

December 1, 2014

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2014**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimas
Craig Moran
Suzanne Kennedy, Interim Town Administrator

Mary Dowling was absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Service Announcements

M. Blanchard announced that the Police Chief wants everyone to be aware that the parking ban will be in effect between November 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015. Residents should not park on Town streets when it snows.

Citizens' Forum

Marilyn Desy asked why Ask the Selectmen (with residents calling in questions) had been discontinued. M. Blanchard said that there had been problems with that, and Town Counsel's opinion was that it would be better not to do that unless there was broadcasting ability for the calls, and the Town doesn't have the equipment to do that yet. P. Gimas said that not every caller wants to be identified.

M. Desy asked why property owners who live along Rt. 20 and Rt. 131 are required to shovel snow in front of their land. M. Blanchard said that there are always complaints about the state plowing after people have shoveled the sidewalk, pushing back the snow. She noted that clearing the sidewalk is the responsibility of the property owner. C. Moran said that elderly people have a difficult time shoveling.

Application for Taxi/Livery Driver License

Charles River Service, located at 2 Main Street (Eric Cassim) submitted an application for approval of a Taxi/Livery License for Mr. Matthew Turner. Chief Ford conducted the appropriate background check and recommended approval of the license for Mr. Turner.

MOTION: That the Board approve a Taxi/Livery License for Mr. Matthew Turner, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

Appointment to the Conservation Commission

The term of office for Conservation Commissioner Donna Grehl expired June 30, 2014 and, unfortunately, Mr. Suhoski did not have the opportunity to firm up the appointment process. Ms. Grehl was recently interviewed and has graciously accepted reappointment.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen reappoint Ms. Donna Grehl for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2014 as recommended by the Town Administrator, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

Acceptance of Resignation

Dispatcher Christine Brunelle informed the Police Chief of her resignation effective November 27, 2014 to assume a full-time dispatcher position in the Newton Police Department.

MOTION: That the Board accept the resignation of Dispatcher Christine Brunelle as presented by Police Chief Ford, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

Public Hearing Continuance of Logging Permit for 140 Fiske Hill Road; and Public Hearing Continuance of Logging Permit for 148 Fiske Hill Road

P. Gimas read the legal ad for 140 Fiske Hill Road into the record.

Anthony Grossi appeared before the Board. John Clark requested approval of a logging permit for 46 acres of land on 140 Fiske Hill Road, owned by Allworth, LLC. All filings have been submitted:

- Forest Cutting Plan
- Forest Cutting Certificate
- Sketch Plan of site with location of trees
- Abutters List

DPW Director Greg Morse had expressed concerns that because of pending Phase III paving of Fiske Hill Road, that hauling over new pavement would have a detrimental impact on Fiske Hill Road, and recommended that this matter be scheduled following the frost season. He further recommended that a \$5,000 road bond be submitted to the Town prior to the commencement of work.

It should be noted as well that Conservation Commissioner Joe Kowalski, Conservation Agent Glenn Colburn and State Forester Kate Marquis walked the Allworth property

(#140) and found that the cutting plan properly addressed wetlands issues in the harvest area; further, the Conservation Commission recommended approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 2, 2014.

Glenn Colburn appeared before the Board. He said that they had looked at the locations of wetland crossings, and noted that appropriate measures have been taken.

MOTION: To close the public hearing, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

MOTION: To approve the logging permit for 140 Fiske Hill Road, and to accept the recommendations of the DPW Director, with the following conditions:
That work be conducted Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to dusk; on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon; no Sunday or holiday hours;
To coordinate logging operations with the school bus schedule to avoid conflict;
That work not begin until the ground is frozen;
That a road maintenance bond of \$5,000 be submitted to the Town before the start of work;
That the DPW Director be notified before starting work, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran
Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

P. Gimas read the legal ad for 148 Fiske Hill Road into the record.

J. Kowalski and G. Colburn had walked the Smith property, presented their findings to the Conservation Commission and the Commission approved the plan at their October 2, 2014 meeting.

It should be noted that the abutters lists generated in October and November are identical, but for one abutter. Review of the maps for FY13 and FY14 indicated that as a result of a change in land assembly on 75 McGilpin Road, notification to 109A was required in the second round of abutter notification. As indicated in the "Time Line for Map Changes" prepared by Principal Assessor Ann Murphy, 109A became an abutter following the sale and reconfiguration of parcels located on 140 Fiske Hill Road. Maps used to establish the October 2014 abutters list did not reflect the changes in land assembly, since the updated maps were not received by the Assessor until November 13, 2014.

Also submitted to the Board was an excerpt from the DCR website titled "Forest Cutting Practices Act." The yellow highlighted section "The purpose of the notice of intent to abutters is to provide an opportunity for landowners to determine if boundary lines have been accurately marked; it is not an opportunity for comment on the operation itself."

MOTION: To close the public hearing, by P. Gimas.
2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

**MOTION: To approve the logging permit for 148 Fiske Hill Road, and to accept the recommendations of the DPW Director, with the following conditions:
That work be conducted Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to dusk; on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon; no Sunday or holiday hours;
To coordinate logging operations with the school bus schedule to avoid conflict;
That work not begin until the ground is frozen;
That a road maintenance bond of \$5,000 be submitted to the Town before the start of work;
That the DPW Director be notified before starting work, by P. Gimas.**

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

Approval of Harrington Hospital Occupational Health Services Agreement

S. Kennedy informed the Board that Chief Zinther and the Town Administrator have been working with Harrington Hospital to perfect this long standing contractual relationship with the Hospital for occupational health services. This contract has been exhaustively reviewed both by Town Counsel as well as the Hospital legal team. Previously, DPW, Police and Fire had separate arrangements with Harrington. Based on the recommendation of Chief Zinther, this contract consolidates the provision of health services into one contract for all three departments.

MOTION: That the Board approve the contract by and between the Town of Sturbridge and Harrington Hospital and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, by C. Moran.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

Veterans Municipal Service Application

The January 13, 2013 Special Town Meeting approved the provisions of MGL c. s 5N, known as the ***Veterans Municipal Services Program***. A copy of the program regulations was submitted to the Board. The applicant, Mr. Thomas Trapp, was seeking property tax relief as a qualified veteran. While he is unable to work because of a physical disability, senior aide Mr. Wayne Belles, who is also a veteran, has volunteered to work on his behalf so that Mr. Trapp will be able to obtain property tax relief.

MOTION: That the Board approve the application of Mr. Thomas Trapp to participate in the Veterans Municipal Services Program and further to authorize Mr. Wayne Belles to work on his behalf, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

Town Administrator Update

- **Acceptance of Land**

S. Kennedy noted that the Board had voted to approve the Stoneybrook parcels once before, but the Conservation Commission did not properly notarize the document; therefore, the process had to start over again. She asked the Board to sign the document.

MOTION: That the Board accept the conveyance of the Stoneybrook parcels and sign the acceptance document approved by the Conservation Commission, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

C. Moran asked whether there had been testing for pollution on the parcels. M. Blanchard said that the parcels had never been built on, so there is no pollution there.

- **Library Gutter Replacement Project**

S. Kennedy informed the Board that the engineer had said that some pertinent information was not submitted with the bids. The end date should be sometime in the spring.

Old Business

M. Blanchard announced that the Christmas Tree Lighting had been held on Friday, November 28th on the Town Common, and went very well. She noted that the Parks Department had put a lot of work into it, and everyone enjoyed it.

New Business

C. Moran said that a resident with medical issues had called him to express concern about snow removal practices. He suggested that Greg Morse, DPW Director, take a look at the issue. M. Blanchard said that Greg Morse was not amenable to the Town shoveling sidewalks. P. Gimas added that Town Meeting had voted on it. M. Blanchard said that the only exception would be for a large amount of snow; at the Town's direction, DPW will clear the sidewalks of snow.

M. Blanchard asked the Board if the Town should hold a special election to fill the vacancy from Mary Redetzke's resignation.

MOTION: That the Board not fill the vacancy at this time created by Mary Redetzke's resignation, and instead wait until the April election to fill the vacancy, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

S. Kennedy informed the Board that an Injured On Duty claim had been submitted for Gordon Holstrom, who had broken his ankle while on a mutual aid call to Brimfield.

MOTION: To accept the IOD claim for Gordon Holstrom, who was injured while on duty, by C. Moran.

2nd: P. Gimas

Vote: Three in favor; M. Dowling was absent.

C. Moran wished him a speedy recovery.

Citizens' Forum #2

Marilyn Desy said that the sidewalks are public property, so they should be cleared of snow by the Town. She expressed concern about liability. M. Blanchard said that information regarding liability could be sent to M. Desy.

MOTION: To convene in executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, §21a, #6: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property – 8 Brookfield Road; not to reconvene in open session, by P. Gimas.

2nd: C. Moran

Roll call vote: C. Moran in favor; P. Gimas in favor; M. Blanchard in favor.

The Board convened in executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date