

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Keith Batchelder, Ken & Linda Ford, Bob Montagno, Red McCarthy, Scott Leslie, Joan Hartford.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

APPOINTMENTS:

Red McCarthy & Scott Leslie – Park View Drive Inspection: Red gave a report on the condition of Park View Drive as it is under consideration for takeover by the Town. He said the road would need grading, and some replenishment to crown the surface. Scott Leslie said the addition of the road would add 45 minutes to an hour of plowing time to that route, and adding roads will eventually necessitate a new hire for the Highway Department. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to bring the addition of Park View Drive as a Town road to Town Meeting for vote. Town Administrator Burbank will send a letter to the Homeowner's Association letting them know what work is required to the road before it could be taken over.

Bickford Hill Bridge Bid Opening: Town Administrator Burbank announced that the one bid received for the refurbishment of Bickford Hill Bridge was significantly over the anticipated project cost of \$200,000. HEB Engineers suggested it may be beneficial to rebid the project later with the work to be done in November, when the construction industry is not as busy. This would incur a cost of \$3,900 from HEB Engineers to update the contract, put out the RFP, conduct the mandatory meeting at the bridge and vet the interested parties. Due to the received bid being significantly higher than anticipated, Town Administrator Burbank is going to reach out to the bidder to confirm that there was not an error made, as the figure cited for debris removal was much higher than expected.

Franconia ArtWalk Association – Bob Montagno and Joan Hartford, a member of the White Mountain Garden Club, met with the Board to propose a garden installation on the property next to the Heritage Museum. Bob also spoke about another installation, wire metal oak leaves in the triangle of property between The Strand Hair Salon and the entryway to the elementary school.

SIGN/APPROVE:

The Board approved the May 20th, 2019 meeting minutes as amended and the May 28th, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

After being signed by Easton and Sugar Hill's Boards, the Tri-Town Transfer Station Agreement was signed by the Board and is now ready to be sent to the Attorney General.

Presby Recycling – Junkyard/Auto Salvage License Application: Town Administrator Burbank said Presby's Junkyard licensing had expired last year. She notified them and they paid last year's and this year's license fees.

Record of Appointments: The Board approved the Record of Appointments for Charles Lovett and Gwyn Grasset as alternate Library Trustees.

Alternate to Trustees of the Trust Fund: Town Administrator Burbank said Ron Baillergeon has not been able to consistently attend TOTF meetings but would like to remain a Trustee. Therefore, it was suggested that an interested party could be appointed as an alternate.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to appoint Janice Cole as an alternate member to the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

2018 Property Tax Abatement Applications: Avitar Associates of New England has reviewed the Abatement Applications and submitted their recommendations for the following abatement requests.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to change the assessed value down \$8,500 for Richard Bielefield's property taxes, Map 5 Lot 2, and to issue an abatement. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to change the assessed value down \$14,100 for Steven Newell's property taxes for Map 5 Lot 1, and to issue an abatement. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to change the assessed value down \$69,900 for TTX Meadow Realty LLC, Map 13 Lot 18, and to issue an abatement. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to change the assessed value down \$300 for Rebecca Coffin Vickery's property at Map 14 Lot 92, and issue an abatement. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept Avitar Associates of New England's recommendation to not give property tax abatements to T&T Mtn. Investments LLC (Map 24 Lot 2-1), Kiril Roianov (Map 14 Lot 89), and Kirby Family Trust (Map 8 Lot 1-22). Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

2019 Property Tax Abatements: Town Administrator Burbank said The Bancroft House became tax exempt last year but was mistakenly sent a tax bill this year. Also, a camper at Fransted Campground was removed from the property so should not have been taxed. The Board approved both abatements.

A Septic Plan for Ski Pine Club Road was approved by the Board.

The June 6, 2019 Transaction List was reviewed and signed.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Monthly Budget Review: The Selectmen briefly reviewed the budget printouts for May.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Holly Burbank said Evergreen Apartments demolition is anticipated to begin this week and should take about a week. Bickford Hill Bridge project had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ken and Linda Ford wrote the Board to express their concern about the lack of a crosswalk at Church and Academy Streets posing a danger to pedestrians. They said the issue is worse during events on the Dow when the road has cars parked on both sides, obscuring visibility of the roadsides. The Ford's said they would hate to see this year's budget cuts affect children's safety.

Selectman Meth said there had been a plan and engineering done for a crosswalk when Bernadette Costa was on the Board. Chairman Brewer said this issue concerns the Board as well.

After a discussion about ways to improve pedestrian safety there, it seemed that stationing an officer there during events to keep traffic slow might be the best course of action for the time being.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said the next meeting is June 16th.

Chamber of Commerce: None.

Conservation Commission: Did not meet in May, no update.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the meeting was held on May 22nd and discussed an energy audit for the school, continues to discuss solar initiatives and would like to create a 10 year plan for reducing Franconia's carbon footprint.

Northern Pass: None.

Planning Board: No meetings currently scheduled.

Tri-Town Transfer Station Committee: Meeting June 18th at 4pm at the Sugar Hill Town Hall.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Keith Batchelder said the drainage culvert from a small pond at his property on Plantation Rd has become occluded with an invasive weed that is causing the pond to become unusually high giving concerns of flooding. Keith and his wife usually clean the culvert every year but the weeds are too thick to be able to do that this year. He said the culvert is now completely submerged, and he has since learned that the culvert is not on his property but seems to be owned by the state. Holly Burbank said

she will discuss the issue with Scott Leslie and see what can be done.

Mary Grote asked about the abatement for the property owned by TTD Meadow Realty, LLC. Chairman Brewer read the reassessment recommendation by Avitar aloud that detailed the reasons the abatement was recommended.

Dawn Steele asked for clarification of the Transfer Station Sub-Committee Update in the May 20th minutes, regarding an annual fee or a “pay each time” recycling fee. Chairman Brewer said it was one of several ideas discussed to help offset the costs of recycling but there were no plans made to move forward with that at this time.

Dawn also asked about the 2018 welfare expenditure, and if the almost \$20,000 was mostly rent or other types of expenses. Town Administrator Burbank said about \$14,000 of the year’s expense was for one individuals housing due to unique circumstances.

With no further input, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 4:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary