

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 18, 1981

Present were all three Selectmen and secretary.

The Selectmen met at 7:15 with the Conservation Commission regarding the Richard LaBranche incident. Commission members present were Martha Brooks, Donald Chapman and Ray Wheeler.

Mrs. Brooks expressed the concern of the Commission on how to respond to the infraction of this magnitude on town land by Mr. LaBranche. The Selectmen received a letter from the Commission recommending certain actions. Mrs. Brooks explained that they did not expect the Selectmen to take these recommendations, but hoped they could work together. Mr. Chapman hoped this could be settled reasonably out of court and felt the recommendations were appropriate.

Sel. Olson asked the Commission that, if a person had not asked permission to clear this area, but had gone ahead and done it, would the Commission have taken the same action. The answer was yes. The Selectmen advised that they will assume responsibility of the action that is taken. Sel. Olson did not approve of posting publicly the name of the offender and the misdeed as recommended by the Commission. He felt the remainder of the conditions were reasonable.

The Commission reported finding 41 trees were destroyed. Sel. Todd objected to the recommended cost of the reforestry in the amount of \$545. They explained that they had used figures taken from other court cases. Chairman Brooks thanked the Selectmen for their cooperative attitude.

Following the dismissal of the Conservation Commission, the Selectmen discussed the terms of the recommendation. The Selectmen next met with Mr. LaBranche with Mrs. LaBranche present. He was informed by Sel. Todd that the Selectmen were in agreement with the terms extended by the Commission.

Mr. LaBranche argued that he had, in fact, only removed 6 small trees. He explained that he had in the past heard someone in this area chopping trees. He said they traveled in a blue pick-up but he did not know names.

On discussing his telephone call to Mrs. Brooks requesting permission to clear this area, he claims she did not give him a definite answer, but promised to get back to him following a meeting of the Conservation Commission. He reported that he waited a reasonable length of time, and not hearing any further, proceeded with the project.

Being as Mr. LaBranche feels the monetary charges recommended to be too severe, Sel. Olson asked Mr. LaBranche what he would feel to be a fair settlement. Mr. LaBranche replied he would be willing to clean up the turn-around and put it back to its original condition.

The Selectmen will weigh all evidence from both sides and make a decision at a later date as to what action to take.

At 8:30 the Selectmen met with Atty. Robert Rowe to try to locate land owned by Rose Ricciteli Farina. The land was purchased from the town by Tax Collector's deed. Mr. Rowe is asking for a quitclaim deed from the town, but there seems to be some confusion to the amount of acreage and boundaries. The Selectmen will take the case to town counsel. Meanwhile Mr. Rowe will write a letter to the Selectmen with more explicit facts.

Clarence Gordon, Cecil Strong and Richard Perusse came in to discuss the Gravel Removal application of Mr. Strong. Mr. Gordon & Mr. Perusse would like to remove crushed gravel all ready at the pit, but Mr. Strong had been unable to get a bond, which are the terms of the permit. Mr. Gordon promised to bring in all bonds required tomorrow, therefore this activates the permit.

Police Chief John Ballou came in to report on the graduation party held at Arthur Houghton's gravel pit. He said there was much liquor and dope present at the site with about 8 or 9 hundred attending. He expressed a hope that New Boston never plays host to another party. The Selectmen were in agreement.

Peter Gallup came to the office in response to his complaint regarding junk storage he claims he can see from his home on the property of New Boston Development Corp. He accused Wayne Daniels<sup>of</sup> using this area for a dumping ground. He expressed concern of the safety of an oil drum which contains surplus oil. Sel. Todd explained that he had viewed the site in question and felt that grounds for complaint were unfounded. He said he found the oil tank to be empty therefore being no cause of danger.

Permits approved:

Warren Moss, Pistol Permit  
Cecil Strong, Gravel Removal Permit  
Edmund Novick, Building Permit