

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOVEMBER 23, 2020

MEMORIAL BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Board.

The meeting was called to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Select Board Present: Tamara Butcher, Chairwoman, Dick Hendl and George McCusker.

Others present in the room: Jim Bednar, and Whit Smith. There were no ZOOM viewers.

Springfield Historical Society: Jim Bednar reported when Tom Duling passed, the family suggested memorial contributions be made to the historical society for the lift project. Donations were received in the amount of \$1,700.00. Board members agreed the checks should be handed to the town in support of future expenses of the lift. The Select Board agreed to accept the donation. Janet will investigate the best account for the money to be deposited.

Brandt and Donna Denniston, and Alice Nulsen have retired after serving for many years on the Historical Society Board. With the passing of Janet LeBrecht, the Board membership has recently undergone some changes.

President – Jim Bednar; Vice-President – Pixie Hill; Secretary – Greg Bruss; Treasurer – Angela MacCreighton. Board members are Trudy Heath and Poul Heilmann.

They recently had a consultant in to assess the collection at the museum and in the library. She was impressed with the collection in Springfield but knowing that there are other places that have these collections Springfield does not need to have them.

The recommendation also was that the carpet be removed from the museum, installation of new led lighting to replace the fluorescent lighting, and shades for the windows. The Board is a dedicated group and believe there are a lot of things they can do themselves. Yesterday, a group wen and took out the carpet unfortunately mold, and water has gotten into it and destroyed the rubber backing so it decomposed and stuck on the wood. In one room the padding was stapled randomly to the floor. The floor is warping in several places and is dangerous. They now can see it, it is not soft wood, it is just warped. They need to find a flooring expert to find out the best approach to dealing with it. That is probably the number one project. They are thinking of renting a container to put the collections into so it does not get all covered with dust and debris and then it can be sorted and brought back in. He is not asking for money they understand they are a tenant, and the building is owned by the town.

Their intention is to focus on increasing the membership, providing more educational talks. They did hold a public talk limiting the amount of people in attendance. People afterwards were thankful to be able to attend something in person. They will continue with lectures. They plan to do fundraising with the Ramble Round the Lake, the Rubber Duck Race, and some suppers or Sip A Soups and things like that. Many of the people on the Board were involved with the 250th and do not lack ideas. One of the new ideas that seems to have some traction is to build a shed

next to the historical society so the farm implements can be put there, giving more space in the school house for other things. They already have one person suggest he has a lot of pine trees he would like to donate and have the wood made for Springfield trees. They have an idea for a “barn raising” type event. They are hoping the Board will attend some of the things they do and give support and moral support. There might be sometimes they may ask for a budget for small things or repairs on the building, but they will try to do as much fundraising as they can themselves.

Tamara thanked Jim for his presentation and stated these are huge changes for the Historical Society. George asked if there was any support from the Board to put some money in the budget next year for the Historical Society. Dick stated he would like to see more of a developed plan before that takes place. Tamara agrees.

Dick asked if there is an effort to upgrade the building, is there an opportunity to make the museum more available to folks. Jim stated the issues are volunteers and not enough people that can do it more than just on Saturdays, and that is a goal. They hope to be able to expand the house and serve the community in a broader way.

Whit reported Janet had responded to an inquiry from Mr. Erickson regarding development on part of a large piece of land and what can stay in current use, and what is needed for permitting.

Ty Morris has paid the fee for the after the fact deck application. Whit had an inquiry whether a fence is needed for a swimming pool. It has been a quiet two weeks. Yankee Barn Homes has applied for three homes on Winding Wood Road. Dick asked since the Town has advertised other lots on Winding Wood available, he wondered if Whit had heard anything about any other interest. Whit has not, other than there was one lot with abutter interest. George asked if Whit had heard of any construction happening on Oak Hill as he heard a couple of the lots recently sold with high-end homes proposed. Whit had not heard that either.

Whit stated he had driven by the construction on Hogg Hill Road to look at setback distances. He did not get out and measure. Janet asked if he had checked measurements on the Main Street construction. He has not but will at some point. Tamara noted concerns about how additional parking needs for guests, etc. will be addressed there. Whit asked if there were any updates about parking for Hoptimystic. Tamara stated she has not heard anything. They are due to come back at some point to amend their Site Plan Review. Whit stated theirs is a wonderful example of an idea taking off beyond what the owners may have imagined. It is a popular business.

Tamara stated she received a complaint about a property on Route 4A with construction taking place on the lot. There appears to be a building, deck and shed. Tamara sent a letter to the owner (Linda Harper) with a Zoning Permit application. Whit will go look at some point.

Minutes of November 9 and 12, 2020: Dick moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Tamara reached out to someone about upgrading the lighting at the highway garage/fire station and she has been given the name of someone at Eversource. She will reach out to see what there is out there to maybe help with additional fixtures outside, and replacement of the fluorescent with LED lighting. Whit stated there are many programs out there. Dick said if there is a reasonable price for interior lighting, maybe there would be a package deal to do the historical society and town office too.

The Board discussed the rental payments from Swift Ambulance are a bit behind. Tamara has tried calling a couple of phone numbers she has and has gotten no response. She has reached out to Chief Lacaille. He will be reaching out as well.

Dick stated the shed on the lakeshore has been removed from the lakeshore on Mr. Brunelle's property. The Board does not know where it went. Dick stated until the Board is convinced that it no longer resides in Springfield, the court order is not going to get removed until we know where it went. If it is in Springfield, it needs a zoning permit, which is part of the two-part court order.

Whit stated as a reminder to the Board of Selectmen, he has adopted the position consistently, that if someone does have a "bona-fide" bob house dragged out onto the ice the winter time, and taken off when DES requires, and stored on property without a permit because it is sort of equipment used for ice fishing. He did not feel the situation at the Brunelle property was a bob house.

New Business:

Selectmen schedule for December: The 14th of December is the date of the deeded property sale. The office is closed December 24, 28 and 31.

The Board discussed holding a date for having a budget review. The Board agreed to meet on December 21st at 4:00 for a preliminary review of budget line items they oversee, and to review if there are any needs for encumbering funds. There will be no meeting on December 28th.

December meetings of the Select Board will be December 14th and December 21st @ 4:00 p.m.

Board and Department Updates:

George reported Peter has finished fall prep on the roads with the leaf blower. He was supposed to meet about paving on Hogg Hill but has had some difficulty with someone showing up. He also has had a problem getting a spreader chain for the newest truck. He may have come up with an alternative plan.

Dick stated the Library Trustees postponed their meeting to the first Thursday in December due to Thanksgiving.

Correspondence:

Janet had shared an e-mail from Ed Shank, President of the Mascoma Valley Snow Travelers regarding a chain that is blocking the Class VI road that runs from the end of Sanborn Hill Road to Deer Hill.

Signatures: Tax Collector Abatement and Timber Yield Assessment.

At 4:47 p.m. Dick moved to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A3:II (a)., seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

The Board moved back to public session at 5:10 p.m. A motion was made by Dick to seal the minutes, seconded by Tamara. Dick, Tamara, and George all voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant