

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEMORIAL BUILDING

April 24, 2023
4:30 P.M.

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

Selectmen Present: Poul Heilmann, Chairman ; Amy Lewis, Vice Chair; Jeremiah Crosby

Others: Jen Roberts, Peter Lacaillade Fire Chief, Pamela Drewniak, Dick Hendl, Chris Smith, Lydia Sarnevitz, Bill Wood NHBEMS, Justin Romanello EMS Bureau Chief, James Markarian, Don Hill, Tim Bray, Whit Smith, Jim Bednar, Steve Dzubak, Jim Yager and Ken Jacques

Scheduled Appointments:

HeartSafe Award Presentation from NH Fire and EMS Academy:

Bill Wood the Preparedness, Special Projects and AED Coordinator at the NH Bureau of EMS along with Justin Romanello the EMS Bureau Chief presented Springfield Fire Department Chief Pete Lacaillade with the NH HeartSafe Community designation for the town of Springfield. Springfield is the 41st municipality in New Hampshire to receive this designation. Bill Wood commended the town of Springfield and the Springfield Fire Department and EMS for their efforts and commitment. Justin Romanello reiterated what Bill Wood said. The more trained personnel in communities the better chance of survival in emergency situations.

Chief Pete Lacaillade stated Lydia Sarnevitz has done a lot to push this forward. This all started with Lars Mester. After Lars' passing Lydia kept running with it. We now have the AEDs throughout the town. There was a lot of hard work by everyone involved. With the classes done in town they believe around 40 people became CPR certified. This included teenagers as well as adults. Lydia added that they are also certified in Stop the Bleed. Lydia said these classes will continue, allowing more people to be certified. New London Hospital was also commended for being part of these community efforts as well. Chief Lacaillade accepted the designation of being a NH HeartSafe Community on behalf of Springfield and the Fire Department and the town of Springfield.

Pam Drewniak, the EMS coordinator for this area, acknowledged that this was a team effort and stated Springfield and New London are the only two towns in the area that have this designation, and that is directly thanks to Chris Smith and Lydia Sarnevitz. New London Hospital presented a Challenge Coin to Chris Smith and an EMS coin to Lydia Sarnevitz; they were thanked for their efforts.

Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, April 24, 2023.

Application for Permit – APPROVED

None.

1. Town of Springfield (Historical Society) (a) to build 3' x 10' lean-to storage structure on the back of new tool shed/barn. (b) to build brick "patio" in front of new tool shed/barn 10' x 16' with encroachment into front setback; and (c) to construct to walkways (permit required for walkway greater than 100 sq.ft.) and steps from the Museum area down to the Town Meeting House. Special Exception from ZBA is the next step.

Other Matters.

A. Visit with owner of property on Georges Mills Rd in response to concern raised by Town Clerk

B. Research for Selectman Crosby and Planning Board regarding RSA 91A requirements.

C. Inquiry from owner (Handley) regarding site plan review for STR business.

D. Attended Planning Board meeting. (1. Hansen Boat Storage; 2. Inquiry regarding build on parcels in Forest Conservation district; 3. Biebel consultation; 4. Aucoin/Ruppel consultation; and 5. amendments to site plan review regulations)

E. Meeting with owner of cottage on Stoney Brook Rd in preparation for STR site plan review.

F. Review DRAFT of amended regs for Site Plan Review as requested by PB Chair (incorporation of rules pertaining to STR site plan review as suggested by Town Counsel). Research appropriate language regarding "pedestrian access" for site plan review regulation.

<< April 23, 2023 >>

The Planning Board is in the process of amending its site plan review regulations. There will be a notice published in the immediate future; they are planning to have a public hearing at the regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting on the 18th of May at 7pm. The primary amendments to the site plan review regulations have to do with rules that have been vetted and discussed in connection with considering site plans for short term rentals/guest facilities businesses.

Mr. Hansen's boat storage facility was approved for site plan at the last Planning Board meeting. However, Mr. Hansen has changed his mind on the size with respect to the additional shed for the wood processing business. That is back on the docket for the May planning board meeting.

Minutes of April 10, 2023:

Page 3:

~~Whit received an email from the town clerk regarding~~ *was notified about* activity at 561 Georges Mills Road.

Page 4:

We have received our first road agent resume. Poul stated to aim for May 1st 15th on the ending date for application submissions.

Page 5:

Tamara said the situation that happened on Four Corners Road was ~~that they a~~ failed the system, ~~they~~ moved the system and enlarged it.

Page 6:

Ian MacMillan presented a second grant for updating the Hazzard Mitigation Plan which was last done in 2013.

Tamara informed Whit that Tanner is already in contact with attorney ~~Fillmore~~ Johnston.

Page 8:

Tamara has been in touch with attorney ~~Fillmore~~ Johnston and the next step is to do a bill of interpleader; that is currently being worked on.

Amy made a motion to accept the minutes of April 10, 2023 as amended. The motion was seconded by Jeremiah. Amy, Jeremiah and Poul voted in favor of the motion.

Court Status:

No updates to report.

Unfinished Business:

Jeremiah has spoken with Nicholas Balderas from Spohn Ranch Skateparks. He is familiar with the skatepark in Springfield and has built ones similar. Jeremiah was informed that the only special materials needed would be the surface materials and screws needed to secure that; all other materials could be picked up at lumber store. Poul added that one of the challenges we need to be aware of is the liability aspect of it. In researching that, Jeremiah has found that a licensed insured framer can repair those ramps. Jeremiah also verified with Spohn Ranch, which is a nationwide company, that any qualified framer can do the repairs, and can install the surface material. Jeremiah is waiting to hear from a local framer, Cold Pond Builders out of New London, who said they would be willing to look at it. Jeremiah believes none of the framing is bad, it's just the exterior repairs.

Once Jeremiah gets a quote of what it could potentially cost to have the repairs done then the Board can determine what to do going forward. Don Hill stated that it looks like there are objects there that were not part of the original skatepark. There have been miniature basketball hoops for kids that get left, and it keeps happening. As a liability issue, if we allow people to leave items there the town becomes responsible for what they do with it. Jeremiah informed Cold Pond Builders that the small ramp that is currently on the ground does not belong to the town and shouldn't be included in the quote. Poul's suggestion, as Jeremiah moves forward, is that we fix what we have and in addition refurbish what was damaged. That was Jeremiah's thinking and is how he proposed it.

Jen Roberts remembers, from a past meeting, the issue of insurance being discussed when it came to repairs being done to the ramps; that repairs may have been required to be done by a company like Spohn Ranch. Jeremiah was unable to find anything anywhere that says repairs of this type need to be done by someone who specializes in skatepark ramps; there is no such person. Tamara will contact the insurance company tomorrow to see if there are any repair requirements on their end.

Amy received a letter from Perry Hodges, president of the Baptist Pond Trust. Perry was following up on an inquiry she made in January regarding a small lot that was absorbed by the town. Perry is wondering if the town has any plans for that lot because she is interested in it. Whit added that there is another property owner over there interested in that property as well. Poul feels we need to communicate with Perry, find out who else is interested and then determine what the town wants to do for potential buyers. The other option being for the town to maintain it and put a boat ramp there in support of our community. Tamara commented as a resident, stating it would be a good idea for the town to consider holding on to that property because the same thing that happened at Dutchman Pond can happen there; there is no public access to Dutchman Pond for any Springfield resident if you do not live around the pond. The Board will vet out all the options and the unintended consequences.

Neither the Board nor Tamara has received a response from Mr. Lindquist. Tamara will send a second letter to Mr. Lindquist's attorney asking for a response by June 1st.

There are no updates on the proposed noise ordinance. Poul will attend the next Planning Board meeting where they will all discuss where to go from here.

Poul informed Jim Yager that a response from the town's attorney was sent to his attorney last Thursday. Jim added that his issue is not with the tax maps, those are fine. Jim stated the main issue is a matter of title, who owns what, who has title to what, which is explained in the letter from his attorney. Mr. Yager is looking for clarity on that. Tamara will meet with Jim and Tim Bray, chairman of the Planning Board, Tuesday at 1pm to work through exactly what Jim is looking to clarify.

Copies of the roles and responsibilities of the Health Officer were disbursed to the Board members for their review and will be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting. After Tim Bray's background check is complete and he is officially the town's new Health Officer the first item of business will be amending the requirements for septic system approval, to include failed systems in addition to new systems.

Jen Roberts added that the septic system discussed at the last Board meeting has not been approved yet by the state inspector; the septic system wasn't covered or fully completed at the last meeting. To clarify, Jen asked if the decision was made to not do anything about it and let it go with how the installer installed a system that wasn't done properly. Will the installer be held responsible or will the town use this as a learning experience. Poul explained the problem is that there is a gap in the reporting requirements, and anyone can say they are just replacing a system.

The town currently doesn't have any rules and regulations about a replacement system. The hope, as we move forward, is that we include replacements and new systems as being required for the town to get involved. The fact that they were deceptive or believed it was the better route for them to get the system in is a failure in our structure. We are trying to fix that as we go. So yes, the town will learn from this situation.

Jen Roberts' concern is that there should be fair and equal handling of all things in town; there have been situations where local people have been held to a different standard, which is bothersome. Poul will follow up with attorney Johnston to see if there is anything the town can do in this situation. Jen contacted DHHS to ask clarifying questions regarding the situation and they said her point of contact should be the local health officer, which is at a transition point at the moment. Jeremiah commented that this is not the first time in the last six months that he's been made aware of, that DHHS has pushed certain things directly to the local health officers. In reading the health officer role there are some things with DHHS and RSA128 that aren't necessarily spelled out. However, DHHS has another document they put out that goes more specifically into RSA128 and 147 that add additional roles to the health officers. Jeremiah feels we have to be careful about that.

Poul asked the other Board members to look at the Building Maintenance Committee proposed structure and be prepared to review at the next meeting.

Tamara has received one more application for the road agent position. The cut-off for applications is May 15th. The Board would like the ad to run one more time in the Valley News.

New Business:

Jeremiah was approached with a grant called Safe Streets that the town may be eligible for. The grant is specifically geared toward safety items. Jeremiah read a recent email he wrote regarding some safety concerns he has. With an increase in traffic in town he believes that with cooperation from NHDOT and the town the worsening traffic can be dealt with. Specifically, the increase in tractor trailers now coming through town to access Kennebec over on Rte. 4A. The Chief has already fined one truck driver \$1,000 for using Bowman Road. Jeremiah stated these trucks get off exit 12A and has seen them cut hard to make the turn on to Four Corners Road several times over the past few weeks. Jeremiah feels a turning lane at this intersection or some kind of signage to re-direct tractor trailers coming in to the area would be beneficial. Another issue Jeremiah has noticed, and has been brought up to him, is signage for the Fire Station. We have no signage that states the entrance and exit for fire equipment coming and going. This issue could be solved by possibly adding a warning light.

Safe Streets is a federal grant that would give the town monies towards achieving these improvements. Jeremiah thinks working hand in hand with the state to get these things fixed would be beneficial for the town. Including, a cross walk in the area from the post office to the rec field. There are other high traffic areas on Rte. 114 that Jeremiah could see pushing a turning lane onto certain roads to help with the increase in traffic. These areas are things Jeremiah thinks the town should explore in depth. Jeremiah believes this is a 100% grant. Poul said reading

through he thinks the objective of this grant is to eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Based on a quick review with the police department we have not had any fatal accidents since 2003. Poul added if we were going to move forward on any of this, we would need to have data that supports the immediate need for it. Poul also included that all the roads Jeremiah commented on, the majority of them are state roads, meaning we would have to work hand in hand with them. Jeremiah feels we should further investigate and push the DOT to get some of these things fixed. Jeremiah added this specific grant was brought to him from another road agent. Poul said that is a challenge we have right now, we are in a transfer of road agent, and good road agent would alert us to what the opportunities are and lead the road to getting attention from NHDOT. Jeremiah agreed, but stated we don't have that right now so he is bringing forward this opportunity, which doesn't have to be done right now. This could also be brought up to the road agent as we go.

To clarify, Jen Roberts asked if the turning lane Jeremiah was referring to was off Rte. 114 on to Four Corners Road coming from the South; Jeremiah confirmed that was correct. Whit, to summarize that the concern Jeremiah is addressing is the hairpin turn on to Four Corners Road coming from Rte. 114 from the South. Jeremiah thinks trucks are being discouraged to go down 4A from the direction of Enfield. Ken Jacques encourages the Selectmen to make themselves very familiar with the master plan and very familiar with the two surveys that went into creating the master plan and what type of character of town the residents of Springfield want. Ken feels that with a discussion with Enfield DOT you could probably identify a way of not allowing a right-hand turn on to Four Corners Road from Rte 114 coming from the South. Ken added that the crosswalk won't go in on a state road without a streetlight. A lot of these items are not as clear cut as some might be hoping. Jeremiah stated his goal was to start a conversation because there are issues, and that is what he has achieved. Ken feels if the Selectmen decided to go this route, they could anticipate a spirited public hearing with the people in town.

Amy feels the Board needs to review the master plan and if adjustments need to be made that will be a committee to be established. In addition, we need to find out what is going through town, where is the need, where do you see these trucks. The input of the police department would also be beneficial. James Markarian, a new property owner in town, shared his view on working with federal grants which concluded to be they are not as clear cut as some believe. Mr. Markarian does not suggest going federal if there is a local solution to the problem. He suggested working with the industries in town, as there are only a couple, they are the ones that have the trucks coming in. That is another way to have a problem solved without going through the grant system. Don Hill added there are a lot of old-fashioned people in town whose knee-jerk reaction to a warning light, would not be in favorable; it would take a lot of convincing. Jeremiah stated whether we do a warning light or signage of some sort, we have to show that the fire station is there. Amy stated more information is needed, this is not something that will be solved immediately. Poul added we can't do anything until we get a new road agent in place to identify possible issues and possible immediate solutions.

Board and Department Updates:

The Board has received a nomination to appoint Jeffrey Lewis to the Agricultural Commission as an alternate. Poul made a motion to appoint Jeffrey Lewis as an alternate for the Agricultural Commission. The motion was seconded by Amy. Poul, Amy and Jeremiah voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence/Signatures:

The snowmobile club is applying for a grant to rent an excavator to do work on a couple of trails. They are requesting the Boards permission to apply for the grant. Shad Hill and Sanborn Hill to Deer Hill connector are the two locations and the club will be getting landowner permission as well. This document is just to show the Board is aware the grant is being applied for. The Board signed the form.

Intent to Cut for Amber Heath

Poul informed the application for zoning permit is being amended. Tamara received a communication from Eastman requesting this amendment because they are finding that people in the Springfield part of Eastman aren't letting the ECA know they are building. There was some discussion as to the language to be added to the application. Tamara will make the changes and the change will be reflected on zoning permit applications from now on.

Request from the Library to use the Protectworth room for an event.

Signature Cards for bank account.

Poul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Amy. Poul, Amy and Jeremiah voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Jill Hastings

Deputy Administrative Assistant