

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 8, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Pixie Hill

Others present via ZOOM: Whit Smith, Dick Petrin, Keith Cutting, Dan Saulnier, Sue-Ann Kazenas, B. Manning and Don Hill

Scheduled Appointments:

Bring Internet to Springfield Update and Appointment of Members:

Tamara stated the board does not have a list of members to appoint other than the names listed in the minutes that showed who was present at the first meeting. Tamara asked if there were other people that have expressed interest in being appointed. Dan stated that Whit has a list, and there is one person has expressed their desire to drop out. Tamara shared that she spoke with Whit and Dick Petrin after the first meeting concerning some behavior during the meeting. From what she understands, the views of that individual are not what the selectmen would like to see going forward with this committee; this is not the same person who has decided to step down. At this time the board will not be signing Wayne Smith's oath of office, but he is able to attend the meetings as a member of the public. Whit feels Dick Petrin, Dan Saulnier and himself would all agree but does not want to speak for them. Whit stated the problem was that Wayne Smith was not willing to embrace public opinion that differed from his; the purpose of the committee is to develop as objectively as possible. Whit provided the names of the people wishing to be appointed to the committee also letting the board know that Brian Putney withdrew his name. That leaves the committee with nine people to be appointed: Tim Berns, Susan Chiarella, Barbara Cooper, Andy D'Amico, Kevin Lee, Dick Petrin, Dan Saulnier, Terry Smith, and Jim Tinkham. Janet confirmed that we have received a signed oath of office form from everyone on that list except for Susan Chiarella, Barbara Cooper and Kevin Lee. Janet asked if Whit would be signing an oath of office. Whit is not a member; he is the administrative assistant for the committee. Tamara feels it would be good to have Whit sign an oath of office form. Tamara discussed the email received from Dan Saulnier regarding the survey and the expenses to send them out. Dick feels the survey would reach more people if they are mailed. Dick is wondering if the survey is broad enough to cover the opinions that people might have. It was discussed who the surveys will be sent to, registered voters, residents, etc. Dick feels the reasonable answer is to send it to the residences. Whit wants the board to consider what the solution will be if someone claims they did not receive a survey in the mail, and they request to fill one out. Dick said it would be handled on a case by case basis. If they were mailed a survey and claim it

wasn't received, we don't want to set up the possibility of someone filling out two surveys. If they weren't mailed a survey, they could get one on the spot. Tamara also mentioned there will be a list available to verify where the surveys were sent. After discussion Dan will revise the survey by expanding on a few of the questions along with a checkbox to indicate if the resident is a full time or seasonal resident. Tamara asked Pixie for an estimate on actual residences, seasonal and full time. Pixie gave an estimate of about 500. Tamara said that would have a cost about \$800 for the mailing. Tamara asked Dan to provide a final survey by the next selectman's meeting and by then the board will have an actual number of how many will be sent; the mailing should be able to happen the Tuesday or Wednesday after that meeting. The consensus now is to send the survey to anybody who owns property that is improved in some way.

Dan provided some information on the BITS Facebook page, which was set up when the committee was an informal group. The page is being run by Kevin Lee. The page has reached 619 users, not necessarily Springfield residents. Of those, 309 have engaged with the site in some way.

Tamara has offered to stuff the envelopes for the survey. Whit will be printing the surveys and Dick will fold the surveys. Tamara stated completed surveys can be dropped off at the office; a box will be made available for this. Dan mentioned the cost he provided included a stamped self-addressed envelope to send the responses back in, so not including that will reduce the cost by a considerable amount. Pixie also added that the survey can be returned via email. Dick made a motion that we send the survey via mail and approve up to 800 surveys to be mailed to buildings in the town or improved properties in town. The motion was seconded by Tamara and it was unanimously approved. Tamara thanked Whit, Dan and Dick Petrin for their work on this so far.

Agricultural Committee:

Keith Cutting received a call from Jim Bednar letting him know he was on the agenda. Currently Keith has nothing to present to the board. The committee has been meeting and developing lines of communications to other boards and committees.

Voting Machine Update:

B. Manning was unable to hold off like he had stated at the last board meeting. The state prints all ballots, all individual machines must be specifically printed for that town and the state was demanding the list. B. spoke with Dave Scanlon, the assistant secretary of state, and the State of NH will not purchase the machine for Springfield because the CARES Act is only for 2020; he didn't know if the money would be available to lease the machines and if they did they would only go to a town that was already a voting machine counting town which makes Springfield ineligible. With those two factors and being under a time constraint B. went ahead and ordered the voting machine on Friday. This is a contract with the state and the \$3,500 price could not be negotiated. Payment will not be due until the voting machine arrives.

Town Office Status:

Pixie is thinking of reopening the office and has started researching steps to put in place before this can happen. The office will need to have sneeze guards installed at the desk; we will need one the size of about six feet. Pixie has looked online and they don't seem to sell the guards in

that length. A four-foot guard costs about \$171 and then add a thirty-inch guard for an additional \$113 from one company online. Another concern is the six-foot distancing, which is hard to do in the space at the town office. Pixie is also suggesting putting a number system in place; the customer can come in and get a number then wait in the Protectworth room in a chair and wait to be called. Pixie is aware that some towns are scheduling appointments but doesn't feel that will work well here. Tamara has suggested a plastic guard setup like the one at the post office and has offered to put one together for the counter. Tamara stated it will be on the door that there will be six-foot social distancing and that masks are preferred, after that it is up to them. Janet shared that according to the webinar it should be the board of selectman making the decision to reopen the office and must know what the procedure will be, how it will be regulated and how the board will respond if a situation arises. They spoke of having the Safety Committee and the Joint Loss Management Committee being involved in this, also updating our rules and regulations due to Covid as it will not go away anytime soon. There also needs to be a protocol for sterilization. Janet is unsure what is required but there are many options. Pixie offered to draw up a draft of procedure and email it to the selectboard for their approval. Dick offered the idea of supposing we don't reopen and continue the way we are now. Pixie says that this process works fine, except for bad weather days. However, Pixie feels it is time to reopen.

Meetinghouse Lift Project:

Don stated the lift installers have gotten everything they can do done; they are now waiting on the delivery of the change-ordered door, which will be shipped in late June. Don asked Bob Webber from Accessibility Systems when we could plan for an event to celebrate the opening; he said don't plan until it's done. It will be the end of September at the latest. Dick thought setting the lift back further from the exit door was going to allow access to that window so candles could be put in there during the holidays. Don said that is untrue; they thought perhaps it could be, but turns out it could not be accessible.

Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, June 8, 2020.
Here is a summary of permit applications and Zoning Coordinator activity.

Application for Permit – Acted Upon, APPROVED

1. Mr./Mrs. Callan, 85 Oak Hill West, application to place a shed next to their house. There are no setback issues, no wetlands issues and the shed will be less than 35' tall. Based on site visit there does not appear to be any home business or commercial activity at the location. Applicant has represented the same on the Zoning Permit Application. Zoning Permit approved per delegation of authority.
2. Ms. Dauphinais, 20 Brook Road, would like to repair the deck on an above ground swim pool and add a section to the front porch allowing for an access ramp to be installed. Zoning Coordinator has been out to the site and has discussed the project with Ms. Dauphinais. There are no wetlands issues, although there is "designated wetland" on/near the property, but proposed structure(s) are outside the 100' buffer), no set back issues and the structure will be less than 35' tall. Based on site visit there does not appear to be any home business or

commercial activity at the location. Applicant has represented the same on the Zoning Permit Application. Zoning Permit approved per delegation of authority.

Open Applications - In Hand, But NOT Acted Upon.

3. Mr. Crosby, 1923 Main Street, has had problems with the bear (living in a den behind the house) and weasels eating his chickens. The coop was behind the house and the chickens were short-lived. Accordingly, Mr. Crosby moved the coop to the front - away from the predators. Well, hopefully.

Problem is, Mr. Crosby was not aware that a Zoning Permit is required for a chicken coop. Zoning Coordinator has been out to the site and has discussed the project with Mr. Crosby. There are no wetlands issues, no set back issues and the structure will be less than 35' tall. Based on site visit there does not appear to be any home business or commercial activity at the location. Applicant has represented the same on the Zoning Permit Application. Zoning Coordinator has requested that the Board of Selectmen consider waiving the portion of the fee for permit application filed after the commencement of construction. Approved held pending decision by the Board.

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

Other Matters.

- A. Attended Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting (via Zoom)
- B. Inquiry regarding drilling a well.
- C. Inquiry from real estate broker regarding second dwelling unit inside primary residence for "in-law apartment or rental unit. Advised accordingly.
- D. Inquiry from property owner regarding need for permit to build swim pool with deck and gazebo/shed.

<< June 8, 2020 >>

Whit read through his report. He brought the boards attention to item three, Mr. Crosby, and asked how the board wanted to proceed with handling the after the fact fee. Dick asked how long Mr. Crosby has lived in town; Whit believes since 2014 or 2015. Whit fully believes that he had no idea a permit was required. Mr. Crosby complied within hours of Ryan Peterson's visit; he made a call to Whit and a permit application was delivered to the town office within a day. Dick asked Whit's top priority for asking for this waiver at this time; because he was a veteran, he cooperated within hours, he's a nice guy? Whit feels all of those are factors in his request. The biggest reason for asking is when Mr. Crosby was made aware of the after-the-fact fee he was very respectful, he didn't argue it. Tamara stated that she knows this seems like they would be setting precedent, but the board can say yes to some and no to others because of circumstances. Tamara feels having Mr. Crosby pay the application fee of \$25 only is fine in this case. Dick, with reluctance, made a motion to waive the fee for after-the-fact construction for Mr. Crosby. However, this does not create any kind of an exception in the future; we do not want to set a precedent for this. Tamara seconded the motion, and George was not in favor of the motion. The board then took a vote; Dick and Tamara were in favor of waiving the after-the-fact fee and George was against. Tamara then stated Mr. Crosby will only need to pay the \$25 application fee.

Whit received an email from broker trying to sell a property in town. The broker wants to list this property as having a unit that could be used as a rental unit, ADU or in-law apartment as a

selling point. Whit asked the board to carefully read his responses to the broker and provide feedback, suggestions, or concerns as there needs to be a consistent approach on how we view this. Whit will also ask for the same feedback from the planning board.

Minutes of May 26th, 2020:

George made a motion to accept the minutes of May 26th as written. Tamara seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

The board has opted to not change the status of the beach. Dick feels it's best to leave things as is at least until the 15th of June. George and Tamara agree with that.

Dick spoke with Maggie Cassidy, editor of the Valley News, and was told our topic has been put on their list but they probably won't get to it for a while because of the current reporting on the Covid pandemic and also the latest social unrests. Dick will be calling the editor of the Intertown Record to see if they are interested.

Dick has emailed Shawn Tanguay and Matt Decker for updates. Shawn has responded and Dick is pleased that Kennebec seems willing to come to a selectboard meeting and subsequently a planning board meeting as long as they are sure it is just to establish a base line.

Dick gave Whit the opportunity to comment on the Durgin and Crowell situation. Whit met with Peter Crowell this morning and had a productive/positive meeting. It was in the context of the noise they were generating and also their application to the Planning Board to have the large lot that fronts on Messer Hill road subdivided and then have the western portion of that subdivision merged with their existing industrial lot. Whit is comfortable that if they decide to go forward with additional industrial activity on that western portion they would go through the planning and zoning boards for the necessary approvals and special exceptions. Whit said he will also be sending a letter to all the concerned parties that were contacted back in March when they were going for a special exception on the entire lot. The letter will state they have no objection to the subdivision they are suggesting. The letter will be mailed out on Tuesday to abutters and interested neighbors. Dick asked if Whit got the impression, if the opportunity arose, that Peter Crowell would be receptive to having a representative from Kennebec talk with him about ways to reduce their noise. Whit answered that guardedly saying perhaps. Whit stated in the coming days there will be further conversations with Peter, and he can bring up Kennebec in those conversations.

Dan emailed the revised survey which was printed and provided to the board for review. Dick made a motion to accept the revised survey. Tamara seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. Dick thanked Dan for his quick work.

New Business:

Dick shared a quote that was received from Roger Laro to have 17 of the smoke alarms replaced at a cost of \$95 per unit, which is a total of \$1,615. Dick made a motion to allow those to be replaced. Dick will also add having the pull box in the selectman's office to be repaired. Tamara seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Board and Department Updates:

Dick shared the library trustees met and they decided on the scholarships, there were a total of five.

Tamara shared that the fire department meets tomorrow for their monthly meeting. Tamara is hoping to attend the zoning board site visit tomorrow for the lot next to the beach.

George shared that Peter is now back from vacation. He said Troy did well while Peter was away. The time clock at the highway garage broke, but they are functioning fine without it.

George shared the Conservation Committee met. One topic of discussion was the property next to the town beach, and the fact that the town was an abutter and able to voice any issues they may have. They were also discussing getting more active with water issues but aren't sure how they will get more active. The committee is in process of setting the boundary lines of securing the Wilmot border. A work detail was scheduled on the 14th for Collins Park; they have one more tree they would like Peter to cut.

George talked on the zoning board meeting and shared that the motion for rehearing was denied. The following three hearings were tabled for site visits. The Rice site visit is tomorrow at 5:30. The zoning board members have been granted permission by the Twombly's to walk the property at their convenience before their next meeting. The Kezenas' site visit is being arranged between the two attorneys. Janet added that she received calls the next day because abutters felt they had been left out of the process but assured them that was not the case and they would be kept in the loop.

Correspondence & Signatures:

Janet reported we have received some conditioned reports from the auditors involving the fire department and the library.

Pixie has prepared the warrant for unlicensed dogs to be signed.

Jill received a call from Sarah Roberts requesting holding the meetinghouse as a backup location for her wedding in September. Jill informed her that currently we are not opening the meetinghouse for rent, but that it would be brought up tonight. Her wedding is September 12th. Tamara sees no problem with it at this point. If things change before that we can inform Sarah if it would not be available. Jill will call Sarah tomorrow.

Miscellaneous Business:

George asked Whit if he has DSL internet. Whit said it is DSL and that his download speed is most likely between 4 to 10 mbps; probably closer to the higher number due to the proximity to the box.

Whit asked what the decision of the board was on Wayne Smith. Tamara said that Wayne will not be appointed. Whit will speak with Dick Petrin and they can decide how to notify Wayne of this outcome. Five people at that meeting expressed concern with the statements he was making

and the position he was taking. Whit will speak with Dick Petrin tomorrow and get back to the board. Whit feels that Wayne Smith is entitled to know where he stands with this stuff and it would be a disservice to him not to tell him why.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Jill Hastings
Deputy Administrative Assistant