

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, December 17, 2018 - 7PM

Present: Thomas Maher, Chair, Damon Frampton, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Ken McDonald, TAPC, Jim Cerny, Alan Gayer, John Ireland, Michael McAndrew, Sharon Griffin, Dave McGuckin, Brigette George, Jim Rini, Don Gough, Sam Page, and the Cutliffes.

1. Approve Minutes: December 3, 2018.: Deferred to January 7, 2019 meeting.

2. Public Question and Answer:

Chair Maher stated that for this portion of the agenda, as a general rule, members of the public should limit their comments to five minutes per speaker.

Mr. Alan Gayer spoke on behalf of the members of the Wentworth Homeowners Association regarding issues surrounding the increase in deer population, and the problems associated with this increase. He noted that deer behavior has changed dramatically and that behavior change has become an urgent problem. He stated there is no longer a fear of humans, citing instances of deer walking on decks, eating decorative plantings, pushing aside fences, and standing in roadways. The deer have become a health and safety hazard. There is also the broader issue of the need for the local ecosystem to get back in balance. Mr. Gayer stated the members of the Wentworth Association would like to volunteer in whatever way they can to resolve the current deer problems. Gail Maple talked about observing 35 deer coming over from one of the islands and also expressed concerned about Lyme's disease, as did Sam Page.

Pam Cullen spoke about her conversations with NH Fish and Game (Dan) regarding two articles she had been given regarding methods to control deer. Basically Dan told her the articles were a joke and did not provide any meaningful information to resolve the current issues in New Castle.

Rosalie Buxton stressed the seriousness of the Lyme's Disease threat, and encouraged the Town to come up with some kind of plan, in conjunction with the State and the Association.

Chair Maher then spoke to the history of Select Board involvement, which became primarily dealing with the problem of a rogue hunter of deer, as opposed to addressing the population issue. Selectman Frampton has been the point person, and what the Board has learned is that as a Town, we are not allowed to restrict hunting. They did ban hunting on Town owned property. Chair Maher stressed that the Select Board will work with the Association and the Wentworth Hotel, and hopes to work with Fish and Game, as public health is a concern as well as traffic safety.

Selectman Frampton reported he had spoken with a representative from Fish and Game who is willing to meet with residents. Damon stressed that this is a landowner issue, not a Town issue. He noted that most likely nothing can be done this winter, as Fish and Game

do not cull after the hunting season. Chair Maher also noted that the principal power in this situation is Fish and Game, and not the Town.

Jim Cerny updated the Select Board on the status of the deed signing regarding the gift of land to Riverside Cemetery.

3. New Business.

1. Avitar Associates: Ken McDonald

Chair Maher noted that Ken will continue to work With Josh from Avitar to obtain the best options for software and hardware to digitize all property records for the Town.

2. School Traffic Crossing light.

Ken reported that the service technician has looked at and inspected the lights which are now in good working order. The batteries are fine. As both weren't flashing at the same time, that was rectified so now the lights flash at 7:40 AM and 2:45 PM. Ken will continue to work with East Coast Signal and make sure there is regular maintenance schedule.

Ken is also planning to go the school to look at the road safety dummies which are stored at the school in an effort to obtain information for purchasing additional lighter ones. He will be working with New England Barricade Company. Dave McGuckin agreed to meet with the school principal to ask if the school would be willing to move them prior to a snow event.

With respect to painting on the ground near the crosswalks, Ken reported that after speaking with NH DOT, the painting will take pace in the Spring.

3. Update on Recreation Building.

Ken McDonald is getting estimates for the security camera replacement and purchase of an additional camera. The basketball hopes repair estimate is \$1300. The Board discussed the continuing problem of sharing the security code. Pam explained how Steve Tabbutt trains the users on how to raise and lower the basketball hoops. The Board will continue to work on these issues in conjunction with Pam and Steve and Chief White, so that residents can utilize the building and security is maintained.

4. Water & Sewer Update.

Selectman Frampton reported that the State DOT gave the go-ahead to begin boring which has in fact started. Chair Maher stated there will be a public informational meeting sometime on January to bring the public up to date, and answer any questions they may have.

At 7:53, Chair Maher made a Motion to go into Executive Session, which was seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried. The Board discussed a personnel matter, and came out of Executive Session at 7:58.

The Select Board resumed its Agenda:

5. Committee Reports:

Water & Sewer Commission:

Damon reported on the cost estimates for bulkhead and risers for River Road Pumping station. He reported the Commission is preparing for budget season and is working on a prioritization of capital projects. Chair Maher stressed the importance of putting money figures on the prioritization list.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 PM.