

A regular meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2017, at the Franconia Town Hall

Members Present: Bernardette Costa, Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, and Holly Burbank

Also Present: Kim Cowles, Rebecca Brown, Peter and Mary Grote, Robert Montagno, Ronald Baillargeon, Walter Palmer, Kathleen Ting, Karen Weiskerger, and Carol Wills

Bernardette made a motion to nominate Eric Meth as Chairman of the Select Board for 2017, seconded by Jill Brewer. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Eric called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

- **Lawrence Property Easement** – Rebecca Brown and Kim Cowles were in attendance to discuss this matter. Rebecca stated the Town purchased this property last July and Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) assisted in negotiating and raising the funds for that. The plan is that the Town will own the land and it will be permanently conserved with an easement held by ACT. The Easement is a permanent part of the property record. It will always stay with the property even if ownership is transferred to someone else. It is a legal document that precedes any other claim on the property. The Board reviewed the document in its entirety with Rebecca and Kim.

There are two documents that need to be signed, the Easement and the Baseline Report, which is a report with photographs and a description of the property at the time it was conserved. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to have Eric sign the Easement on behalf of the Board and Eric and Kim would sign the Baseline Report.

Bernardette made a motion to appoint Kim to sign the Baseline Report, seconded by Jill. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- **Approval of Minutes/Board Signatures**

- The BOS Minutes of March 13, 2017, were approved with amendments.
- The BOS Minutes of March 15, 2017, were approved with amendments.
- The Transaction List of March 20, 2017 was approved and signed by the Board.
- The Tax Collector Internet Kiosk w/Cloud Pay Installation Agreement was signed by the Board.
- Connors/Neeson Current Use Application was signed by the Board. Eric stated a new Mylar will need to be made because one of the neighbor's names was spelled incorrectly.

➤ **Committee Appointments**

Conservation Commission – Jill Brewer

CIP – Bernardette Costa

Energy Commission – Eric Meth

Northern Pass – Eric Meth

Planning Board – Eric Meth

Safety Committee – Bernardette Costa

Audit Committee - Board will hold off on appointment

➤ **Town Administrator Update**

- **Airbnb** - Holly drafted a letter for the Board which is to be sent to the owner at 41 Timber Lane and she emailed a copy to each board member. The signature line will need to be revised to show Eric as the Chairman. The Board discussed the letter and added the following sentence, "If we do not hear from you on or before April 17th, we will consult with the State Fire Marshall on how to proceed."
- **Notice to Quit** - The Notice to Quit that was sent to the Mittersill property owner was returned by the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office because payment was not included. There is a check included in the transaction list to pay for that and Eric will need to sign the Notice to Quit.
- **Deeded Properties** – Holly stated two of the parcels that were deeded may be repurchased by the owners.

➤ **Northern Pass Transmission Project Stipulation** – Eric stated that the Applicant, Eversource, was asking for stipulations from interveners so they could have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In the interim the Northern Pass Advisory Committee has decided that we are taking a stand and we are not going to submit stipulations in order to negotiate with the Applicant. Sugar Hill, Easton, and Plymouth are all taking the stand to refuse to negotiate in that regard right now.

Walter Palmer stated the moment we start to negotiate with Northern Pass they are going to consider that they have us convinced to have Northern Pass in our town and the only issue left is to negotiate a price with us. If we start to negotiate with them they are not going to give us everything we ask for, possibly nothing we ask for. They feel they have the right to come through our town whether we want them or not. We have no negotiating position with them and we should not sign an MOU with them.

Eric stated when this whole process started the first hurdle for the Applicant was the SEC determination whether their application was complete or not. The application was deemed to be complete; however at our last legal strategy session our attorneys

essentially said their application is now 30% complete. So, for the Town to get into any negotiation with them is patently unfair when they are not negotiating in good faith.

Eric stated the Site Evaluation Committee will be visiting the intersection at Route 18 and Route 116 either on April 6th or 7th. There is no firm date or time yet.

Eric passed out information on Flood Resiliency & Community Action Workshops that will be held at the Easton Town Hall on 3/27/17, Franconia Town Hall on 4/11/17, and Sugar Hill Town Hall on 5/2/17.

➤ **Committee Reports:**

- **Audit Committee** - Peter stated he asked the auditors if they are in a position to move up their schedule so that rather than getting the results in December or November, we would get them in June which would give the Town and the Board access to well formulated financial data and reports.
- **Planning Board** – Eric stated next week the Board will have a continuation of the MTAG Grant Project and Kaela Gray from North Country Council will be in attendance to discuss further work on that.

Bernardette inquired where the Road Safety Audit stands. Kaela was going to offer help on that audit. Holly stated she was going to be put on the agenda in March or April. Eric stated she also referred us to one of her colleagues from North Country Council for the Transfer Station.

- **Perambulation Survey** – Holly stated she just received a letter about this survey and put a copy in each of the Selectmen's mailboxes. The Selectmen need to do this every seven years pursuant to RSA 51.
- **Bridges** - Bernardette stated there is a lot of information and reading material on bridges. The Town does not have a lot of bridges, but if there could be a summary with annotations of what needs to be done to each and what shape they are in it would be helpful. Holly stated that Delage Farm is on her radar.
- **CIP** – Bernardette stated the Board agreed to have her come up with a procedure for capital purchases. Dick Reinhold and Trevor Presby, who are both members of the CIP Committee, wanted to be a part of that. Bernardette suggested asking Paul Pinkham to be a part of this also. Jill will ask Paul if he is interested.

Holly stated that she will be reviewing and updating all the Town policies and one of them is the financial policies and the CIP purchasing would certainly be

included in that. Holly would like to be part of that discussion so that she can work on that and get it in writing.

- **Energy Commission** – Eric stated the warrant article did pass and they are looking to go forward with the financing. Bernie received a concern from a resident about the possibility of the light at Dow and Academy Streets being turned off. Eric stated there are 142 lights and they have built into the financing for about 70 lights to be turned off. There was discussion about the hue or color of the light to be chosen.
- **Wages and Salary Committee** - The Board agreed this committee has completed its work and should be discontinued. Holly will send each member a thank you for their hard work and service.

➤ **Public Input**

Ron Baillargeon questioned why the Town does not want to sit down with Eversource and discuss construction issues and some of the obstacles that will be created if it does come through the Town. He stated he is an engineer and has worked in construction and you need to have these discussions. Eric stated that the attorney will raise these issues at the Adjudicative Hearing. Ron questioned whether you could get involved in this process without committing to a Memorandum of Understanding. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the advice the group has been given in this process.

Bernardette asked Ron when or if the time comes to enumerate some of the construction issues if he would be willing to help and Ron agreed to do that.

4:48 P.M. - Motion by Eric Meth, second by Bernardette Costa, to enter into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II(a). All were in favor and the motion passed.

5:15 P.M. – Motion by Eric Meth, second by Bernardette Costa, to come out of non-public session. All were in favor and the motion passed.

After a motion by Bernardette Costa, second by Eric Meth, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wills