



**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**

**INCORPORATED 1764**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 AT 3:00 PM AT TOWN OFFICES**

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**TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mr. Eric Meth, Chairman, Ms. Jill Brewer, Ms. Bernie Costa.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Burbank Town Administrator, Chris Gautreau Admin Asst.

**INVITED GUESTS:** None invited for today's meeting.

**GENERAL PUBLIC:** Mr. Peter Grote, Justin Roshak.

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

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**ITEMS FOR BOS REVIEW/APPROVAL/DENIAL/DISPOSITION:**

- 1) Minutes of September 18, 2017- The meeting minutes were reviewed with Selectman Costa making a motion to approve the amended minutes with Selectman Brewer seconded with all voting in favor.
- 2) Transaction List- September 28, 2017- The transaction list was reviewed and signed by The Board of Selectmen.
- 3) Septic Permit-Shachoy- Map 28/ Lot 109: The septic permit for Shachoy was reviewed and approved by The Board.
- 4) Coventry Ridge Septic System: The septic permit was reviewed and approved by The Board.
- 5) Driveway Permit- Reinhold- Map5 Lot 10/Sublot 1: The Reinhold Driveway permit was reviewed and approved by The Board.
- 6) Building permits: The Building Permits were tabled till next week's Board of Selectmen's meeting.

## **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS::**

### **RE: 3:00 pm- Mr. Kevin Johnson-Gale River Motel- Business Development**

ACTION(S) Mr. Johnson came in and offered his opinions and recommendations to revitalize downtown Franconia. He suggested making Franconia friendlier to promote the opportunity for new business to thrive. Kevin also gave a synopsis of how Franconia thrived in the past and was tied to Cannon Mountain. He goes on to suggest that we should retain the small village feel and to tie in all the assets that Franconia offers such as The Heritage Museum, Iron Furnace area, and The Frost House. Kevin also suggests that a concert series, farmers market, and holiday specific events be offered. Franconia could also be “For all things biking” he states because Franconia already has great bike trails and the infrastructure to create even more opportunities.

The Welcome Center was also discussed and Mr. Johnson recommended a renovated welcome center with a warming hut with handicap accessible restrooms as ways to showcase our commitment to community development. Finding our niche was a key aspect for bringing all of these ideas to fruition.

Chairman Meth commented that these were great ideas and will take under advisement. Chairman Meth thanked Mr. Johnson for coming in with all of these concrete and well thought-out suggestions he offered.

### **RE: 3:30pm- Downtown Sidewalk Parking/ DOS**

ACTION(S) There were no business owners or representatives present today for the planned discussion.

**RE: 4:00PM- HEB Engineering- FEMA Funding Opportunities** Mr. Chris Fornier of HEB Engineering came in today to discuss what his company offers with regards to the flooding damage that Franconia sustained on July 01,2017, and in particular the Wells Road culvert. Chris passed out a meeting agenda delineating the history of projects completed by HEB and the mechanics of applying for funding through The Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA), and the order of tasks which need to be completed. Chris advised that the town must prove that improvements are necessary and cost-effective by providing the following:

- a) Hydraulic Study
- b) Probable Construction Costs i.e. estimates.
- c) A Benefit-Cost Analysis

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- FEMA DR-4329 was also reviewed focusing on the order of events that must occur to be considered. Similar to the FEMA Public Assistance program, this grant program also states that the project must be identified in the Town Hazard Mitigation Plan, which Holly replied that it was in fact part of the plan.

The New Hampshire State-Aid Bridge Program was also discussed with any new projects currently being programmed for FY 2025 funding.

Chris also advised time deadlines, public hearings to vet the project, as well as letters of support for the project(s), from the Board of Selectmen, local business, state officials, and community leaders all in support of the project and the associated financial obligations.

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**TOPICS FOR REVIEW/UPDATE/ DISCUSSION**

- 1) TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE- HOLLY BURBANK: Holly reported that she will be working on the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

Holly is also working on the Tri-Town Recreation Agreement as well as the Tri-Town Transfer Agreement. After meeting with Jennifer Gaudette of Sugar Hill, Holly will be making some changes to the agreement(s) and will forward to The Board once completed. She also stated that the agreement was pretty comprehensive and is hoping to have the agreement(s) finished soon.

The press conference on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Plymouth regarding Northern Pass will be attended by Ms. Burbank.

Holly reported that Presby Construction would like to bid on the removal of recyclables from the Transfer station. Holly will be meeting with Mr. Wells regarding this.

Jan Lechnir from Better Bookkeeping will be coming in next month to set up QuickBooks for Fiscal Year 2018.

- 2) CMAQ UPDATE: Selectman Brewer reported attending the recent CMAQ Workshop and came away with a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the program.
- 3) ERIC METH- FIRE DEPT TRAINING/ LADDER TRUCK COMMENTS & PICTURES: Eric reported some positive and commendable comments from some tourists that witnessed The Franconia Volunteer Fire Department members performing drills and practice recently. Eric also had some fine photographs of the members in action.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTING:**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** There was no news or updates this week.

**CIP COMMITTEE:** The CIP Committee will be meeting on Wednesday September 27, 2017 at 3:00pm.

**ENERGY COMMISSION:** Chairman Meth discussed re-thinking the opportunity to fund the GIS aspect of the Street Light Project. This would be an additional two thousand dollars which would be financed through the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority, NHCDFA. Eric also mentioned the storage of the existing lighting that will be removed as well as the new infrastructure LED lights when they arrive. The Board recommended having Karen Foss and James Fitzpatrick appear at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on October 02, 2017 at 3:00pm.

Eric updated everyone on the lighting aspect of the Crosswalk Project, and reports that whatever is chosen to illuminate this area should be fine as the restrictions are not as stringent as assumed.

The Energy Committee is in the preliminary stages for the proposed solar panel project for Lafayette Regional School.

Eric discussed how our energy data is documented through Portfolio Manager, and how this task may be revised in the future.

**PLANNING BOARD** : There was no new news from The Planning Board.

**NORTHERN PASS** : Chairman Meth reported on Christine Fillmore's e-mail pertaining to the order that came down to suspend the Site Evaluation Committee Hearings based on Department of Transportation rights of way that are lost, incorrect, or uncertain. The order was not to suspend the hearings but to recall the contractors for a more accurate report on these rights of way.

Eric also introduced and read into the meeting minutes, two documents pertaining to the status of Northern Pass. The focus was on the assessment that there would be no tree clearing and underscoring the revelation that the project needs 122 exceptions from the Department of Transportation. Attorney Lara Saffo of the Grafton County Attorney's Office questioned former Commissioner Bob Varney on these discrepancies. The report goes on to say that 99% of the project will be buried in people's front yards unless DOT grants Northern Pass massive exceptions to their rules.

Eric also introduced the Adjudicative Hearing Status memorandum from September 22, 2017. The memorandum's focal point is on witness scheduling and cross-examinations.

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#### **PUBLIC INITIATIVES/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Mr. Grote commented on Northern Pass and the hundreds of persons on the exceptions list that involve the entire route that Northern Pass is proposing. Peter is reworking the list by issue and location and hopes to have it finished by the end of the week. The Site Evaluation Committee was forced to recall witnesses regarding the construction path according to Peter. Peter also commented on the upcoming SEC meeting on Friday September 29, 2017 and the rules and procedures for asking questions to witnesses. No other abutters are allowed to ask questions to our attorney, Ms Christine Fillmore, but to answer questions if asked a question. This would open the door to making a statement by having Ms. Fillmore ask a question.

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#### **OTHER WORK/ COMMUNICATION(S)/ ACTION(S)**

Holly received an e-mail titled "Community Relations to Municipalities" from Catalina of Eversource today. Eversource has contracted with SGC Engineering to conduct field survey work on the Department of Transportation rights of way from Easton to Pittsburg, N.H. The work will continue through the week of October 23, 2017 and will not infringe on any private property.

Selectman Costa had some questions on a few topics:

Status of the Pavilion Project; the consensus is that it will be put off till spring 2018.

What are the minimum specifications from the Highway Department with respect to servicing their vehicles and equipment- Holly will discuss with Mr. Leslie this coming week.

Do we have a maintenance fund for the grader? Yes, and it is funded with seven thousand dollars yearly.

The discussion then centered on specific crosswalks in town that may be abandoned due to either location, or use, or both.

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**ITEMS TO REVISIT:**

<b>AirBnB's</b>	<b>Cisterns &amp; Fire Ponds (3/28/16)</b>
<b>Buildings Plan</b>	<b>Updating Pole License Agreement</b>
<b>Road Plan</b>	<b>Purchasing &amp; Bidding Policy</b>
<b>Sidewalk Plan</b>	<b>Purchase of Presby Building</b>
<b>Tri-Town Recreation Agreement</b>	<b>Antique Fire Truck Storage</b>
<b>FD Generator in Trailer</b>	

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\* Chairman Meth made a motion to enter a non-public session @ 5:53 for legal and personnel issues as per RSA 91-A: 3, II, (c). Selectman Brewer seconded the motion with all in favor.

\*The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 6:15 pm.

\*Chairman Meth made a motion to seal the Non-Public minutes with Selectman Brewer seconded, and all voting in favor at 6:15 pm.

\*With a unanimous voice vote, The Board adjourned the meeting @ 6:16 pm.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

*Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau*

Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau

Administrative Assistant