

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, June 1, 2015 – 10:00AM

Present: Chair, Lorn Buxton, David McGuckin, Selectman, William Stewart, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Todd Henley, Tom Smith, Will Connell, Chief Don White, Ben Jankowski, and Pam Cullen.

Chair Buxton convened the meeting at 10:00 AM, and proceeded to the first item on the agenda.

1. Approve Select Board Minutes of May 18, 2015.

Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Approve the Select Board Minutes of May 18, 2015, as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded and the Motion carried.

2. Public Q & A.

Will Connell of 79 Piscataqua Street asked if the Select Board would reconsider its vote regarding the unmerged lots issue. Chair Buxton noted that counsel for the Town and Attorney Springer were in discussions to resolve the matter, and reiterated that the Select Board can't do anything until the legal opinion is made known to the Board.

3. Items.

a. Volleyball request – Todd Henley.

Chair Buxton recognized Mr. Henley. Selectman McGuckin stated that Mr. Henley runs a quality program at the Common, and asked Ben Jankowski to speak about the program. Ben reported that the Common staff has given good feedback about Mr. Henley's organized volleyball on the beach. The groups play volleyball on the beach on Tuesdays Wednesday, and Thursday evenings and Mr. Henley is always on site and has developed good relationships with the staff. Selectman Stewart asked Mr. Henley to explain about the schedule. Todd reported he usually arrives around 5:45 PM and games begin around 6:15 and continue until dusk. In response to Selectman Stewart's question about how the tides affect available space and members of the public already on the beach, Todd explained how he accommodated them and reported that he had not received any complaints. Chief White also stated that there have been no complaints but requested Todd to ask the players not to leave their cars at the Common if they go out after the games, as the Common is locked at 9:00 PM. Todd reported that the start date for 2015 is July 14th. The Common receives \$2,400 for the season. Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Approve NHSSE's use of the Common beach for organized volleyball for the 2015 season. Chair Buxton seconded and the Motion carried.

b. Organized Sporting Activities at the Common – Ben Jankowski.

Ben explained that an exercise group has been using the Common on Mondays and Fridays from 6:15AM to 7:15AM for the past six or seven years at no charge. He is before the Select Board because another group has requested to use the Common at no charge on Tuesday and Thursdays, and Ben would like a policy in place to address these uses. He stated he

thought that those requesting such use at no charge come before the Select Board to obtain permission.

Selectman McGuckin began the discussion by stating that both groups should be charged. Chief White expressed concern about liability and stated that the exercise groups should have proof of insurance.

Ben stated that the Dept. of Public Works has other concerns. The park needs to be clear so that they can clean up and mow, and would prefer to not have the groups present during that time before the park opens at 9:00 AM. Selectman McGuckin suggestion that the matter be tabled in order to allow further thought and consideration of all relevant issues. Selectman Stewart said an issue for him is these are for profit groups. Chair Buxton suggested that Ben tell the groups that the Board is considering imposing a fee for their use of the park and establishing rules. Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board reiterated liability concerns. While the park is officially open and charging, there could be issues with injuries or damages caused by the groups' use. Selectman McGuckin advised Ben to notify the group that the Board has taken this matter under advisement, and will report back in two weeks.

Tom Smith reported that as of May 31, 2015, Common revenue, so far for the 2015 season, is \$17,358, which includes pavilion and tent rentals.

c. Conservation Commission proposal-PREP.

Selectman Stewart stated that the Commission is applying for a PREP grant. "PREP" stands for Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment. Money is available to municipalities and partnering organizations with Piscataqua Region watershed for projects resulting in achievement or significant progress toward achievement of one or more of the proposed actions for their community defined in the 2015 Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment or an action related to climate vulnerability, adaptation, and/or preparedness. Up to \$10,000 is available. New Castle's purpose is to study all wetlands, as the last inventory was done over 10 years ago. Selectman Stewart stated the Commission intends to look at setbacks, and this may involve increasing buffers. Selectman Stewart stated the total project cost is \$20,000, and explained the match process. He reported the Commission could use a portion of the trust fund monies (\$10,898), if there are no volunteer hours.

Selectman McGuckin asked about wetlands boundaries. Selectman Stewart explained how these work and the need for the Town to consider how ordinances work to protect the wetlands. He explained that Tracy Degnan from the RCCD couldn't attend this meeting which is why Selectman Stewart presented this proposal. Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Approve the Town's application for the PREP grant. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried. Chair Buxton signed the application.

d. Performance Reviews.

Chair Buxton explained to Selectman Stewart about how the process works for reviewing the performance of Town employees. Selectman Stewart has a meeting with former Select Board Chair Cohen to become more familiar with the process. Selectman Stewart will take care of sending out the initials forms.

5. Other Old Business.

None.

6. Other New Business.

Selectman reported there is a Fire Department meeting this evening at 7:00 PM with the Select Board. He had spoken with Chief Blanding and told there was no plan to do anything in terms of reorganization. The meeting will be posted.

7. Committee Reports.

Chair Buxton stated that these would be monthly reports.

Selectman McGuckin:

a. New Castle Common.

Selectman McGuckin reported that as per Treasurer Tom Smith, Common revenue is \$17,358 through May 31st. There have been no issues with any playground equipment this year. He stated the season is off to a good start.

b. Public Works.

Selectman McGuckin indicated at the Public Works department is in the process of cleaning up the area in the Common across from Golter's house by removing dead trees and limbs. Selectman Stewart requested Public Works to keep the Conservation Commission advised.

c. Police Department.

Chief White reported on his "Call Action Breakdown Log", indicating there had been 108 warnings issued, 207 house checks, and 669 "activities". Chair Buxton asked about any criminal activities. Chief White reported there had been two arrests, 2 protective custody matters, and 15 parking tickets. There was also a smashed window with a stolen pocketbook reported. Chief has offered to post this information on the department's web site. This is to provide the public with information similar to the police logs published in the local paper for other communities.

Selectman Stewart:

a. Fire Dept.

Selectman Stewart had his initial meeting with Chief Blanding and requested a monthly dashboard with 10 or so items, such as service calls (8), 66 to date; 3 medical calls with an average 6.95 minutes response time. There was also a breakdown of Engine 1 and Engine 2 calls and response times. He reported there was a concern about the recently passed warrant article regarding fire wards, morale, etc. He stated that the Chief requested town

employees refrain from making negative comments and they should be professional. Selectman McGuckin would like more information on the uses of Engines 1 and 2.

Chair Buxton:

a. Planning Board.

Chair Buxton gave an update on the school renovations based on a Planning Board presentation by Rich Landry of the school building committee and indicated the storage trailer is on site.

b. HDC.

Chair Buxton stated there was site walk at 25 Piscataqua Street, and the HDC is hiring its own structural architect after hearing from the applicant's engineer during the site walk. There is a work session scheduled for Thursday, June 4th, and also a work session for Cabana Property on Main Street. There is also a continuation of the public hearing on 49 Riverview Road.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman McGuckin made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.