

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 13, 2020

MEMORIAL BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

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

Selectmen present: Tamara Butcher, Chairman, Dick Hendl and George McCusker

Others: Keith Cutting, Tim Julian, Whit Smith (Zoom), Dick Petrin (Zoom), Jim Bednar (Zoom), Tim Berns (Zoom), Dan Saulnier (Zoom) and Lars Mester (Zoom)

The first few minutes of the meeting were spent ironing out some wrinkles using the Zoom platform.

The meeting started with the pledge of allegiance.

Jim Bednar spoke to remind everyone that we are all in this together and to have hope. Jim would like to ask if the town would be willing to put out an email asking people to put a Christmas candle in their window to be on 24/7 to show our support to our healthcare workers and shows we are doing something together as a community. Jim also suggests that we put one or two candles in the top windows of the meetinghouse, one in the historical society and one in the town office and library. George and Dick are both in favor of this suggestion. Dick made a motion to grant Jim permission to implement his idea, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Statement and request by Dan Saulnier of George Hill Road to Springfield Board of Selectmen. April 13, 2020

Springfield has a potential opportunity right now to bring high-speed internet to every residence and business, at NO cost to the town. It's based on a 2018 state act (SB-170) amending RSA 33:3(g) to allow municipalities to issue bonds for the purpose of expanding broadband infrastructure. The law provides for entering a public/private partnership between a town and an Internet Service Provider (ISP). The way this seems to be playing out in several towns that have gone or are going through the process, is:

- The town issues a bond
- The ISP uses the money to build out high-speed internet infrastructure
- Subscribers to the new service pay an extra \$10 fee to the ISP on top of their internet bill
- ISP uses extra fees to pay down the bond (and are on the hook for full amount, even if they don't get enough subscribers)
- Town never pays the bond; there is no increase in taxes
- Anyone who wants to keep their old ISP (or no internet) is free to do so, doesn't pay

About a dozen citizens, led by Dick Petrin, have been researching how this process works. One of the first steps to see if Springfield qualifies for this bonding process is to reach out to existing

ISPs to get an official record of what areas of town are unserved by broadband. NH law specifies that if any town requests this information in writing, the ISPs must provide it within 60 days. As an informal group of citizens, we are planning to use this information to confirm that Springfield qualifies for this bonding program, and to begin assembling documents that will allow us to comply with the rules of the program. Simultaneously, we are planning to explore whether the rest of our fellow townspeople think this is something Springfield should be pursuing.

At this point, and really not at any point in the process until some future town warrant article and vote, there would be no commitment.

I've come before the Board today to request that you send, as a certified letter from the Town, a Request for Information to the ISPs currently operating in Springfield. I want to repeat that asking for this information creates no commitment for the town in moving forward with any of this. It just gets us some information to educate ourselves and begin the process of exploring possibilities.

Keith stated that Hughsnet provides satellite internet to some people in Springfield as well. Dan shared that wired internet providers are the only companies this is open to.

The board discussed the letter that Whit drafted and agreed that it can be sent to the three companies listed which are Consolidated Communications, TDS and Comcast. Tamara stated the letter will go out in the next day or two.

Keith submitted his retirement notice to the board; Keith admits the timing is not great, but it's time. Keith turned over the radio, battery and charger to the board. The only other materials are four laptops and the PPE which are already securely stored at the Town Office. Tamara expressed her surprise of this news and thanked Keith for his years of service to the town. Keith said that Lars and Raymond are welcomed to contact him for anything, and he will be happy to help to the best of his ability. Gratitude was also expressed to Keith by Chief Julian, Dick Hendl, Janet Roberts and Lars Mester for his service to the town.

Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, April 13, 2020. Here is a summary of permit applications and Zoning Coordinator activity.

Application for Permit – Acted Upon, APPROVED

None.

Open Applications - In Hand, But NOT Acted Upon.

1. Mr./Mrs. Ingham, 52 Shad Hill; application to build 60' x 28' single story home in location similar to existing residential dwelling (to be removed). The Ingham's current home is built across the lot line of two adjacent lots; both are owned by the applicant(s). Applicant has petitioned the Planning Board for merger of the two lots. When the merger is approved zoning permit can issue with no setback or wetlands issues.

2. Mr. Brunelle, 2413 Main Street; application to build/place a 12' x 6' chicken coop in the back yard. No setback or wetlands issues. Board of Selectmen have requested consideration of this matter. Zoning Applicant has notified Applicant (by email) of Board of Selectmen prerogative to consider the matter at their next meeting. No further action by Zoning Coordinator.

3. Kara Zaleskas, 164 Four Corners Road; Zoning Coordinator has nothing further to report.

Other Matters.

David B. & Cynthia W. Twombly, 247 Twin Lake Villa Road filed an Application for Special Exception for Special Exception (non-conforming – undersize lot) seeking relief from 35' side yard setback. No further information in the application provided to the Zoning Coordinator. (Amount of relief required; design or plan view of structure).

Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting (April 7, 2020) cancelled.

Mike Hanson, Hanson Bridge, Michael Hansen Properties LLC (Tax Map #3, Lot 560, 485) would like to build addition/expansion to existing shop building in which to house wood treatment processing equipment. The product will be used in the current business conducted by Hansen Bridge. Mr. Hansen advised to file Application to Amend Site Plan with the Planning Board. No further Special Exception required.

Planning Board meeting (April 16, 2020) Matter pending: Waddell brewery.

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Whit read through his report. Not having the current status of the Twombly's, Whit asked if they would be moved to the May zoning board meeting. Janet stated this is up to the chair of the zoning board to determine if there will be a meeting in May; this is currently still out for discussion because of the current executive act. Whit doesn't believe the Twombly's are in any hurry but would like to keep them up to date with what is going on.

Whit provided the board with a copy of a letter that Mr. Brunelle received from the Fish and Game Department. George had not yet seen the letter, so it was provided at that time. Tamara explained to George that Mr. Brunelle wants to build a chicken coop to which there are no issues; the issue is still that he has this bob house/shed that Fish and Game has now inspected as a bob house. Tamara added that the board never said it wasn't a bob house, the issue is location and matter of use in the summer. Tamara shared there is a state statute that bob houses are to be used only bob houses. Tamara has three pictures from yesterday showing a patio in front of it, lawn chairs, table, citronella candle on a stake, garden cart and a firepit. It is clearly being used as something other than a bob house in the summertime even though it's got a hole in the floor. Tamara feels if it's a bob house like he says, it needs to be moved in the summertime and not used as a shed. Dick said the bob house never left the shore all winter, with pictures to document that, secondly he doesn't understand how Mr. Brunelle expects the board to act quickly to his request for a chicken coop when he did not even respond to the notice of violation that was sent last year. Dick is reluctant to give up the town's leverage by approving this chicken coop application until he straightens this bob house out. George asked if it was customary to put a bob

house on a trailer or skids and move to an approved storage site during the off season. Whit stated he has seen bob houses moved with trailers and stored on trailers. George also wants to know if the board has any jurisdiction to link the two cases together. Whit would defer this question to people that get paid to make that decision. Whit stated, in support of Dick Hendl's position, the storage location is most likely not appropriate for purposes of being a bob house; and the applicant has ignored the efforts of the town to discuss this. George asked if a storage shed being stored on the waterfront would be treated differently to which Whit said yes. Whit said treating this as a storage shed is up to the board of selectmen and outside council. Whit will communicate with Mr. Brunelle per the selectboard's direction. Dick will forward the letter from Fish and Game to Attorney Decker so he has all the information we have received. Dick will also send the pictures Tamara has provided. Keith asked who the local authority is that would investigate the use of the facility; also, what would be the criteria for proper storage? Janet stated the board of selectmen is the enforcement. Dick would like to defer the matter of the chicken coop until hearing the legal opinion of Attorney Decker. Whit will communicate with Mr. Brunelle that this was discussed but a decision was not made as the board is reviewing the situation with the town attorney.

Minutes of March 23, 2020:

Minutes of this meeting were not presented for approval at this meeting. Tamara shared a correction to be made. The estimate that Northeast Towing gave for removing vehicles from the Stone property was \$85 not \$70. These minutes will be approved at the next meeting with these changes. Keith also had a correction which was the PPE was supplied by the Department of Safety and Emergency Management not Department of Health and Human Services.

While on the subject, Tamara stated the Fire Department has some of the PPE supply in a storage cabinet, the rest at the town office. Inventory has been taken and is being kept in a notebook showing who has what. Tim feels all the PPE should be stored in one place. Lars will pick up the rest of the PPE tomorrow, along with the inventory notebook and deliver to the Fire Department.

Unfinished Business:

Assignment of Department Liasons – The members of the board are all happy with their current departments so assignments will stand. Tamara stated that if some point down the road someone decides they want to change this can be revisited.

Dick has received two emails from residents that have noticed an increase in the noise level at Kennebec mill. Dick has a letter that was drafted by town council to send to the residents stating the town's position. It has been agreed upon to mail this letter out to the local residents who have voiced concerns; the town will also post a general letter stating the town's position. The board members approve of this letter being mailed out.

Tamara reached out to Robert's Excavation and Landscaping and received a response within 24 hours. Kevin is willing to go clean up the property, and the cost will be about \$3,500. Dick moves to accept Kevin's bid. Seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved. Tamara will contact Kevin Roberts. Northeast Towing will get rid of the cars.

Tamara stated there has been no change on the Pratt property. Dick proposes to take current pictures and send them to Jeffrey Blecharczyk at DES and Senator Ward pointing out nothing has happened, and the deadlines have come and gone. Tamara is in agreeance of that.

Agricultural Commission:

Dick proposes to appoint Keith as a member and asks him to go out and canvas town residents who would be interested in serving on the commission and provide those names to the board to be appointed as members. Dick would also like to see one person who is not involved in agriculture so there would be a member seeing things from a different point of view. Keith will try to find more than five names and submit them to the board of selectmen for that determination. Dick suggests Keith contact Jim Bednar as he was willing to consider being a member in the past. George asked how many members are needed; the commission is allowed five members plus alternates. Keith will make the list of names as extensive as possible and submit to the selectmen for their consideration. Dick made a motion to appoint Keith to a 3-year term on the Agricultural Commission, seconded by George and unanimously approved. Janet will ask Pixie to put something on the website regarding the search for members of this commission.

Tamara reminded everyone to participate on the 2020 Census. There are signs everywhere reminding residents to complete this. The census can be completed online, no twelve-digit ID number is required.

Dick contacted Megan Butts about the 4-A, and she is willing to schedule a future date when they can come and meet in person since they will be looking at maps.

Tamara asked for a sand shed update. Janet must gather some information from what Jeff Evans has done so Darrin can take that information with Dan Nash. Dan has some relocation of the shed possibilities that would mean we wouldn't have to go back to the DES from what Janet is understanding. Darrin is moving forward with this.

Tamara discussed Nichols Hill Rd, asking if any contact has been made with Alex and Barb Moskalenko or the Beattie's. Janet is unsure where this stands as Dan has been tied up with other projects.

George will speak with Mr. Tedeschi on Oak Hill Rd; there is really nothing Peter can do for him. They live on the best dirt road in town. The only small issue that comes up occasionally is that residents have planted their lawns in the town's right of way, and they would like it swept. They have been told multiple times that the town owns so many feet. Tamara wonders if it would be beneficial to supply them with a map of their property showing the town right of way the next time this is brought up. Janet added that Mr. Tedeschi called a couple of weeks ago asking to speak with the liaison for the highway department but is unsure what his concern was. George will contact him.

Tamara says there are items to review regarding accepting credit cards and she will sign it and return to Pixie by Wednesday.

New Business:

Dick shared that the library has agreed to start the curbside service, hopefully starting on Wednesday. Requested items will be placed in bags out in the foyer and people can come in during designated times to pick them up. Items can be returned in the return box. Returned items will be quarantined for at least 24 hours, wiped down and then put back on the shelf.

George shared that Curt Huff would like to come back to work at the cemetery thru Memorial Day and he is requesting an increase in pay. George and Pete feel another \$2 per hour is fair. George also went on the record stating that last year Curt didn't have to do any of the extra work. Pete was shorthanded, but Curt could have turned down the extra work. George will make it clear to Curt that he is hired for the cemetery and nothing else.

Keith asked Tamara where he would find the cleaning material for the gravestones. Tamara stored it in her house for the winter so it wouldn't freeze. Keith and Susan will contact Tamara when they are ready to start the cleaning process.

Board and Department Updates:

Tamara shared that the Fire Department is not holding meetings and they are limiting to one person going in the building at a time. If they have calls to locations, they are limiting who goes in and they have equipment with them. They are also not doing any of their training for safety reasons.

Janet gave an update on the upcoming Planning Board meeting. They will be meeting on Thursday. Four board participants have said they will participate remotely. There is room for ten people in the Protectworth room, including the minute taker. There are several people not comfortable with the Zoom platform because it has been easily hacked, so they will come here to be part of the meeting. Janet stated that Susan Chiarella is still unsure about holding a zoning board meeting in May; her board members don't use the computer. Keith suggested using the EOC laptops; Janet said that has been discussed but they have had some issues with updates. Janet shared the boards also have the advantage of making the decision not to act on any applications until the Governor rescinds that executive order.

Whit gave some security/functionality info on Zoom. He feels having the waiting room is a great way to manage the participants, which was Kevin Lee's suggestion; having a password adds a layer of security but isn't necessarily necessary for most of the business being done at town meetings. Whit said this is working better than he expected and everyone is doing a great job; it's not ideal, but it's working.

Correspondence:

Janet provided an email from Robert Barry from Primex that was received back in December. There were some unfinished recommendations he made that he never got a response to from mostly the highway department. Tamara asked George to take one over to Pete so he can respond or let the board know where things stand.

Signatures:

A purchase order from Pete for the tires for backhoe, a timber tax assessment and a refund request from Pixie.

Miscellaneous Business:

George shared a comment that involves Select Shepherds. There is a lot of talk from people that they are pushing for a cease and desist. George is just bringing this to the board's attention.

Janet shared with the board that despite some unfortunate circumstances our resident of Eastman Access Road has paid up his taxes until 2018. He has met the obligation that puts him in jeopardy of deeding. The other resident who is still making payments has not asked for any further relief, but not sure how much he is able to work right now; just something to be aware of. Whit asked the board to review the draft email he sent regarding Mr. Brunelle. The board agrees to have Whit send the email to Mr. Brunelle.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Jill Hastings
Deputy Administrative Assistant