

Approved 7/24/06

Minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting of July 10, 2005

Present: Chairman Emily Creighton, Selectman Don Gould, Selectman Henry Marsh

Chairman Creighton called the meeting to order at 7 PM. She announced that Town Administrator Mike Pardue could not attend the meeting due to his father's illness.

Chairman Creighton announced the resignation of Charles Gordon from the Conservation Commission as well as from North Hampton Forever. She read his letter of resignation and thanked and praised Mr. Gordon for his many years of dedicated service to the Town. Mr. Gould also expressed gratitude for Mr. Gordon's many years of selfless service and noted that his legal skills greatly enhanced his contribution to the Conservation Commission as well as to North Hampton Forever. Chairman Creighton announced that the empty positions would be posted. Mr. Marsh expressed the hope that citizens who had lived in North Hampton for many years would apply.

Mr. J.G. Marine appeared before the Board to complain about a fence that his neighbor had constructed on her property, claiming that it was a safety hazard because it blocked the sight line when he was exiting his driveway onto Hillside Road. He presented photographs and a copy of RSA 236:16 which he claimed made the fence illegal. Road Commissioner Strout explained that he had viewed the site as well as Code Enforcement Officer Mabey and Chiefs Brian Page and Tom Lambert. He reported that all concurred that while Mr. Marine's sight line was restricted, there was a no public safety issue presented. Mr. Gould inquired whether he had spoken to his neighbor and Mr. Marine replied that he had not because he did not get along with her. Mr. Marine stated several times that he intended to hold the Town liable should there be an incident caused by the reduced sight line. After further discussion concerning the Town's ability to require removal of a fence on private property, Chairman Creighton stated that the Board would reply in writing to Mr. Marine's request for official Town action.

Mr. Marsh then provided a report on the status of the Old Town Hall Committee's activities. He stated that the N.H. Division of Historic Resources had designated the building as having historic importance with the result that it is listed as such on the official Register.

Mr. Marsh also provided an update on the CATV Committee, stating that only one person seems willing to volunteer to serve on the Committee.

He also provided a report on the status of the School Board's plans to install the new generator, stating that there would be a site walk this Thursday (July 13) to examine possible locations. He also pointed out that the Board will not take any action on the matter until late August when it is next scheduled to meet.

The Board next discussed the subject of monthly Department Head Briefings. Mr. Marsh moved to ask the Fire, Police, Highway, Code Enforcement and Recreation Department Heads to provide oral and/or written reports at the first meeting of each month. Mr. Gould Seconded. Unanimous. The Board agreed that if a Department Head is not available, a substitute may provide the report or a written report may be submitted.

The Board next disclosed the fact that a draft RFP for Fire Department Assessment Study is circulating and it was agreed that the RPF needs to be put in final form by the next meeting.

Mrs. Creighton read a letter sent by Janet Knowles thanking the Town (and particularly the Fire and Highway Departments) for all they have done to address the flooding issues on Birch and Woodknoll Roads. Mrs. Creighton stated that we are consulting with counsel concerning the Town's obligation to rectify the drainage problem. She reported that the Board had received an opinion from the Local Government Center that the Town had no liability due to the fact that the drainage pipe existed when Janet Knowles owned the current Little property. The Board is waiting for another opinion on the subject from Attorney Ciandella. Mr. Gould pointed out that there are also severe flooding problems at other locations in Town, citing the problems that several of his Fern Road neighbors are having.

Mrs. Creighton next disclosed that she had send a letter to the PUC on behalf of the Board seeking clarification of Aquarion Water Company's obligations to service and maintain fire hydrants. She summarized the content of the letter. Mr. Marsh moved and Mr. Gould seconded to ratify the Chair's transmittal of the letter on behalf of the Board. Unanimous. A copy of the letter will be attached to the minutes.

Mrs. Creighton noted that the Board's list of priorities will be deferred until the next meeting due to Mr. Pardue's absence.

Mr. Gould gave a brief report on the status of Acquarion's application to the PUC to authorize its acquisition by Mcquarrie of Australia.

Mrs. Creighton opened up the meeting to comments from the audience.

Mr. Chris Ganotis, Chair of the Conservation Commission, also thanked Mr. Gordon for his many years of loyal service and noted that there is also a vacancy for an alternate's position. Replying to Mr. Marsh's comments about the need for long time residents to serve on the Commission, Mr. Ganotis pointed out that 5 of the 7 current members are lifelong residents. In reply to a question from Mrs. Creighton, Mr. Ganotis pointed out that Mr. John Peterson is a resident of Little Boar's Head.

Upon motion of Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Gould, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 12, 2006 public and non-public sessions. Approval of the June 26 minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Mrs. Creighton noted that she had been informed that the books are now closed for fiscal year 05/06 and that approximately \$100,000 is being returned to the General Fund.

Mr. Robert O’Kane asked whether the Board had considered moving to a 5 person Board. Mrs. Creighton and Mr. Gould explained that the Board did consider that issue last year but decided not to advance it at that time, but that it was not a “dead issue.”

Mr. Dennis Kokernak inquired about the “Correspondence” item on the Agenda. Mrs. Creighton explained that due to Mr. Pardue’s absence, there was none tonight. Mr. Gould asked Mr. Kokernak if he was inquiring whether the Board had received his Citizens’ Petition for a Special Town Meeting in September and confirmed that the Board had that day received the Petition under cover of a letter from Attorney Loughlin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM upon motion of Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Gould. Unanimous.