

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 30, 2018 at Town Offices

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Justin Roshak, Karen Foss, Robert Peraino, Jeff Bartlett.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm

APPOINTMENTS:

Robert Peraino – Candidate for State Representative: Mr. Peraino met with the Board to discuss what local issues the Board would like to see receive attention from the State. The Selectmen suggested such issues as assistance with funds for a feasibility study for a town sewer, the issue of parking in Franconia Notch and the recent push by NH DOT to ticket the cars parked roadside, improvements to State roads, area broadband internet access and assistance from the State in improving safe alternatives to motorized transport.

Karen Foss: Karen briefly updated the Board on the status of the CIP committee, saying that she has been in communication with other committee members and that department heads have been provided with paperwork to fill out for each asset and directed to return them by August 15th. Soon, CIP meetings will be underway.

Jeff Bartlett: Mr. Bartlett informed the Board that the bottom floor of his residence at Mittersill was damaged by flooding after the Water Department did some work in front of his property (34A Sunset Ridge) approximately one month ago. He was advised to get in touch with Water Department Secretary Meaghan Caron to arrange a meeting with the Water Dept. Commissioners.

SIGN/APPROVE:

The Board approved the July 16, 2018 meeting minutes as amended.

The Board approved a Sign Permit for Northern Wolfpack Partners – Iron Furnace Brewing.

The Board approved a Building Permit for Map 24, Lot 21.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Payment in Lieu of Taxes Class Action Suit: Holly Burbank advised the Board that the Town has an opportunity to join a Class Action Suit that claims that the U.S. government underpaid some states and counties for Payments in Lieu of Taxes on federal land for which the county can't collect taxes. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to join the lawsuit.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to authorize Town Administrator Burbank to opt the Town of Franconia into the Class Action Lawsuit regarding the In Lieu of Taxes Act. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Aspen Road Fire Pond Estimate: Holly Burbank informed the Board that after posting an RFP for the dredging of the fire pond on Aspen Road, the Town did not receive any bids. Holly said that after receiving no bids, Kim

Cowles did approach some of the contractors and Peckett Construction said they would like to dredge the pond for \$4,720. The property owner has agreed to allow the Town to dredge the pond one time over the next year.

Wells Road Bridge: Holly said that Chris Fournier of HEB Engineers spoke to the DOT and they are going to accept Wells Road into the state bridge aid program. However, the bridge was not deemed a priority bridge, so will not be on the schedule for construction until 2026. At that point the Town would receive reimbursement of 80% for the project.

Church Street/Academy Crosswalk: Chris Fournier of HEB Engineers and Holly discussed the timeline for the crosswalk installation. As it is not critical that it be completed this year, they considered doing it next year which may save the Town money as the company doing the new sidewalks may wish to combine the projects. The Board agreed this may prove financially beneficial and the crosswalk could be done in the spring.

Septic Permit Map 28 Lot 177: The Board signed this septic plan at the July 16th meeting. It is for a property at Mittersill that is seeking to have some setback requirements adjusted so a new septic can be installed. The original septic system is across the road from the property on State land which they are disallowed from using again. After review by the State, it is being mandated that the Water Department approve the plan due to the proximity of water lines on the property.

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

Correspondence:

North Country Council re Changes to the River Heritage Trail Scenic Byway: A letter was received notifying the Town of a change in the structure of the of the North Country's scenic byways that affects the section of US 3 from NH 18 in Franconia to US 302 in Twin Mountain. The intent of the change is to reduce overlap between various State and federal scenic byways and provide more coherent touring routes in the area.

Shoreland Impact Permit for Profile Lake Project:

Holly let the Board know that the Town had been cc'd on the permit issued allowing the construction of a trail that will be ADA compliant for accessibility at the Old Man of the Mountain viewing area and Profile Lake. The Board discussed their concerns about the impact the construction will have on the area.

Kevin Johnson re Bancroft House: Kevin Johnson of the Bancroft House Board of Directors emailed Holly regarding the taxes the Bancroft House pays in spite of being a non-profit. Holly located a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Bancroft House that states that they would pay one third taxes due to the caretaker's apartment being part of the property. The MOU has not been revisited since 2005. The Board discussed talking with the Director/and or Bancroft House Board to bring the MOU up to date.

Brian Bottenheimer: The Town received an email from Mr. Bottenheimer, who is Harriet Taylor's son, asking for the Town's support in providing Harriet a plaque for her work on the Dow Clock restoration project. The Board agreed this would be a nice thing to do to thank Harriet for her efforts.

Karen and Gregg Weiskerger/Fransted Campground re Beaver Dam: The Weiskergers wrote that the beavers have returned to the Town's property above their campground and asked the Town to plan to install a flow mitigation device/s to avoid future flooding issues at their campground.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation Commission: None.

CIP: Is preparing to begin meetings in the next couple of weeks.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission will reconvene in September.

Planning Board: Meeting scheduled for 8/7.

Northern Pass: Eric Meth said he was informed by Margot Connors that the Society for the Protection of NH Forests wants to make a floor proposal to the NH Municipal Association to remove the NH SEC from siting energy facilities in municipal roadways. Eric is going to look into this further.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said the Chamber is still discussing future plans for the Lilac Celebration since Brenda Aldrich will no longer be organizing the event. Meeting scheduled for 8/9.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

The Board entered non public session at 4:38pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(d).

The Board left non public session at 5:14pm.

Based on the non-public discussion, Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the bid of \$40,250 from Seacoast Properties LLC for tax deeded property 96 Slalom Lane, as the winning bidders decided not to purchase the property.

Selectman Blodgett 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 Board adjourned at 5:15pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary

Town Administrator Update July 30, 2018

Road Acceptance Requests

- Red McCarthy will be looking at Trailside Road and Balancing Rock Road to determine if any work needs to be completed in order for the Town to consider taking them over. It will be mid-August before he can have a report.

TAP Funding

- I will be attending the required TAP pre-application Workshop on August 15th at Lincoln Town Hall. This is a mandatory workshop as part of the process for applying for TAP Funding.

Town Hall Renovations

- I.O.O.F (International Order of Odd Fellows) Safe in Main Hall
 - This safe has been unable to be opened, and we have had a locksmith in who is not sure he can open it without drilling the lock. With the need to move it to refinish the floors in the Town Hall, we had thought that maybe the Historical Society would want the safe for display. We have not reached out to them as of yet. I would like to discuss different options with the Board regarding its final disposition.

WWII /Dow Academy Honor Roll Plaque

- There seems to be some confusion as to who the plaque hanging outside Town Hall honors. I am not sure how we would go about finding out who the names on the plaque are.
- I reached out to Kofile Preservation Company in Essex Junction, VT to see if they would be able to restore the plaque. I heard back from them and they were unable to find a solution as to restoring it. They did suggest contacting the NH Guild of Craftsmen to see if they could point us in the right direction.
- Moving forward, the Board needs to determine if they want this plaque restored, where the money to restore the plaque is going to come from (I believe Bob Montagno mentioned the Historical Museum was willing to pay for it), and how will it be restored/preserved.
- If the Board decides to move forward with preservation instead of restoration, I feel a bid should go out to a professional finish carpenter so that it has the proper aesthetic and a professional appearance.

Ongoing Projects:

- Riverwalk & Bickford Trail Easements
- Road Acceptance Policy
- Crosswalk – NH Route 116 @ Academy Street
- Fire Pond – Aspen Road
- Tax Deed Property Bid
- 192 Main Street – Building Disposal
- Tri-Town Transfer Station Agreement
- Cooley-Jericho Community Forest MOU
- Dow Tennis Courts Proposal
- Sidewalk Reconstruction
- Town Hall Renovations

