

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018**

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeffrey Blodgett

TOWN OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Monahan, Justin Roshak, Peter Grote, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brewer at 3:03pm.

1st APPOINTMENT:

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Board immediately opened the scheduled Public Hearing for Amending Pole Licenses. The hearing ended at 3:17pm. (See separate minutes)

SIGN/APPROVE:

The Board approved the March 19, 2018 meeting minutes as amended, and the March 19, 2018 closed session minutes as written.

The Board reviewed and signed the March 29, 2018 Transaction List.

The Abbie Greenleaf Library Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Board.

A voluntary lot merger at Mittersill was reviewed and approved. Details of the merger are:

Map 28 Lot 1

Lots 2, 171 and 122 will be merged to this main lot with their respective acreage.

Map 28 Lot 175

Will be changed to Map 28, Lot 1, Sub-lot 1, due to it having a standalone improvement on it.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

The Board discussed the impending crosswalk installation at Academy Street. It was reviewed that Holly had previously advised the Board that HEB Engineers was recommended by her contact at the NH DOT due to HEB Engineers recent experience doing crosswalks for other towns giving them familiarity with regulations and ADA compliancy.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to contract HEB Engineers for the crosswalk design at Academy Street/Church Parking Lot. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

2nd APPOINTMENT: At 3:30 PM, Officer Ryan Jarvis, who has been serving as a part-time officer and was recently selected as the top candidate for the open sergeant position, was informally sworn in as the Town's new Police Sergeant in the main room. Sergeant Jarvis did not need to be sworn in formally as he already was when he began working for the Town.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Brewer read a letter from Lydia Cumbee urging the Board to use the \$3,000 voted into the Executive Budget at Town Meeting for its intended purpose of contracting a company to design and host a new Town of Franconia website. Chairman Brewer said the Board has not yet made a decision and is still considering the issue and gathering information. Chairman Brewer said that upon Holly Burbank's return from vacation the Board may wish to hold a meeting with the issue being placed on the agenda for discussion and public input about what people would like to see on the site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission: Jill Brewer, referencing the Conservation Committee's update at a previous meeting, recapped that the Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) is making changes to wetland regulations. Jill said that upon reviewing the written changes, the Conservation Commission found them difficult to understand as applied to the current regulations. The Town has until April 20th to submit their comments to the DES and the Commission will likely comment that clarification is requested.

Jill Brewer also said that the Conservation Commission also discussed the Japanese Knotweed on the Gale River Trail and River Walk Trail. The plan put forth is to do trail work during the spring on areas where the Japanese Knotweed is not present and do the areas where the Knotweed is present during the fall.

CIP Meeting: None

Energy Commission: Eric Meth referred to Karen Foss for the Energy Commission update as he was not at the last meeting. Karen said the Energy Commission would like to investigate the high energy costs at the Safety Services Building and plans to send a party over to do an assessment. Karen said they would also like to check into the Water Department's energy consumption.

Eric added that it had been discussed that former Selectman Costa had suggested the Library should undergo an energy audit due to their high consumption as compared to Lafayette School. Karen asked if that was based on Lafayette School's electricity bill as presented on the spreadsheet in the Town Report, which only shows Franconia's portion, not the full amount paid by all three towns. Jill Brewer said she would inquire with former Selectman Costa to find out if those figures were what gave her concern.

Northern Pass: Eric said a presentation on the status of the Northern Pass project is scheduled in Lancaster next week. The SEC's written decision is still pending and due by 3/31.

Planning Board: Eric Meth reported that the Planning Board is meeting 03/27 for a site plan review of the Whitney Building/Iron Furnace Brewery.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Grote asked who is responsible for deciding what goes on the sign at Peabody and Smith. Jill said that Kim Cowles is the person that physically updates the sign and some direction comes from Holly. Jenny Monahan commented that in instances of pertinent events, Holly Burbank usually asks Kim to post notice. Other postings, such as congratulatory remarks or recreational events are generally provided by Kim Cowles, and there is no formal process in place. Mary said she thinks there should be a central collection point for sign posting suggestions.

Karen Foss said she is confused about the vote for \$3000 raised to be put towards contracting a professional website design and host company and why it is not being appropriated for that specific purpose. Jill Brewer and Eric Meth answered, saying that while legally the Board is not obligated to use the funds for that purpose, the Board is currently trying to gather collective input and do what is best for the Town.

Dawn Steele said that she thinks the Board should listen to the will of the Town expressed by vote and the cost of upgrading the site is relatively small for such a meaningful town improvement.

Mary Grote and Peter Grote expressed their agreement with Dawn Steele's and Karen Fosses comments.

Eric Meth said no decision has been made, the Board is proceeding carefully, and the topic will be examined going forward.

With no further discussion, the Board adjourned at 4:02 PM on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary