

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 14, 2022

MEMORIAL BUILDING

4:30 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Selectmen present: Dick Hendl, Amy Lewis and Poul Heilmann

Others: Whit Smith, Pete Lacaillade, Lydia Sarnevitz

Telephone: Virginia and Bob Harriet

Dick and Amy officially welcomed Poul Heilmann to the Board as our third selectmen.

Scheduled Appointments:

Pete Lacaillade and Lydia Sarnevitz came before the board to explain another grant they would like authorization to apply for. There is a 90/10 grant available through the state for EMS equipment. Lydia explained this is an up to \$50,000 grant. This is a matching grant, and the match is only 10%. Pete and Lydia have done a run down of equipment that is needed; three onsite fixed location AEDs in the town office building, one in the old town hall, and possibly two more portable AEDs for the cruisers. They are also due for a Life Pack and would like to include a Stryker stair chair as well as a LUCAS. This grant would allow them to purchase these pieces of equipment. Dick offered his points of contact he has used for the GOFERRS office.

Dick made a motion to authorize the Fire Department to apply for the grant for the various pieces of equipment that were outlined; also added to that is the authority for Lydia Sarnevitz and Patrick Zullo, from the fire department and police department respectively, to sign any of these forms. The motion was seconded by Poul. Dick, Amy and Poul voted in favor of the motion.

Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, March 14, 2022.

Application for Permit – APPROVED

None.

Other Matters.

A. Inquiry regarding conversion of barn/garage into living space (Oak Hill)

B. Prep narrative and review checklist for Special Exception application to be used in connection with short-term rental of guest facilities (business). Follow-up email with various parties regarding process. Prep outline of process for consideration by Zoning Board and Planning Board.

C. Additional time addressing Right to Know Request (NH RSA 91-A); Complete assembly of materials in response to the request. (Handley/McKelvy) Forward to Hendl for review and submit to town counsel.

D. Inquiry from Historical Society representative (Bednar) regarding new concern from abutting neighbor with respect to building barn/shed (no utilities) next to Historical Society Museum. Previously considered with Special Exception granted by ZBA.

E. Historical Society is ready to process Zoning Permit for Barn/Shed in item D above. To be discussed at Select Board meeting. (Town is owner of the parcel. Special Exception was obtained because Historical Society activity is “non-governmental use.”)

F. Inquiry from property owner regarding enforcement actions in connection with dog kennel on Hogg Hill. Referred property owner to Select Board.

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Whit will be meeting with Mr. Biebel this week to file his application for a special exception.

Whit thinks it would be good for the Board of Selectmen to make it known that there is good training for Zoning Board of Adjustment members offered by the state. Every now and then a refresher course is a good idea.

Whit mentioned he is starting to get inquiries regarding second-dwelling living accommodations.

Whit spent a bit of additional time on the Right to Know request. He is done with now and just waiting to hear back. There has not been a response from attorney Fillmore yet. Dick will touch base with attorney Fillmore tomorrow.

Whit was approached by Gene Hayes at the Town Meeting; Gene is wondering about enforcement for the dog kennel on Hogg Hill. In Gene’s opinion the business is continuing, and the barking is a problem. Gene also contacted Dick on Friday. Dick has the copy of the judge’s decision that he will read closely before calling attorney Fillmore. Gene did not mention the barking to Dick until he was asked on Saturday. We have not received a complaint from anyone in that area in months. Dick has looked up the kennels website which is showing a copyright date of 2021; it is clear that there is a business. Dick said at this point there is nothing we can do without legal advice first.

Whit has started to standardize his characterization of what is going on and is referring to it as a short-term rental of guest facilities which qualifies as a business requiring a special exception and the site plan. This covers a lot of the questions and addresses some of the objections we can anticipate; A, this is a residential activity, which it is not; B, the zoning ordinance does not address this, which it does. Overnight lodging is something that requires a special exception; it is a permitted use in the town provided you have a special exception. There is no prohibition for

it, but you are required to get a special exception because you are conducting a business in a rural residential zone.

Minutes of February 28, 2022:

Dick made a motion to accept the minutes of February 28th as written. The motion was seconded by Amy. Dick, Amy and Poul voted in favor of the motion.

Court Status:

There is no new court status to report on.

Unfinished Business:

Amy will contact Katie Lavelle at Certified Computers tomorrow.

Dick has spoken with Dan Saulnier about an engineer to work with Josh Stevens. Dan is still trying to determine if there is anyone in his company that would take it on, if not he will provide a couple of names in the local area to contact.

Dick is still waiting for his approval through the sam.gov website. Tamara will look into that tomorrow.

New Business:

Tamara announced that fiber is now running into the town office building. There is not a spot at the box for us, he needs to do some rearranging down there to make room for us. Once the ONT is put in place all we have to do is disconnect WiValley and connect to the new box.

Sargent Zullo spoke with Dick about an opportunity to acquire another part time police officer. The reason for this is that officer Julian has occasional conflicts. Having a second part time officer would provide coverage on those occasions. Poul made a motion that we authorize Pat to go continue negotiations with this individual for the part time police officer position to fill in when necessary. The motion was seconded by Amy. Poul, Amy and Dick voted in favor of the motion.

Tamara provided the house numbering policy; the Fire Department's concern is that it doesn't mention that the numbers should be reflective. Tamara pointed out that in 2012 there was an amendment to the policy that included fees for not complying. The Board agrees that having reflective numbers would be a good idea. Amy made a motion to amend town ordinance 96-01 to require reflective house numbers as described in the ordinance. Compliance shall be by September 30, 2022. Penalties for failure to follow will be assessed per amendment 01 dated June 11, 2012. The motion was seconded by Dick. Amy, Dick and Poul voted in favor of the motion.

Virginia Harriet called in with her husband Bob to discuss the letter received regarding their property on Stoney Brook Road. This is a property they've owned for over forty years. Bob Harriet proceeded to explain their properties rental situation, which is that they rent exclusively

to friends and family. Dick asked about their registered Harriet Cabin LLC, with the purpose of ownership, improvement, development of rental and rental of real property. Dick asked if this is still a current description of the purposes of the LLC. Bob said that it is part of the story. The LLC was formed as a part of his mother's estate settlement. As part of taking the ownership of the property, and their son having a minority interest in it, it was decided the best way to handle that was an LLC. The Harriet's do not advertise and only rent to people they know. There are established rates and there is a maximum of 8 guests allowed at one time; they do not collect rooms and meals tax. The Harriet's do have a property manager that handles the calendar of rentals and the opening and closing of the cabin each year. The Harriet's use the cabin about four weeks out of the year. The Board thanked the Harriet's for the information they provided.

Taking all the information provided into consideration there was a discussion amongst the Board on whether they felt this is a business or not. Dick made a motion to declare the Harriet Cabin LLC a business in the Town of Springfield subject to the requirements of the zoning ordinance. The motion was seconded by Poul. Dick, Poul and Amy voted in favor of the motion.

Whit will draft an email to the Harriet's and run it by the selectmen for approval before sending it along.

Board and Department Updates:

Amy announced that the pancake breakfast on Sunday was very successful. The winner of the 50/50 raffle donated the funds back to the fire department.

Amy made a motion for Dick Hendl to continue as Chairman of the Selectboard. The motion was seconded by Poul. Amy, Poul and Dick voted in favor of the motion.

Dick made a motion that Amy will remain Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Poul. Dick, Amy and Poul voted in favor of the motion. The Selectboard then chose their individual board assignments.

Correspondence and Signatures:

Report on Star Lake Dam inspection.

Annual Facility report from the transfer station.

Application from Warren George who is interested in mowing the lawns for the cemetery and town building lawns, along with the ball field this summer. Salary was not discussed yet. Dick asked if he might be interested in shoveling the steps and handicap ramp at the town office, library and meeting house. Tamara will ask him the next time she sees him. The Board agrees it would be a good idea to have someone dedicated to taking care of the meetinghouse (only when open) and town office/library steps and ramps.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Jill Hastings

Deputy Administrative Assistant