

**OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
6 HOLLAND STREET  
PO BOX 139  
MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254**

Selectmen's Meeting

December 6, 2012

**MINUTES**

Selectmen: Joel R. Mudgett, Edward J. Charest, Betsey L. Patten, Jonathan W. Tolman, Russell C. Wakefield; Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator; Hope K. Kokas, Administrative Assistant.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Joel called the meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- III. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposed Road Name Change, Ossipee Park Road: Letters Received: Eric Taussig, Will Powers, Heritage Commission, and Cristina Ashjian. Joel opened the Public Hearing, adding that he requested to have a public hearing to open the discussion to the public about what can and cannot be done to eliminate the confusion over Ossipee Park Road and Ossipee Mountain Road. A road name change was considered for Ossipee Park Road as there are too many people who live on Ossipee Mountain Road. The problem exists that truckers are going up Ossipee Mountain Road and upon learning that it is the wrong road, can't turn around or get stuck doing so and/or try to back down the road causing major safety hazards. Carter spoke on behalf of the Highway Safety Committee which is made up of Police Chief Leonard Wetherbee, Fire Chief David Bengtson (not present), Highway Agent Scott Kinmond, and Town Planner Bruce Woodruff (not present). He said that the question of renaming Ossipee Park Road (OPR) is not new and was first considered during the E-911 street naming process and has been mentioned for several years. The Highway Safety Committee outlined five steps towards improving the safety of the area. The first is the enforcement of the 53' trailer prohibition on Route 171 and the queuing of trucks on Ossipee Park Road. The Police Department has a dedicated patrol and to date has issued 13 summonses and has had 30 contacts with truckers. The department is working with CG Roxane to inform truck drivers of the exclusion, proper routes to OPR, and these efforts appear to be working. The second step is to add directional signage to Route 109. Just this week, through a telephone conversation with DOT, signage was rejected by the state. The blue directional signs on state roads are for tourist attractions only (to attract tourism money). When asked if DOT would consider doing the feasibility study under their federal/state signage study for safety signs on OPR for the downhill side (test brakes, advisory speeds, etc), they advised the Town that they can't do this either. Carter said that he will later talk about a change order with the Town Engineer to do a feasibility study on the signage. The fourth step is to have a feasibility study done on a truck runaway ramp for OPR (also to be discussed later). The fifth step is to change the name of OPR to eliminate the confusion for the truckers between the two roads. Carter reported that there haven't been any known problems with E-911, but E-911 has suggested that one of the road names be changed. There have been numerous complaints on Ossipee Mountain Road with 2-3 traffic interruptions per year and with the most recent incident closing the road for almost three hours. The Highway Safety Team felt that with 49 property owners on Ossipee Mountain Road, it would be easier to change OPR (only 4 property owners). Town Planner Bruce Woodruff held a stakeholders meeting to allow them to come up with and suggest preferred road names. Carter concluded by saying that the lowest cost and most readily available measure was to change OPR's name to

improve the areas safety. Russ commented that the Selectmen have received four letters from residents that oppose the name change. One letter is from Will Powers who felt that the name change will only cause more confusion, as it will take time for the information to be changed on GPS and paper maps. Russ said he agreed and felt that DOT does advertising on state roads, and if the state won't add the signs on Route 109, then the Town needs to do it and place the signs outside of the state's right of way. Joel agreed that 3 signs need to be placed before Ossipee Mountain Road. Jon agreed, and felt the tourist signs are really advertising. Joel questioned if the businesses pay for these signs. Highway Agent Scott Kinmond spoke to his experience as Police Chief and the history of these kinds of requests to the state, which were turned down then. DOT's regulations state that blue directional signs are for the general public, in an effort to get tourists to spend money in NH. The former general manager of CG Roxane had installed a directional sign on his residential property, which came down when the property sold. Scott informed the Selectmen that CG Roxane have purchased directional signs which are sitting in his office. Scott cautioned that if the Town placed signs in the state's right of way, it could become liable for any accident that is involved with the signs. He agrees that directional signs on the road would solve the problem. Betsey asked Chief Wetherbee about the latest accident and if the state police made any comment about the safety of the road. The Chief replied that their only concern was with the operator and the safety of the truck. Scott added that during the rural sign survey, the state felt that the signs in place were satisfactory and there were no recommendations to make any changes. Ed said he is in favor of changing the road's name and has been for some time. He said that tourists are looking for the castle. He has been performing wedding ceremonies at the castle for many years and people get lost due to the duplicate names. The traffic on OPR is due to either the bottling plant or the castle. He added that changing the road's name won't fix the problem that exists with the truckers and their trucks. He commented about Bruce Worthen's concern about maintaining the area's history, which is also important to him, however sometimes it has to be changed to make improvements. He suggested a road name change to maintain the history of the area. Ed said he wasn't concerned with GPS and thought that OPR wasn't even on paper maps, adding that the problem doesn't exist on the downhill side of Ossipee Mountain Road. Joel disagreed; truckers are getting lost and can't turn around properly. 1) Will Powers commented about the sign on Route 171 for the bottling plant. Scott replied that this sign is on CG Roxane's property. Mr. Powers asked what has been done since DOT denied the signage request. Joel replied that the Selectmen just learned of this week's denial and haven't met until tonight, so nothing has been done. Joel asked how will the trucks find it if they decide to change the road's name. Kenneth Kasarjian said that safety is the first priority and liability second. He asked what CG Roxane is doing to inform truckers of the proper directions to their plant, adding that he thought just buying signs wasn't enough on their part. Joel replied that CG Roxane (CGR) has offered their help, and the signs have been bought. He added that the Town has been working with CGR for years on this problem, but the trucking is done through brokers and this information is given to them. The breakdown in communication appears to be from the broker to the trucker. Chief Wetherbee agreed, adding that often from the broker there is a 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> person involved before the trucker is involved. He added that the truckers punch in the information for CGR, which often brings them to Route 171 through Tuftonboro and don't have the required informational paperwork. Don Berry of Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) agreed that changing the road name won't resolve the serious safety problems. He agreed that there is a communication problem and signage would be the resolution. He expressed his surprise that the state won't cooperate. Mr. Berry said that LRCT would be adversely affected if the road name is changed, as they have produced trail maps and all have directions that include OPR. He supports the historical significance, as it is the last link to this part of history. Signage should be done first and it is premature to change the road's

name. Betsey asked Mr. Berry about the sign that was placed 5-6 years ago, and asked if LRCT would place a sign at the intersection of Routes 171 and 109. Mr. Berry replied that this was done by the Castle Preservation Society and was a lease through them. Joel thought that they need to find a property to place the signs. Russ commented that the Town needs to put up the signs on the road and worry about the liability later. Eric Taussig said that safety won't be improved with just signs. He suggested putting up a no left turn on Ossipee Mountain Road with a weight restriction, as this is a Town road. Peter Jensen asked if anyone has talked with the truckers about the problem. Joel commented that for most truckers, there is a language barrier, as most speak Spanish. Mr. Taussig stated that it is CGR's problem and they need to resolve it. Joel said that CGR is a business in Town that has been approved and they have the right to run their business. Ed said that in his experience, it isn't the regular truckers who have the problems, but the gypsy truckers. Joel added that CGR is working with the Town on the problem. Robert Knight said that he abuts OPR and the trucks are still getting lost on that road. He asked if any property owners have been approached to place a sign on their property. Based on a question from Ed, Chief Wetherbee replied that truckers punch in the plant name. Regular truckers follow the Highway Safety maps, but when they see the first sign with Ossipee on it, they too take the wrong turn. Jean Beadle suggested that the Town find property owners willing to have a sign and have CGR compensate them. Bruce Worthen, Heritage Commission member said that there is a communication problem and the street signs won't fully solve the problem. On behalf of Chair Cristina Ashjian, Mr. Worthen said that OPR is the last remainder of the park which was instrumental in the Town's early history. The Heritage Commission is against changing OPR's name. He added that CGR needs to work on resolving the problem. Will Powers asked Scott if the signs purchased by CGR are capable of communicating effectively to truckers. Scott replied that pictures are used. Chief Wetherbee said that one truck driver he talked to was from Florida and admitted that he didn't know what he was going to carry and that he'd be coming down OPR filled with bottled water. Hollis Austin said he was opposed to changing OPR's name and thought that changing the road's name would not make any difference. Road signage is needed. He felt that it is CGR's responsibility. Mr. Austin suggested contacting the Town's state representatives to advocate for the Town with DOT. Jon said that he doesn't see the merits in changing the road's name and thought that the Town needs to go back to the state, going up a level to argue our case. In the meantime, put signs on private property. Ed said that he wasn't opposed to this idea. Russ asked and learned that CGR's signs have directional arrows. Betsey Made the Motion to contact private owners about placing signs on their property, asking CGR if they will remunerate the property owners, and reaching out to the state for help with DOT. Ed Seconded the Motion. Betsey asked and Scott replied that he would identify the best parcels to place signs and forward this to the Selectmen in order to make the request. The Motion carried Unanimously.

- IV. **REVIEW / APPROVAL MINUTES:** Betsey Made the Motion to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of November 29, 2012 & November 30, 2012. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried.
- V. **NEW RESIDENTS:** Joanne E. Nalen, Devin M. Eldridge, William C. Pelon.
- VI. **CITIZEN INPUT:** None.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.
- Review for Approval: Payables & Payroll Manifest & Signature File:

<b>DOCUMENT DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>MAP/LOT#</b>
11/27/12	Intent to Cut	095-001-001 & 096-001
12/5/12	Northern Forest Resources – Timber Appraiser	N/A
12/6/12	Payroll Manifest & Signature File, \$2,413,145.48	N/A

Joel read the Payables Manifest and Signature File as listed above. Carter commented that there is a partial payment to the county and the rest will be paid after the due date. Betsey asked about the time for the county to send their information to DRA, as she was informed that it was sent in October. Carter said he'd get her the information. Ed Made the Motion to approve the Payroll/Payables Manifest & Signature File for December 6, 2012. Russ Seconded. Jon asked about the invoice for "Gopher" and what it was about. Carter said he will find out. The Motion carried Unanimously.

2. Review for Approval: Forest Land Improvement, Re Highway Timber Harvest: Joel asked if the Transfer Station was included in this report. Carter said no, it was just for the Highway Garage land, adding if they desired the forester could come in to talk to them, suggesting the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Joel commented that originally their opposition was based on their desire to put it out to bid. The Selectmen agreed by consensus to go forward with the timber harvest on the Highway Garage property and to put it out to bid by advertising it in the newspaper for two weeks, as is the Town's standard practice. Russ commented that he saw the trees that Scott had marked on Colby Road and agreed that they need to come down for safety purposes, as they are rotted and not growing properly.
3. Review for Approval: Disposal Agreement, McCarthy: Betsey Made the Motion to approve the Disposal Agreement for Kevin McCarthy, 9 Ben Berry Road as listed. Ed Seconded. The Motion carried Unanimously.
4. Review for Approval: KV Partner's Task Order(s), Re OPR Signage & Runaway Ramp: Joel said that the first to consider is the feasibility study for signage on OPR, the downhill side, a cost of \$1,800. Betsey Made the Motion to approve the feasibility study for signage on the downhill side of Ossipee Park Road to not exceed \$1,800, and authorizing the Chair to sign the task order. Carter said that the next feasibility study was for a runaway ramp on OPR and he suggested contacting CGR requesting that they pay for the \$8,000 study, and allowing him to contact CGR to make the request. Russ Made the Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to contact CGR to make the request that they pay for the \$8,000 feasibility study for a runaway ramp on OPR. Betsey Seconded the Motion. Mr. Austin asked if DOT may have any studies on runaway ramps. Joel felt that this is premature. The Motion carried Unanimously.

- VIII. OLD BUSINESS:** Betsey reminded everyone that the Library's Holiday Open House is on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 4 pm.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Board Liaison Reports: 1) Ed reported that the VNS Board of Directors met and they are working on long range planning.
2. Administrative Update: Carter said that other than his weekly update, he had nothing else to add.
3. CIPC Minutes, November 1 & November 16, 2012: Acknowledged.
4. ABC Minutes, November 19, 2012: Acknowledged.
5. RAB Minutes, November 19, 2012: Acknowledged.

**X. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Time Warner Cable, November 26, 2012, Possible Program Changes: Joel commented that this was their usual letter, with a long list of possible program changes.

**XI. CITIZEN INPUT:** 1) Mr. Austin commented that the Governor Elect has requested that all state departments keep their budget requests low, and hoped that the Selectmen were doing the same.

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** None needed.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Betsey Made the Motion to Adjourn. Ed Seconded the Motion. Motion Carried Unanimously.  
Joel adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

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Approved

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Date:

Respectfully Submitted

Hope K. Kokas, Administrative Assistant