

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD**  
**Monday, May 1 ,2017 – 10:00AM**

**Present:** Dave McGuckin, Chair, Bill Stewart, Selectman, Tom Maher, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

**Also present:** Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board, Christiane McAllistair, Town Accountant, Jim Cerny, Rodney Rowland, Nancy Jackson, Laurie Chandler, and Tom Smith.

**1. Approval of Select Board Minutes.**

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the April 3, 2017 Select Board meeting as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried. Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the April 17, 2017 Select Board meeting as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

**2. Public Question and Answer.**

Mike McAndrew of 27 Steamboat Lane spoke about the congestion on Piscataqua Street with construction vehicles and landscaping trucks with trailers. Chair McGuckin noted that the Select Board has received Emails complaining of the same problem. Chief White has been regularly driving by and issuing directions for the construction crews to park near the Coast Guard Station or some other location. The problem is the length of some of the vehicles, and also some residents leave the tail end of their vehicles jutting out into the roadway. It is very difficult to manage the parking with all of the simultaneous construction projects taking place in the area.

Selectman Maher asked how does the town best work with these contractors? He made the comment that he did not believe all of the contractors associated with a particular project needed to be parked on site. Right now it appears that all contractors working at a particular site tend to pile up and impede access and egress for the public. Chief White agreed and suggested there be limitations on the landscaping trucks with their accompanying trailers. Chair McGuckin noted that proper access is critical for first responders. The Board agreed that Chair McGuckin would ask Chief White to talk with the neighbors about making sure their vehicles are fully off the street, and not projecting into the street. Nancy Jackson commented that there needs to be cooperation between homeowners and the Town to assure safe access and egress. Chief White noted that parking and congestion is due to increase with the opening of the Yacht Club. It is a difficult problem in need of a solution, which is not readily apparent. Chief White did state that the primary persons to be able to assist are the general contractors for the various projects.

### **3. Items.**

#### **a. Town Administrator Job Description.**

Chair McGuckin reported that the Select Board has a draft job description, which still needs some input and revision. Selectman Stewart explained that the position's funding will be voted upon at Town Meeting on May 9. The proposed budgeted compensation for the position is \$40,000. If approved the funding will be available in the next fiscal year (July 1, 2017). The Select Board also reported that two citizen volunteers, Nancy Jackson and Laurie Chandler are reviewing town employees' job descriptions in order to enhance and development written job description and workflows for critical roles.

#### **b. Rodney Rowland- CLG for Historic District Commission.**

Chair of the HDC, Rodney Rowland seeks permission from the Board to apply for New Castle's HDC to become a CLG or Certified Local Government, enabling the HDC to access federal funds for a survey of the Historic District. By becoming a CLG, federal funds would be available to homeowners whose property is on the State Historic Register. Rodney spoke of other benefits, which include getting the word out about the HDC, and working collaboratively with the New Castle Historic Society. In response to a question from Selectman Stewart about whether there are any restrictions that would be binding on the Town should it become a CLG, Rodney replied no. After further discussion, Selectman Maher made a Motion to allow the HDC to apply to become a CLG. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

#### **c. Jim Cerny-Historic signage.**

Jim Cerny, in his capacity as both NCHS Board Member, and Member of Historic Signage Committee, as well as Town Historian, is seeking permission from the Board to erect certain signs in three areas and to approve of the proposed design.

The first sign to consider is to be located in the Ritson Street Right of Way, to the left side, closes to Brooks Kennedy's property. This is to commemorate the Tide Mills. Jim had spoken with Mr. Kennedy and Steve Tabbutt about having the sign be a removable one for purposes of winter snow plowing. Selectman Stewart expressed some concerns about the placement due to on going issues with the other abutter and DES problems. He also stated he preferred the design by Phineas Graphics, similar to the Walbach Tower and Frost Cemetery signs, as opposed to the lesser expensive mock sign that Jim also displayed. He also wanted to make certain that kayaks would still be able to launch from the area which actually is public right of way.

The second sign is in front of the NCHS Museum building, which is about the Tied Mill and dedicated to Bill Drew for placement of the millstone. The original sign needs to be replaced as it had the wrong date.

The third sign request is the Obelisk at the Common which originally listed all those lost at sea. The names are now all illegible, so NCHS proposes to have one or possibly two signs, replication the names, and a brief history.

Selectman Maher stated he was not opposed to any of the signs. Selectman Stewart requested that NCHS consult with the other abutter to the property with regard to placement of the Ritson Tide Mill sign.

Chief White asked if the Ritson Right of Way was in fact public, and Chair McGuckin stated it was.

After further discussion the Board agreed that NCHS should check with the abutter and come back to the Board. No specific agreement on the design of the signs was made. Jim noted that the Phineas Graphic signs would be in the range of \$1800 which is considerably more expensive than the design he presented which was preferred by the Sign Committee. It is expected he will discuss this with NCHS and come back to the Board.

**d. Fairpoint-licensing of pole petition.**

After review, the Select Board signed off on the agreement regarding licensing of poles and/or buried wire/conduit in the Town of New Castle. A copy of the petition and agreement is available for review at Town Hall.

**e. Poll duty for May 9 Town Meeting.**

Select Board Coverage is:

Selectman Stewart- Morning 9-12:30

Chair McGuckin – 12:30 to 3:30

Selectman Maher- 3:30 to close

**f. Sewer bypass update.**

Chair McGuckin reported that P.K. Brown, selected company for the sewer bypass work is scheduled to begin May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**g. Special Warrant Article for Fall Town Meeting.**

Chair McGuckin reported that upon advice from counsel, the Board will request permission from the Town at the end of Town Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, to hold a special fall meeting for the purposes of the water/sewer infrastructure warrant article consideration. This is a procedural request which must be done in order to proceed with petitioning the Court to hold such a meeting. It can be done by voice vote at the conclusion of the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**h. Bridge Project.**

Chair McGuckin stated that on May 4<sup>th</sup>, NH DOT is holding a public informational meeting on the New Castle-Rye Bridge Project. The meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Recreation Center. At that time they will present their proposed design for a fixed bridge to replace the Wentworth Bridge.

**i. Bill Grenier: easement for 81 Piscataqua Street: Tabled until next meeting.**

**j. Abigale Lane construction project.**

Rich Landry of 92 Abigale Lane, whose property abuts Wendy Poulin's, (complainant,) was present to explain the issues. He stated that the minor building permit issues should in fact have been a major building permit, as the civil engineer wrongly calculated the square footage of the project. Further, he alleged there were no adequate plans submitted. There was not enough information on how big the proposed addition actually was. He met with the Building Inspector who indicated he has requested certified plans. Mr. Landry believes there is a Zoning Ordinance violation. Mr. Landry, who is also on the Planning Board, explained what he perceived to be the Building Inspector's problem, in having to change the configurations. There is a need for full dimensional plans, which he has requested. Mr. Landry then questioned the Board as to what mechanism or recourse is in place for violations? He feels there is a problem with Code Enforcement. The Board acknowledged problems in the process but generally agreed that the Building Inspector is the first contact, and then, if no resolution, the Select Board is the entity to deal with enforcement issues. Selectman Stewart suggested that at the next Select Board Meeting, the topic of the building code enforcement process be placed on the agenda.

**4. New and Old Business.**

**a. Asset Management Planning Grant.**

Selectman Stewart explained why the Town is not accepting this grant at this time, which requires a 100% match, as it related to water issues which the Town is already dealing with.

**b. Portsmouth Discussions.**

Selectman Stewart reported that the Town has had good productive sessions with Portsmouth within the last two weeks, but still needs more information on segment costs and cost sharing. He reported that additional modeling needs to be done, and toward that end, New Castle has entered into a \$5,000 contract with Underwood Engineering to accomplish this goal. New Castle will pay the bill and be reimbursed for half of it by Portsmouth. Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the agreement with Portsmouth to fund an Engineer's Agreement with Underwood Engineering for \$5,000, to complete the required further modeling. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

**5. Committee Reports.**

**a. Police Dept.**

Pam Cullen requested permission to obtain and install a video security system for the Rec Building due to abuse of the entrance code and people being inside the building without permission. This would be a security camera which would provide video of activities within the building. He proposed two cost situations. After discussion the Board decided to put back the former signs and warnings to remind the public, prior to purchasing a video system.

**b. Sound system.**

Chair McGuckin reported that Leonard Seagren, who has been chairing the committee to find an adequate sound system for public events at the Rec Center, will be testing his proposed system at the upcoming May meeting for the New Castle/Rye Bridge Project.

**c. Ants at the New Castle Library.**

It was reported that ants are present at the New Castle Library, and Steve Tabbutt of Public Works has been notified.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Bette Jane Riordan

Note: As this was Chair McGuckin's last meeting as Select Board Member, refreshments were served..... A proper roasting will be done at Town Meeting where he will need to undergo a proper hail and farewell for his service to our Town.