

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 AT TOWN HALL**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Meth, Jeff Blodgett. Chairman Jill Brewer arrived at 3:45pm.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Burbank, Scott Leslie, Justin Roshak, Jean Acres, Kris Pastoriza, Kim Cowles, Peter Grote, Dawn Steele.

**The meeting was called to order by Selectman Meth at 3:00pm.**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Scott Leslie – Review of Engineer Report – Road Takeover:** Scott met with the Board to discuss the proposed Town adoption of Trailside Road and Balancing Rock Road. Scott expressed concerns that there are many private roads in Franconia, and if the Town begins adopting the private roads we will have too many roads to maintain. There was also discussion about who would pay to get the roads up to the engineer's recommended specs; it was determined this would be the road's residents/homeowner's association. Holly Burbank and Scott Leslie will do some research and gather some financials to report back to the Board.

**SIGN/APPROVE:**

The September 10, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

The pavilion contract was briefly discussed. Kim Cowles said we are in the process of getting an updated contract signed between Presby Construction and the Town.

The Board signed a Quitclaim Deed for 96 Slalom Lane.

A Solar Permit Application – TTW, LLC – 244 Main Street was approved.

A Building Permit Application – 252 Oaks Road – Map 4 Lot 13 was approved.

**TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Town Hall Parking Lot Grate** – Kim Cowles requested permission to replace the grate in the Town Hall parking lot as it is in need of repair and posing a hazard to car tires at this point.

Selectman Meth made a motion to expend \$3200.00 from the Buildings Maintenance Fund for the replacement of the grate. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:**

Holly let the Board know that budget season is approaching and she will be beginning the process with department heads soon, and develop a budget timeline for the Board's review soon after.

Holly let the Board know that the Aspen Hill Road fire pond is in the process of being dredged but the 10 wheeler truck broke down while on the job. The project is on hold for the moment while the truck situation is sorted out.

**Town Hall Renovations Update:**

- Sound reduction boards have been installed.
- We are waiting for the new hardware for the front doors.
- The floor of the main room will be refinished in October.

Holly also said she has a friend who works on safes and thinks it is likely that he can open the I.O.O.F safe at Town Hall, and Chief Cashin would still like to purchase the safe once it is opened.

**Handicap Ramp Update:** Holly Burbank said the ramp absolutely has to be replaced in the spring as its safety can no longer be deemed reliable with only repairs thereafter. Bernadette Costa has been grant researching and may have found an applicable grant. There is an October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the grant application. Holly asked the Board to make an exception to seeking three estimates in this instance due to the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. She has reached out to HEB Engineers to provide a design estimate as they have worked with the Town extensively on other projects.

Chairman Brewer made a motion for the Town to expend up to \$5000 for the planning and engineering of a design for the handicap ramp at Town Hall. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

**Kris Pastoriza:** Kris said Quanta Subservice encountered hydrocarbon while boring during the Northern Pass project. She has notified the Department of Environmental Services but has not received a response. She requests that the Board get involved, and will email the information to Eric Meth.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Holly received a letter from North Country Council advising that the Town is allowed to have two commissioners on the Council and currently have none. Holly said the Planning Board nominates the commissioners and they are then appointed by Board of Selectmen. Selectman Meth will take this to the Planning Board for consideration.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Conservation Commission:** Kim Cowles said the dam on Mountain View Rd. breached this past spring and its pending repairs were discussed.

Kim also said the boundary of the conserved land at McKenzie Woods will be marked with the Conservation Commission plaques.

Cory Rush and Kim have been doing trail work at the section of the Riverwalk trail between Splude's Place and the formerly Bastianelli/Town owned property doing tractor work and adding gravel. Ledge Pack was put down with the help of volunteer students from the high school.

The Japanese Knotweed problem was briefly discussed, with it looking like professional removal of the weed will have to wait until next year as it must be done in the fall and pulling the arrangements together at this time in the season would be difficult.

**CIP:** Selectman Blodgett reported that the first CIP meeting of the year was September 19<sup>th</sup> and the committee began with reviews of the Highway Department's and Life Squad's vehicles and equipment. Selectman Blodgett said Scott Leslie would be invited to the next CIP meeting.

**Energy Commission:** The Energy Commission reconvened on September 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed future projects. The next meeting is October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Board:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Pass:** Selectman Meth attended the NHMA conference on September 14<sup>th</sup> and said there was overwhelming support for the floor proposal to support a bill that would clarify that the NH Site Evaluation Committee does not have jurisdiction over the use of municipal roads for merchant utility projects.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Selectman Jeff Blodgett said the Chamber discussed the River Walk project and Japanese Knotweed problem at the most recent meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Dawn Steele asked if any areas are chemical sprayed to eliminate the Knotweed, that the areas be posted so the public can take precautions with pets/children. Dawn also asked regarding the availability of the Town audit report. Holly Burbank said she would have it posted to the website when it is available electronically.

The Board entered non-public session at 4:15pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(c).

The Board left non-public session at 4:50pm. Selectman Brewer made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary