

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, August 15, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, August 15, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle (came in at 5:29 pm), Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett

Guests of the Board: Karen Foss, Rick Gaudette, Roger O'Dell, Walter Palmer, Dinny Richmond

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Tinalyn Caisse-Knox, Russ Cumbee, Bob Sherburn

MINUTES: 8/8/16

BOS Minutes 8/8/2016: A formal reading of the August 8, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as written. The Closed Session Minutes of 8/1/2016 were also approved as amended.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 8/18/16 - Approved and signed by the Board

PA-28 Form Request – This form is required annually. Signed by the board

Solar Permit – Girouard – Map 16/Lot 21-14 – Tabled because building inspector has not signed it.

APPOINTMENTS:

Russ Cumbee videoed the meeting today.

3:00 – Rick Gaudette, Roger O'dell & Karen Foss – As a Trustee of the Trust Fund and C.I.P. Chairman, Karen Foss reported that she had contacted the DRA in regards to expending money from the tanker fund for the tanker ladder truck. She said that it could not be done. We have the opportunity to spend \$69K for a ladder truck which has a tanker. She was told by the DRA we cannot do this. The Trustees do not believe it is appropriate use of the fund. Bernie asked her if she and the other two Trustees would attend the Wednesday Special Meeting regarding this issue so that they can explain this to the attendees. Rick and Roger voiced their disappointment because the Selectmen had led them to believe that the Fire Department would be able to make this purchase if the vote at the Special Meeting passed. It was decided that there were two other options: 1. Sally will call to see if we can get the wording of the purpose of the Special Meeting amended on the floor to read “make the Selectmen Agents to expend the Capital Reserve Fund for the Ladder Truck”, 2. Eric will explore the option of having the state suggest another alternative.

3:30 – Walter Palmer – He is our official spokesperson for the town in regards to Northern Pass and is on the Northern Pass Committee. He has advised the town that the crews out on Route 116 are not being supervised as Northern Pass said they would be. DOT should be monitoring this. There are geotechnical borings happening out there that are creating a disturbance. Workers are parking on private land owners properties without regard for any damage they may cause. They are taking water from the local streams and then the chemicals are being put out onto the ground causing sediment in the streams. They are filling the bore holes with a polymer that the foreman of the job site wouldn't even touch with his bare hands. They are not backfilling the areas properly. There is a problem and Walter wants to know what

the town will be doing about this. The Northern Pass Committee is urging the town to take action against the manner in which the borings are being done. Easton is requesting that DOT provide inspectors and want us to stand by our town ordinances. Walter said he would assist in writing a letter in regards to this to DOT in District 1. He would like the town to set up a meeting with the DOT. Bernie asked Sally to try and get someone from District One to come to our meeting on 8/22/16 at 4pm. Walter thought the person we should contact is Mr. Esterbrook. We want copies of the permits and for D.O.T. to prove to us what the width of the ROW is. Bernie requested that the Northern Pass Committee provide the Selectboard with a list of the right-of-ways as provided to them by the D.O.T. even if they seem to be imprecise. These crews are polluting the streams. We were promised best practices and supervision by DOT. The Conservation Commission should have a say in this matter as well. The Committee will ask Ginny Jefferies to attend the meeting on the 22nd.

There is still an issue in regards to how wide the ROW for Route 116 is per Walter Palmer and Bob Sherburn. They own property on both sides of the road. Whatever the measurement is they would own to the center line of the road.

We will ask John Monaghan to attend the meeting on the 22nd if Sally can arrange for the DOT representative.

3:45 – Dinny Richmond - came to ask if they could put a Big Hearted Books bin outside the library between the ramp and rink for donated books that will pay 3 cents a pound for old books. She spoke to the town of Bethlehem which works with this company. They service Bethlehem once a month. Sally will speak to Greg at the Transfer Station in regards to placing one at the transfer station. Dinny was asked to contact Kim in regards to the exact placement of the bin. The Board approved this.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Septic Design – Elliot Map 16/Lot37-6 – was discussed.

Lafayette Brook Parcel – Bernie went to the meeting that was held last Thursday at the Park Headquarters to hear the state’s plan for acquiring the land along Route 18 that is across from Cannon Mt. The comment period is from August 11 – September 11th. Bernie asked that a copy of the plan be placed on the Town Website so citizens can access the email address.

Community Sign – Andy Smith, Sally Small, Bernie Costa, Kim Cowles and Lydia Cumbee met at the sign. The sign belongs to and was paid for by Andy Smith at Peabody & Smith. Andy has donated the use to the town. In order to help with the sight of view at the intersection, Andy has agreed to move the sign closer to their building. Also the tree on the church lawn is a view factor. The tree is partially dead. Bernie will speak to the Church in regards to this after she has gotten confirmation from the Chief of Police that this will help the sight issue.

Franconia Recreation Committee Vacancy – We are looking for a person to replace Beth Horan’s position on the Committee. It has to be a resident of Franconia. Tina Lynn Caisse Knox is interested in the committee position. The board suggested that she check the Recreation Website for details and that she contact the Chairman, Matt Koehler from Easton.

Town Administrative Position – Eric and Bernie discussed the Town Hall Staffing Committee’s recommendation for the Town Staffing Positions. Wages, job descriptions and authority was discussed. Bernie suggested that because the recommended Town Administrator position was such a change from an Administrative Assistant position that they have a Public Hearing to get feedback on the change. Her concern was that the Role of the Selectmen would be dramatically changed and more authority would be given to the Town Administrator than has been the case for 25 years. She suggested calling John on his phone as he had requested if there was going to be a vote. Russ informed the Board that he had received a text that stated that John would arrive soon. The Board decided to wait for his arrival before taking a vote.

John Lachapelle came into the meeting at 5:29pm. There was animated discussion about the need for a Public Hearing. John thought that for as long as the Selectboard had had the MRI report, he was surprised that the other Board members were just now asking questions about it. Bernie corrected the length of time he had indicated and questioned his accusation in light of the fact that the Town Hall Staffing committee had indicated in the minutes of their meeting that they had basically decided on what they were going to recommend by May 9th but withheld that information from the Selectboard until they had an actual written resignation from the Administrative Assistant. Bernie stated that she believed their reasoning was not a valid reason for withholding a recommendation. John first denied having that recommendation agreed upon by the Committee by the May meeting and subsequently corrected himself. Bernie also questioned the disseminating that recommendations to the public, as had been evident from the prior meeting, **before** allowing the Selectboard to view it. John stated that the document was public information. Bernie responded that it was **not** public information until the Board had been given the recommendation. She further stated that the previous Selectboard had planned for July 1, 2016 as the date to initiate the search to fill the pending opening.

Eric made a motion to have a public hearing to discuss the town hall staffing recommendations from the committee, John seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

Sally will coordinate a date for this via email.

Public Input – Russ Cumbee presented Board with a copy of an RSA regarding recording of public meetings.

The Board made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 pm with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary