

SUNAPEE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
6:30PM Town Office Meeting Room
Monday, February 9, 2015

Present: Fred Gallup Chairman, Suzanne Gottling Vice Chairman, Shane Hastings, and Donna Nashawaty, Town Manager
Absent: Joshua Trow and Emma Smith
Also Present: See Sign-in Sheet

Chairman Gallup opened the meeting at 6:30PM.

REVIEW OF ITEMS FOR SIGNATURE:

Motion to approve the following CZC's

Parcel ID: 0128-0038-0000 54 Garnet St. Kim & Scott Soucy

Parcel ID: 0104-0010-0000 11 Pleasant St. 350 Enterprises, LLC. (Clapp)

Parcel ID: 0235-0062-0000 50 Middlebrook Rd. Helmut & Renate Schmidt

Parcel ID: 0127-0009-0000 141 Lake Ave. Michael & Jackie Reddy

By Selectman Gottling, seconded by Selectman Hastings Unanimous

Motion to approve the following Sign Permit:

Parcel ID: 0211-0016-0000 1000 Route 11 High Pine Properties

By Selectman Hastings, seconded by Selectman Gottling Unanimous

Motion to approve the following Land Disturbance Bond:

Parcel ID: 0102-0002-0000 118 Palazzi Pond Rd. Otter Pond Yacht Club (Peel)

By Selectman Gottling, seconded by Selectman Hastings Unanimous

APPOINTMENTS

7:00PM-Conservation Commission-MT. Royal Academy

The Board received a letter from the Conservation Commission regarding their comments on the request from the Broom Family Foundation (Mt. Royal Academy) to purchase property from the Town of Sunapee located on Seven Hearths Lane, which is known as part of the "Dewey Woods". Van Webb he thought this issue had been resolved back in October of 2013 when Donna Nashawaty wrote a letter to the Dewey Family. The Broom Family Foundation contacted Chairman Gallup regarding an interest in the property. Chairman Gallup suggested that they send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting an appointment to discuss the possibilities. Van Webb, Chairman, and Tim Fleury, Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission reviewed the following points that were discussed at the last Conservation Commission meeting:

- 1) The Dewey Woods parcels were given to the Town and were to be used and managed for the public use and benefit as a public park and forest reserve forever. Clearly, the Dewey family felt strongly about recreational use of the land they donated, in correspondence received from members of the family. The Commission feels strongly that if there is a clear record of donor intent, and that intent is to preserve the parcel for use by the public, that wish must be respected.

- 2) It is important to consider the location of the parcels, maintaining the Town's rural character, and the pleasing open space associated with the drive into Town. The Town is in the enviable position of having that land permanently protected by the Dewey Family, open space that once lost to development, would change the character of the Town forever.
- 3) In 2004, the Town voted to include the Dewey Woods in the Town forest system, which received overwhelming support from the voters. To remove the properties from the Town Forest system would require another vote at Town meeting.

Mr. Webb stated that the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to oppose the sale of the Dewey Woods properties and strongly opposed any attempt to place an article on the Town warrant, which would call for the removal of the Dewey Woods parcels from the Town Forest system. For the record, Donna Nashawaty wanted it to be known that the letter was written in conjunction with the Town, Recreation, and the Conservation Commission to see what options might be out there. The people who did reply were not necessarily the direct descendants. The options never included buildings; it was only fields, which is why the Recreation Committee was involved. After some discussion, the Board agreed with the Conservation Commission. **Motion to direct the Town Manager to send a letter to the Broom Family Foundation thanking them for their interest, but at the present time, the Town is not interested in selling the properties by Selectman Gottling, seconded by Selectman Hastings. Unanimous**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

•Don Bettencourt directed his question to Van Webb. Mr. Bettencourt thought that the transaction would be like a swap, if Mount Royal wanted to buy the original size parcel without the state highway, elsewhere in town and swap that for this particular piece of Conservation land that is now isolated wouldn't it be a win-win situation where the original intent could be restored. Mr. Webb replied that you would want to answer the question, does the restriction in the "forest park forever" run with the deed, which is the piece that needs to be interpreted. If indeed, that runs with the deed, if you cannot develop it you are buying a piece of conservation easement property, then we would be glad to sell it to them, but they would own and manage conservation easement property, which has deed restrictions. Mr. Webb said you could make a swap; it would be very difficult to make an apple-to-apple transaction because you are going to evaluate the two (2) parcels and are they under conservation easements.

•John Augustine wanted to make a couple of comments. If the Board does not want to engage in discussions with the Broom Family regarding the Dewey properties or maybe if they are interested, the Board could discuss them buying the Old Abbott Library or Harbor House Livery. In addition, Mr. Augustine saw a grader doing work on Stagecoach Road, is that the Town's official grader? It looked like it was running good. Is this the same grader that died a year ago? Donna Nashawaty replied that three (3) trucks were down and it could have been the town's grader. Mr. Augustine will check with Ms. Nashawaty tomorrow. Chairman Gallup said that no one said the grader died, it just has some issues that could be major expenses for the Town. Lastly, he asked if the date been set for the Better Future Alliance quarterly update meeting? Ms. Nashawaty will look back to see if the meeting was set-up at the last update meeting.

•Charlene Osborne wondered that while something is being decided regarding the Old Abbott Library, could community people, such as the PTO, request to use the space for an event. Ms. Nashawaty replied that the trust states it must be used as a library. In addition, to save money, the building has been winterized.

•Don Bettencourt stated that at the Deliberative Session last week there was a very firm you may not comment on these issues, you just need to ask questions tone to it. Has it always been that way? Mr. Bettencourt thought it was a forum to discuss and give opinions on certain issues. Donna Nashawaty replied that even at old fashion Town meeting you had to speak to the subject and the question that was on the floor. Chairman Gallup also stated that the Moderator controls the meeting and sets the perimeters of the meeting. Mr. Bettencourt asked if he has the ability to be flexible and allow discussions. Chairman Gallup stated that he believes the Moderator has a certain amount of latitude, but it all revolves around the rules a Moderator must follow and Chairman Gallup is not familiar with the rules. Mr. Bettencourt stated he is just learning the process and his understanding is that the Selectboard looks at spending issues, is to get it to the voters to decide whether to spend the money or not. Mr. Bettencourt expected that there would be opportunity to discuss the issues. In addition, a couple of people have approached Mr. Bettencourt regarding the big difference in the proposed operating budget and the default budget. Can the Board give a short explanation of what would happen if the operating budget did not pass and it went to the default budget? Selectman Gottling replied everything the Town legally is obligated to pay have to be paid like; the bond payment for Perkins Pond and the loan payment for Abbott Library. Donna Nashawaty stated that there has not been a default budget here since the SB2 form of government came in. If the warrant article failed, which would make the default budget pass, at that point, the Selectmen would go back and ask the Town Manager and Department Heads what are their needs. The Selectmen are the authority for the bottom line for each one of the budgets. There would probably be another all-day budget session with all the Department Heads on what their needs were and what services would not be able to be provided.

•John Augustine noticed that Selectman Smith was not at the meeting tonight. At the last meeting Selectman Gottling, who is also Representative Gottling said she would introduce legislation in Concord if she were asked. Selectman Gottling corrected Mr. Augustine and stated that she said “she would consider it”. Mr. Augustine rephrased his question and asked if the Board was going to ask Selectman Gottling to consider that legislation be submitted. Is the Board going to make a motion to ask that such legislation be submitted? Chairman Gallup replied he had no intentions in asking Selectman Gottling to do that. Selectman Gottling replied she would talk to municipal and county folks, but all new legislation is has already been introduced. Selectman Gottling went on to say, that there is not another opportunity to introduce until next December and then it would not be acted on until the spring of 2016. Mr. Augustine stated that this was not right. Chairman Gallup replied that before Mr. Augustine went any further he wants him to understand:

- 1) that the Board members are volunteers
- 2) They do get a stipend and for what the Board does, it is a stipend.
- 3) Selectman Smith has been a loyal member of this Board for many years, she has her own personal problems at this point, and the Board is supportive of her as a person and her privacy as well as her life. If she could be here, she would be.

If she decides that she no longer wants to be or cannot be a Selectman she will take it upon herself to resign. Until such time, she comes up for reelection and the people of the Town decide that she is no longer someone they want to have in this position. Now, the Board is not going to ask her for her resignation or be concerned that she is not here. All the Board is going to do is hope her condition gets better and that she can rejoin as an active member of the Board. Chairman Gallup certainly hopes that the current members of the Board of Selectmen and the future Board of Selectmen would have the same respect for other members of the Board that may end up having the same issue. Chairman Gallup went on to say, that he hoped Mr. Augustine never ended up having to have some issues that might take you away from something that you had once desired to do.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The Board received and reviewed the end of month January Financial Reports and the end of year Financial Reports to date, which bills are still being posted to 2014 budget.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37PM
Submitted by,
Barbara Vaughn
Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____

Frederick Gallup, Chairman

Suzanne H. Gottling, Vice Chairman

Shane Hastings

Joshua Trow

Emma Smith