ellis did for the community. While he did not know him, he respects him. The fact of the matter is that it is very sensitive to his family as well as the Drouin family. He feels that they are not trying to be unreasonable, but it was the place that his son was murdered, it was not an accident. They are simply asking for the monument to be moved. He stated that he would be willing to pay to move the monument.

Keith Parent – Mr. Parent said that he has spoken with Selectman Oliver and TM Frost, and he thinks that it in fact should be moved. He went on to say that it was never the committee's intention to do any harm to the families involved in the incident. He suggested keeping it on Main Street so that traffic/people would see it, and went on to recommend putting it behind home plate.

Phil Ross - Mr. Ross stated that the reason why the monument was put there was because Mr. Ellis lived close to there and he entered the field in that area. When this monument was in the planning phase, no one had a crystal ball to know that any of this would take place.

Bob Chapman – Mr. Chapman stated that he donated the money for this project to begin with, he will donate the money to move it. He just wants the monument moved to a location that everyone wants.

Further discussion took place regarding the monuments current location. **Chairman Schall made a motion to have the John Ellis Memorial Monument moved from its current location to behind home plate, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

Don Piper will supervise the move and will get in touch with the Board if they need anything.

b) GLHA Mediation – Additional Date: TM Frost stated that the GLHA mediation is scheduled for July 10th and will take place in Concord and a member of the Board will need to attend. There is an additional meeting scheduled for July 6th to review the matter with the Town’s attorney and Brian Fogg of Skip Sansoucy’s office to go over strategy. The exact location of the meeting on July 6th is not confirmed as of yet. It was agreed that Chairman Schall will attend the meetings on behalf of the Board.

c) Public Works Roof Project Update: TM Frost stated that the materials are due to be in on June 23rd with the work to begin on June 24th. The project is expected to be completed by July 24th.

d) Police Agreements – Shelburne and Randolph: TM Frost stated by Chief Cyr as well as both Shelburne and Randolph have agreed to an hourly rate of \$85.33 with a three hour minimum call. The agreement states that everyone will meet every three months to review police calls.

5. Public Comment:

Mike Waddell asked the Board and TM Frost that now that the contracts have executed could they please forward copies to the Budget Committee now that you have four signed contracts can you forward them to the budget committee. TM Frost stated that as soon as the police contract is executed, it will be forwarded to the committee as requested.

Mike Waddell stated that he can see that the Moose River Bank Project is bigger than Mr. Arguin. He said that if he were to spread out the flood maps of that area, it would be evident that when there is flooding the water does not just go on his property. The water will travel over four streets. Mr. Waddell further explained previous storm/water issues that have taken place throughout the Town and how the Town has owned some of the situations. He went on to suggest that the Board look into getting assistance from the Federal Mitigation Funding. TM Frost stated that the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan renewal is currently in process. While a letter of intent had been sent in to the State, the State would not look at anything without our Hazard Mitigation Plan completed. Further discussion took place regarding what can be done with a quick fix for the berm itself.

6. Other Business

a) Town Manager’s Update: TM Frost informed the Board that the Tinker Brook Project is moving along nicely and at this time may be a little ahead of schedule. Hopefully bidding will go out in July instead of August.

b) Selectmen’s Update: There were no updates.

c) Approval of Minutes (June 1, 2015): **Selectman LaPierre made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2015, seconded by Selectman Oliver, voted unanimously.**

d) Sign Manifest: All manifests were signed.

e) Sign Abatements and Exemptions (if necessary): TM Frost presented the Board with abatement as follows:

Property of Melvin Olson at 500 Main Street, for an abatement amount of \$15.00. The trailer has been demolished, but the system still kept a value and therefore a bill was created. The Board signed the abatement.

Property of Wally and Janet Corrigan at 4 Mason Hill, for an abatement of \$30.68. This trailer has also been demolished. The Board signed the abatement.

Property of Gateway Trailer Park at 8 Fred's Circle, for an abatement of \$292.82. This trailer was demolished in 2012. The Board signed the abatement.

TM Frost then presented the Board with a list of abatements. All of these properties had building permits and when AC Lutz merged in preparation of tax bills, the system had a glitch. It has since been changed and the corrected bills have been sent out.

TM Frost presented a letter to the Board addressed to John and Paulette Losier requesting them to file their notice to cut wood for doorage fees.

7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-a:3, II 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 7:45 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 8:10 pm. Schall – Aye, LaPierre – Aye, Oliver - Aye.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jeff Schall

Grace LaPierre

Terry Oliver