

Meeting minutes  
January 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman, Al Holman. Also in attendance were; Member, Richard Desjardins; Member, Sherry Berger; and Adm. Clerk, Diane Tiernan.

7:02 p.m., (out of order from agenda) Kelly McElreath and Mike Howell of the town hall renovation committee arrived to discuss town hall renovations. Kelly and Mike showed the renovations plans to the Board. They are hopeful that the cost for the renovations will be put on the May election. The majority of the costs of the renovations should be covered by CPC funds. Board stated that although the renovations were a positive move, they were concerned that the size of the BOH office was not really any larger than they are presently in. Kelly stated that it was the best they could provide at this point.

7:21 p.m. Kelly and Mike left.

**Motion one** – Richard made a motion to approve of the minutes to the previous meeting dated 12/8/11. Sherry seconded the motion and Al made it unanimous.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

7:24 p.m., Sadie and Steven Vanburen, Eric Gilmore and Carl Hultgren arrived to discuss renovations to 113 Mendon Street.

Steve stated that he contacted contractor, Eric Gilmore about helping them with a project to take down his present home and build them a new one. Richard asked if he spoke with the Historical Commission yet. Steve stated he had, they gave him permission to tear down his barn, and verbally said it was ok to take the house down, but he does not yet have it writing. Carl from Quinn Engineering showed the house plans to the Board. The existing house has 4 bedrooms as well as the proposed new one. They would like to keep the existing cesspool. A passing title 5 was completed nine years ago. Al stated he was not comfortable with leaving a cesspool in place. Title 5 does not allow cesspools for new construction. Carl stated that according to Title 5 regulations, this is not considered new construction and they would be allowed to keep the cesspool. Al stated when you sell it you're going to have to bring it up to date. Carl stated that right now, it's the same family that's going to be living there, the water usage will be the same, and they have town water, not well.

Richard stated if the cesspool is working and passes a title 5 inspection, they are the ones responsible if something needs to be replaced. The house is not going to an unsuspecting buyer. It either needs to be replaced now or later. Sadie stated she would rather it be later, that they will financially strapped to just re-build the house.

Sherry stated she agrees with Richard. It's the same family with the same requirements and usage. She would like to see another Title 5 inspection completed first before we give our approval. Al agreed as long as they have a passing title 5 inspection. Sadie and Steven will return with a title 5 inspection. Board will make a determination at that time.

7:42 p.m. Steven, Sadie, Eric and Carl left.

7:44 p.m. Christine Scott, Marcella Stacia, and Mike Penko of the Conservation Commission arrived.

Chris showed the Board the budget for the beavers from 2009 to present. They currently still have a balance but have to go to the end of June. They are requesting 8,000.00 for next year's budget. Richard asked about the dead trees at the Upton State Forest caused from the flooding. Chris stated the DCR maintains their own property, but if it's on town property, it's the town's responsibility to clean it up.

Chris asked if we were in agreement with the 8,000.00 for next year's budget. Board stated they were. Chris then asked how we coordinate expenditures. She stated the language that the BOH passed at the last meeting regarding expenditures from the account, was not feasible with the Con. Com.

Richard stated we would like communication between both boards by email when money is spent. Mike stated the problem is Con. Com and Blythe feels that there is no need for a concurrence from the boards, unless we get close to the spending limit of the budget. If we get too close to the bottom of the budget, then we need to have a discussion. We don't want either board to be able to veto expenditure. Al stated we agreed that the budget would be a joint budget. Mike agreed that for the first year, it was an article at a special town meeting for a joint expenditure. Since then it's been a Con. Com line item. Another board shouldn't have veto power. Al asked what was once a joint fund you now want complete control over. Chris stated no, they don't want control but they want the ability to spend as we need to. Al stated if it's a joint fund, then we need to understand what's being spent. Chris stated a \$500.00 limit is prohibitive.

Sherry stated she doesn't like getting caught off guard, we find out you spent the money and need more, there was no communication. Mike stated he totally agrees. Sherry stated she understands this is the only time it's happened, but we just want to know from now on. Marcia stated communication is a given, it hasn't happened so far. As we work through the fund, when it gets below a certain amount, we need to have a discussion. Mike suggested if the account drops below \$2000.00, then each board has the ability to question. Lets us do what we need to do and you do what you need to do.

Mike also discussed a large ticket item for a berm that is needed, and he is trying to get financial assistance from the state for it. Board stated they should add the BOH's name to the letter of request.

Richard suggested the Chairs of both boards must discuss any expenditure over \$1000.00. Mike stated he has a problem with that. He would prefer to set a red line where when we get into a danger number, then we need to communicate. Richard stated there needs to be records of everything. We can go to our own budget for beavers if we need too. All we want is a little bit of control. Al stated he is willing to move to a middle position of \$1,000.00 or over requires both Chairs to agree. Mike stated the big ticket items are their job. Al stated it's a joint fund. It's justification for the article, the voters voted on

a joint fund. Mike stated they will take this information back to the commission and see what everyone says, they do not have a quorum present.

Mike discussed with the Board the method of issuing beaver permits. He reminded the Board that any breaching of a dam requires paperwork from the Con. Com. It's important that those regulations are followed.

8:36p.m., Chris, Mike and Marcella left.

An installer's permit was signed for Marble Mainini.

A d-box repair permit for DiGiando, 5 Picadilly Street was reviewed and signed.

Board reviewed the town report for 2011.

**Motion two** – Richard made a motion to approve of the 2011 town report. Sherry seconded the motion and Al made it unanimous.

Board reviewed and approved the 2013 budget.

**Motion three** – Richard made a motion to approve of the 2013 budget. Sherry seconded the motion and Al made it unanimous.

Clerk will submit it to the Finance Committee.

A septic design for 181 Westboro Road, Murphy was reviewed.

**Motion four** - Richard made a motion to approve of the septic design. Sherry seconded the motion and Al made it unanimous.

**Motion five** - 9:00 pm. Richard made a motion to adjourn and Sherry seconded the motion. Al made the motion unanimous. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Tiernan, Adm. Clerk