

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEMORIAL BUILDING

May 8, 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: Whit Smith, Don Hill, Jamie Crosby, Sue Chiarella, Jen Roberts, Steve Dzubak, Sarah Anderson and Jim Yager

**Scheduled Appointments:**

Garden Club – Susan Chiarella appeared before the Board to inform them the Garden Club voted to give the town \$1500 to be used towards the improvement of the picnic area at the beach. Susan noted that one of the grills needs replacing and adding another picnic table might be nice. Poul stated there might be extra picnic tables in the storage building on the recreation field. Amy made a motion to accept the \$1500 from the Garden Club for beach picnic area improvements. The motion was seconded by Jeremiah. Amy, Jeremiah and Poul voted in favor of the motion. Susan will go back to the Garden Club and let them know the Board accepted the \$1500. The Garden Club will discuss ideas for improvements and any decision will be run by the Board of Selectmen first.

Susan noted a few additional items that she feels are the responsibility of the town. Susan feels it would be nice to get the beach sand raked before people start going there. Replacing, or staining, the enclosure around the port-a-potty so that it looks nicer was another suggestion. Finally, Susan thought it would be good to buy some grass seed and fertilizer for the lawn in front of the town office and the Garden Club would do the work. The Garden Club's next meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Paul Biebel, Stoney Brook Rd signs – Poul was not in attendance. Whit stated he had a meeting with Mr. Biebel to discuss his site plan application. Mr. Biebel also contacted Chief Zullo because he decided he wanted to donate some radar speed signs to the town. Whit met with Mr. Biebel last Monday to review his site plan application. Chief Zullo met with Mr. Biebel during that time as well. Chief Zullo and Whit informed Mr. Biebel that if he wanted to gift funds to buy these signs he would have to present it to the Selectboard. Whit has had no contact with him since that meeting. Whit informed the Board that Mr. Biebel would want Chief Zullo to purchase the signs and he would give the town the money for them. Poul informed everyone that Mr. Biebel would like to put two radar signs on Stoney Brook Road as well a small plaque indicating that they are in honor his wife who passed away. Tamara will reach out to Mr. Biebel tomorrow.

Don Hill asked if Mr. Biebel is representing the community or is this just something he wants to do. Poul stated this is something Mr. Biebel wants to do, representing complaints along the way from Stoney Brook Road residents. Whit stated this would be a question to ask when Mr. Biebel

makes his presentation. Jeremiah supports proper speed enforcement, especially in the rural areas. However, the long-term maintenance will be something to consider. Jeremiah also added that we have other areas in the town that are suffering from the same thing and can't forget about those.

Steve Dzubak, Energy Committee - Steve has a background in renewable energy and is a licensed electrician. Steve has two items for discussion and consideration.

1. The state of NH passed a bill about two years ago called Community Power. The goal is to empower municipalities, their residents and businesses to lower their electricity rates by pooling their buying power. The state left it up to the municipalities to figure out how to do that. Lebanon took the lead on this in the Upper Valley, and now has community power in their towns. This allows the town to negotiate an agreement with other municipalities; there is no cost but there is an administrative lift. Steve gave the example of Eversource who is now charging \$.22; Enfield who is using community power right now is paying \$.15 to \$.16. The savings are real on people's electricity bills and it doesn't cost them anything to sign up. The administrative lift is on the town to get it to that point. Steve is raising this because normally it would go through the town's energy committee, which Springfield doesn't have. Steve would be happy to volunteer his services. Poul asked who manages the co-op. Steve explained there is a legal framework already in place that the town would have to review, be ok with and then join in with the other communities; that would be the administrative lift. Once that is in place the town residents, businesses, basically any meter, are then able to work with their utility to get the savings. The administrative lift must go through the town first. The delivery rate won't change, it's just the electrical supplier that will change.
2. Steve would like the town to explore the options for Springfield, as a municipal entity, to install its own solar facility to offset the municipal load of the meters of the town. Many communities in the area have done this. This is unrelated from Community Power and would take further and different exploration to see what the options are. This is usually done through the process of an energy committee or Selectboard issuing an RFP(request for proposal). Steve said part of the process of exploration would be on an independent company coming in and evaluating the best locations for the facility.

Both items would need approval of the Selectboard and would likely require a warrant article. It is Steve's opinion that now is the time to start the process so that by next year at town meeting it can either be approved/denied or put on the back burner; it will take some time to get there.

Amy asked who owns the solar arrays in the towns this has been done, were they purchased by the towns directly. Steve explained the town would lease the land/building out for the solar array. The Board agrees it would make sense to establish an energy committee to explore these options and whatever else might come up. Steve has volunteered to put the committee together. Steve stated for the record that the company that he currently works for has zero involvement in either of these paths; conflict of interest doesn't exist. This is something Steve is passionate about and it is something that would save people and the town money. Jeremiah made a motion to establish an energy research committee led by Steve Dzubak. In consultation with the Board

of Selectmen, Steve will decide who will be on the committee. Amy volunteered to be the Selectmen representative of the Energy Committee. Whit advised that it would be best if the committee had at least five, but up to seven, members. This would allow groups within the committee to get together and do work without violating 91-A, because they don't constitute a quorum if it's not a majority of the committee. The motion was seconded by Poul. Jeremiah, Poul and Amy voted in favor of the motion. Poul asked for Steve to lay out a framework of what the committee would be tasked with and what they want to get accomplished along with process and procedure components to it and brief the Board at the next meeting. Hopefully there will be a list of names for committee members at that time.

Recreation Committee – Jamie Crosby pointed out how soggy the center recreation field is currently and can't be used as much because of that. Jamie is proposing researching plants to put in that could help soak up some of the excess water instead of proposing to fix the drainage. Jamie has talked with the Garden Club and they may be able to help with funds. This would allow use of the field more often. Jamie is thinking the plants would go around the edges of the field. The Board agrees this should be explored. Tamara added the field doesn't stay wet all the time, it will dry out; unless we have a really wet summer. Those are not things we can control. Jen Roberts asked if the drainage on the recreation field could be plugged up. Jeremiah will meet with Pete Abair and walk the fields and check the drainage. Jamie will research the types of plants that might be beneficial for the field in case that is the way the Board decides to go.

### **Zoning Permits:**

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, May 8, 2023.

#### **Application for Permit – APPROVED**

1. Mr./Mrs. Farnsworth, 2546 Route 4A, would like to build a patio behind their house (pavers). Zoning Coordinator has been out to the site and discussed the plan with Mrs. Farnsworth. Area for the patio has been clearly identified. There are no setback or wetlands issues. The height of the patio will be less than 35' tall. No observed business or commercial activity and applicants have represented the same on their application. Zoning Permit approved per delegation of authority.

#### **Application Complete – Requires signature.**

2. Town of Springfield (Historical Society) to build or construct: (a) 3' x 10' enclosed lean-to storage structure on the back of new tool shed/barn; (b) a 10' x 16' brick "patio" in front of new tool shed/barn; (c) walkways (permit required for walkway greater than 100 sq.ft.); and (d) 15 granite steps from the Museum area down to the Town Meeting House. Special Exception (relief from setback encroachment) has been granted by ZBA. Permit can be Approved when signed by Select Board member.

#### **Other Matters.**

A. Inquiry from property owner on Main Street regarding demolition of part of existing residential home and "replacing it with a patio of some kind." Also, second inquiry from this owner regarding rental (either long-term or short-term) of the house. Thirdly, inquiry included reference to consultation with

the Planning Board (December 16, 2021) regarding suitability for a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) dwelling on the property. Although PB indicated their impression that the parcel could support a second dwelling, no formal plan has been submitted (particularly septic design) and no final review by PB has been completed. Referred owner to the town office for further information. (Piedmont)

B. Meeting with property owner (Stoney Brook Rd) in preparation for required site plan review by Planning Board with respect to operation of short-term rental of guest facilities business. (Biebel)

C. Meeting between property owner and Chief of Police regarding traffic travelling at high speed on his road. Property owner inquiry regarding radar speed control signs. Referred to Select Board. (Biebel)

D. Research USGS and FEMA flood plain information available on the internet. Reviewed flood plain overlay done by Saulnier utilizing the town tax map.

E. Follow-up from owners of cottage with hot tub located in side-yard setback on Sandy Beach Rd. DES approval for the hot tub foundation has been obtained. This property is also used for short-term rentals of guest facilities, which process is currently underway. Per Zoning Ordinance location of hot tub requires a Special Exception because lot is non-conforming and hot tub is in the side yard setback. Referred to the town office for application/scheduling with the Zoning Board.

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Whit provided the completed zoning permit application for the Historical Society to the Board to sign as the property owner. Whit will approve now that it has been signed by a Board member.

Whit received an inquiry from Sarah Piedmont, the owner of the dome structure on Main Street. They are ready to tear that down and there was conversation about a second dwelling unit. Sarah has been referred to the town office for further information.

Dan Saulnier provided an overlay of FEMA and USDS flood information which came up at the Planning Board. Dan provided the same flood information that we already had access to but he overlaid the tax map on that so you can identify parcels. Whit added if Dan knows how to do that, he would like to have him do that for the zoning work where we are looking at the wetlands because the overlay on the wetland map is in error. This error needs to be addressed as it has not been done since 2015/2016. The wetlands haven't changed very much in that time, but the lots have. Tamara will contact Brenda, who updates our tax maps, and see if this is something she could help with.

Jeremiah asked about the lot on the corner of Little Sunapee and Main Street, as he has not seen anything about it. Tamara said they can do whatever they are currently doing. There was talk in the past about building a house and Tamara imagines they are probably clearing a spot for that to potentially get more activity if or when put back on the market.

### **Minutes of April 24, 2023:**

Amy asked if the follow-up letter was sent to Mr. Lindquist. Tamara sent the letter and there has been no response.

Amy asked if the adjustments were made to the zoning application with regard to ECA. Tamara made the changes and informed the contact at ECA about the changes approved by the Selectboard.

Poul made a motion to accept the minutes of April 24, 2023 as written. The motion was seconded by Amy. Poul, Amy and Jeremiah voted in favor of the motion.

### **Court Status:**

There are no status updates to report.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Skate Park – Jeremiah made a presentation on the Skate Park. Pictures showed the current conditions of the ramps at the park and the one ramp that is currently placed next to the fire station because of the level of repair needed; Jeremiah provided updates on the conditions of the structures. Jeremiah has spoken with Spohn Ranch Skate Park Designs, who are currently working on a park in Keene. Mr. Balderas of Spohn Ranch Skate Park Designs said that he has the materials needed to do it and provided a quote for those materials. It would be a framer that would complete the work. Each sheet of the surface material is \$259.68. From what they can see, we would need seven sheets to make our repairs. If we have to return anything that is not a problem, as long as it is a full sheet.

Jeremiah spoke with two contractors in the area, Cold Pond Builders and Chris Geharty. Cold Pond Builders responded first. Clay Davis, owner of the company, is familiar with the skate park and stopped to look at it; agreeing with the assessment from Spohn Ranch Skate Park Designs. Cold Pond Builders would like to provide any plywood and their time at no charge to the town. All the town would have to provide is the surface material. They are looking at a June timeframe. Mr. Davis is working on pulling together his “dad group” to come together in June and do the work. They are an insured company so we would be in compliance with our insurance company. Whit asked if the surface material is the same as the material that is already installed. Jeremiah said that it is the same, as he asked the same question. Jen asked about possible monies left over from the fundraising group when the park was built. Tamara will research that but doesn't think it was much. This will include what is on the skatepark plus the damaged ramp by the fire department.

Poul made a motion to approve up to \$2500 to fix the skate park with the acknowledgement of Mr. Davis and his crew to handle the details. The motion was seconded by Amy. Poul, Amy and Jeremiah voted in favor of the motion.

Emergency Management Performance Grant – Tamara informed the Board the grant was approved. They are meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, with an additional three meetings after that.

BOS Procedures – Jeremiah emailed his notes to Poul. Poul asked that notes or approval be sent through Tamara and then the Board can move forward from there.

Buildings Maintenance – Jeff Milne has volunteered to help out as he has a lot of experience in this area. Don Hill has volunteered to be the co-chair on the committee. The current plan is that they will decide who sits on that committee and Jeremiah will be the Board representative there. The plan is to come back in June with a plan of action for long-term and short-term projects.

Road Agent Hiring Update - Four applications have now been received. The cut-off for submitting applications is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Poul, B. Manning, and Ken Jacques will be handling the interview process.

New Health Officer – Tim Bray is official as of last Wednesday. Tim will come prepared to the next Board meeting to present recommended changes of our rules in that we will now be incorporating approvals of replacement septic systems in addition to new systems.

### **New Business:**

Boat Ramp refurb GOFER grant – Poul was informed by Jerry Cooper that there was a state grant available for boat ramp refurbishing. Jeremiah spoke with Mike Hanson and they were looking at a direct replacement of what is there for the ramp. This would include replacing the asphalt, fix the drainage off the road and the dip on the corner. There also wouldn't be any more than ten feet into the water of fixing the gravel. There is money available with this grant, but there are eleven questions that the Board would have to ask themselves. One being if the money is accepted from the grant the boat ramp and the beach must be publicly accessible to all NH residents. It was clear the tone of the room was that would not be an option which took the grant off the table for Springfield. Jeremiah is waiting for a quote from Mike Hanson for the cost of the repairs he listed. Jen Roberts suggested that when everything is pulled together to do Sanborn Hill the pavement for the boat ramp could be purchased and done at the same time if the projects line up; Jeremiah also thought about all the pull-up work being done on I-89, he will ask about that.

Don Hill stated that Officer Julian has been approached multiple times during his time with the town about some sort of sticker/pass for beach access. Tamara informed everyone that the passes have been done. Jen Roberts asked when the passes will be made available and will they be enforced. Poul asked Tamara to plan a communication on the passes before Memorial Day.

Jeremiah noticed other improvements at the beach that need to be addressed. One being increasing our disability or handicap access from the parking area down to the water. There is a non-permanent solution for that, which was brought to him by Sarah Anderson. There is a rolling mat that could be put down. Sarah said this was discussed last year with the beach committee and it would be really nice to see; it is a rolling removable mat. Tamara expressed concern with how removable the mat would be. Sarah and Jeremiah said that it would probably take the Highway Department guys to take it out, it's heavy. The mat would be put down at the beginning of the season and removed in the fall. Jeremiah said it could go in the area between the grass and the beach as it is less steep there.

Poul feels we need to reconstitute the beach committee. Sarah added she would like to see that happen. Jamie Crosby stated she would be willing to help on this committee. Jen Roberts encourages fundraising rather than looking for grants for these improvements because grants can have requirements that the town may not want. Amy believes she has the plans that were done up last year by the former committee and she will look for them. Poul stated that these plans need to be presented as a comprehensive plan stating what the committee would like to do, itemizing the steps, what the cost will be and where the funds will come from. Jeremiah asked Amy to get him the materials from the last committee and added he would be willing to the Selectboard Representative and find someone to chair the committee.

### **Board and Department Updates:**

Recreation – Jamie informed everyone that recreation is organizing a Memorial Day service. There will also be coffee and baked goods afterwards. Jamie is still looking for a guest speaker for the event. This service will be on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm. The committee is still going forward with the Summer Celebration on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Jamie and her children are working on restoring the cross at the cemetery. Tamara has put a question out to find out when that cross was placed, so far nobody knows. Jeremiah is working on fixing the helmet, it will be back up there in a few days. Jamie added that with the cross, the water is getting in between where the flags are and feels within the next few years they may need to be replaced.

Police Department – Poul said there are just normal patrol activities taking place; there is a fraud case, a theft case, as well as an underage drinking party that is being investigated. Poul stated there is an abundance of paperwork that goes along with all of this. A couple of remedies coming down the line would be improving the storage of car and body cam files. Chief Zullo is hoping to move to cloud-based storage to speed up the process of providing these files to the necessary recipients.

The other piece to that is that if there is a case our officers must work as prosecutors, it can't always be turned over to Sullivan County. The solution that has become more prevalent in the area is to add another prosecutor and then the town would be in the position to hand over the prosecution so that our officers are still available for patrol. There is a cost to this, currently it is about \$7500 a year. This is a combination of the county having the funding for the prosecutor and the town supporting that funding in some form.

Highway Department - Pete and Tim did some work on the truck that we had slated for replacement. They are working on some drainage issues up on Colby Hill right now. The gravel behind the sand shed is for other drainage problem areas in town. They are waiting on a seal for the transmission on the grader. It was brought up that the town needs to explore refurbishing or replacing the grader as it is about 40 years old. They are still looking for a truck, but equipment is scarce. Amy asked about checking a state surplus for equipment. Poul suggested looking at the municipal auction site the town used last year to sell some items. Jeremiah will look into that.

Cemetery – The committee will spend their budget quickly on repairs at the cemetery. As Jamie said the cross is being refurbished for the veteran’s memorial. Someone from the committee will come to see Tamara about having some updates done to their page on the website.

Agricultural Commission – They are still planning the fall festival pumpkin contest. They plan to have two booths at the Summer Celebration. There was a question brought to them about community gardens. Currently there is no good location to do that, so there will be no further action on that.

Fire Department – Jeremiah has not been able to attend a meeting yet. However, he was talking to the Chief to get updated. Jeremiah will meet with him before their meeting on Tuesday to talk about their processes so he can have a better understanding.

Zoning Board – The historical society got approved for their steps and other small projects. The work will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Select Shepherds met with the ZBA. Attorney’s for both sides were present. A lot of information was shared and the hearing was continued to June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Administration Update- Tamara reminded the Board that money was approved to purchase a laptop for the Supervisors. Tamara spoke with Katie at Certified Computers and received a quote including a laptop. Not being required to purchase the laptop through them Tamara looked around and found one at a better cost. It was shipped directly to Certified Computers and arrived on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. They will load it up with everything needed so the Supervisors won’t have any issues. Tamara attended the NH Governmental Finance Conference on Thursday and Friday. There were a lot of good sessions. Tamara added she took the laptop we have here with her, just in case, and when she attempted to use it, and because of the age of the laptop, she was unable to do anything. She would like the Board to consider replacing it. Poul asked her to put a quote together satisfying what Certified Computers would require for the programs. Prepping for the audit has begun, Greg Colby was here on Wednesday and will be coming back. The audit will be scheduled after that.

Planning Board – Tim Bray will be presenting regulations for the site plan review on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The notice for this hearing can be found on the town website.

Jamie Crosby wanted to add that through the recreation committee she is doing an outreach program through Dartmouth. It is for community leaders and physicians; it’s about recognizing and being able to react to youth in distress.

### **Correspondence:**

Letter from NH State Police – The letter basically states we should not expect them to show up for anything other than absolute emergencies because they don’t have the staffing to cover. Poul stated we will keep this letter and pull it when we get to budget time.

Jeremiah asked how we monitor the number of responses for fire and police. Poul stated that is tracked through dispatch services.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Jim Yager shared his appreciation for the Board's action on his correspondence. Jim has been working on that for over 25 years, and this board in its first month got it all done. Jim thanked the Board.

Poul informed everyone our officers received a thank you note from someone who wanted to express their appreciation for them.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Jill Hastings

Deputy Administrative Assistant

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