

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING

Monday, 08/13/2018, at Town Offices

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jeff Blodgett, Jill Brewer.

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Justin Roshak, Bob Montagno, Timothy Egan, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Ginny Jeffreys, Chief Mac Cashin.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm

APPOINTMENTS:

Timothy Egan – Write-In Candidate for State Representative: Mr. Egan met with the Board to introduce himself as a candidate, provide some personal and professional history and chat with the Board about what his thoughts are on issues facing the North Country.

Chief Cashin: The Chief's periodic update to the Board was primarily focused on the parking issue in Franconia Notch. He said progress has been made with providing alternative solutions to roadside parkers by way of a shuttle that will provide transportation to trailheads from 8am to 8pm Thursday thru Sunday. Chief Cashin said discussion between the State, Franconia PD and Lincoln PD has resulted in the State considering grant funding for the police departments (Franconia, Lincoln and State police) that will handle Franconia Notch parking issues and ticketing to pay for officer time. Chief Cashin also said that a town ordinance would be needed to enforce the roadside parking ban, which will be written at a later time. Chief Cashin hopes that the notification campaign and addition of the shuttle will drastically reduce the roadside parking and necessity for ticketing.

The Board entered non-public session at 3:41pm.

The Board left non-public session at 4:12pm.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Bob Montagno: Bob first updated the Board on the trail project he is working on. He said the community support is strong and an individual has offered to create a charitable trust for the project that would be separate from the Town and have its own Board of Directors. Bob said fundraising is being discussed and fundraising support offered.

Bob also spoke regarding the Town Sewer research he has done. He suggested hiring Red McCarthy to do a feasibility study. Town Administrator Burbank said that perhaps the Water Department should be consulted regarding the Town Sewer idea before contracting any parties for a study. Holly also said that funding is in question and perhaps the request for funds should go to Town Meeting. The Board agreed that Bob could ask Red what the study may cost and report back.

SIGN/APPROVE:

The Board approved the July 30, 2018 meeting minutes as amended.

The Board reviewed and signed the August 16, 2018 Transaction List.

Chairman Brewer drafted a letter to the NHDOT to support the Town's application for the Transportation Alternatives Program. Prior to the Board approving the letter, there was a brief discussion in response to an attendees concern

about possible implications of accepting state funding as related to State road easements. The Board and Holly Burbank clarified that the letter and application do not enter the Town into any binding agreement.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

2018 FYTD Budget: Holly Burbank provided the 2018 Fiscal Year to Date budget for the Board's review. Holly let the Board know that the Heating Fuel line for the Buildings and Grounds budget has been exceeded by approximately \$6,000. Holly said she is still researching this issue.

Donation of Picnic Table from Harrison Chadwick: Holly let the Board know that Harrison Chadwick wishes to donate a new picnic table to the Town that he hopes could be on the Library lawn between the Library and Town Hall. Holly said the Library was not opposed to having a picnic table there.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the donation of a picnic table from Harrison Chadwick. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Other Discussion:

IOOF Safe: Holly said that Chief Cashin is interested in the locked safe in the main room at Town Hall if the Town is interested in selling it.

Town Administrator Update: Holly Burbank provided a written update that is attached to these minutes.

Correspondence:

Lynn Kenerson wrote the Board to suggest putting a Little Free Library in Town and volunteered to maintain it. The Board asked Holly to invite her to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation Commission:

Chairman Brewer said the conservation placards have arrived and will be placed around the conserved lands perimeter.

The Lawrence property was walked and it was observed that the new beaver dams are in a different area. The Conservation Commission is not recommending any action at this time.

Route 18/Lafayette Brook Bridge: It was discussed that some rerouting of the stream will be necessary for this project.

Profile Lake Boardwalk: Chairman Brewer said Ginny Jeffryes had walked around Profile Lake feels that the wetlands at both ends of the lake will be negatively impacted. The updated plans are not as bad as the original plans but the project is not supported by the Conservation Commission.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is September 18th at 4:30pm.

After the Conservation Commission update, Town Administrator Burbank asked if the Board would like to formalize their position on the boardwalk project.

Selectman Meth made a motion to state that the Franconia Board of Selectman is officially opposed to the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Foundation's Profile Lake Path and Boardwalk project. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

CIP: Is preparing to begin meetings.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission will reconvene in September.

Planning Board: None

Northern Pass: Eversource has filed their appeal with the NH Supreme Court.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said the River Walk trail project was discussed with Bob Montagno and a replacement for Brenda Aldrich is still being sought to organize the Lilac Festival.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ginny Jeffries said the Conservation Commission supported the sidewalk project but not the widening of Rte. 116. Ginny said that as a property owner she personally has concerns about granting any sort of easement to the State until Northern Pass is totally eliminated.

Chairman Brewer said the specifics of the project have not yet been determined and the TAP funding is not contingent on the final plans—the sidewalk could be extended on either side, and she hopes good things can be planned for the Town without letting the fear of Northern Pass stifle improvements; some of which have been on hold for years because of Northern Pass.

Peter Grote opined that proceeding with the pursuit of grant funding prior to obtaining property rights seemed presumptuous, but that 116 is indeed a very dangerous road for cyclists. Chairman Brewer said the TAP funding is very competitive and applying does not mean the Town has to accept the funding if it is granted, but applications are only accepted for a certain period of time.

Selectman Meth read an email from Kris Pastoriza about state paving projects in 2020 and that tying Town road projects into that may be of some benefit to the Town.

With no further discussion, the Board adjourned at 5:29pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary