

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, July 13, 2015

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 2:57 pm on Monday, July 13, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board – Jeff Phillips, Kim Cowles, Scott Leslie, Greg Wells, John Monaghan

Also attending – Dawn Steele, Mary & Peter Grote

SELECTMEN’S TIME:

BOS Minutes 07/06/15: Formal readings of the July 6, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of July 6, 2015 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2 - Items that we looked at... **the rear door of the hall there was no security problem but there is a heat loss issue around the door latch that goes into the door jamb.**

Bernie made a motion to accept the minutes with the above corrections; Bob seconded it with all in favor.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 07/13//2015- The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 07/13/2015.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Department Heads Meeting

Scott Leslie has been working on Kerr Road doing ditching and paving. They should be finished this week. Lafayette Drive will be started next. The crew will start tomorrow or Wednesday on Kerr Road. Lafayette Drive needs a posted speed sign. There is a default speed limit per Chief Monaghan. It is probably state mandated to be 30. Scott will check if the old culverts have been removed from Lynn Bart’s property. All roads are graded and chloride treated. Plantation Road has been done. Scott said that they would start mowing the roadsides.

Jeff Phillips is on the verge of doing a burial. He will need his tractor for that. Jeff got the water line going in the cemetery. People in the winter snap the spigots off. Jeff finished those today. He got the new truck with the landscape sides on the truck. The sides fold down which make work easier because of this access. When he did the drainage for the library roof he could drop a side and utilize it. The new person helping Jeff is doing well. Jeff commended him this morning. He used to work at a Coop previously.

Chief Monaghan – Is recuperating from Old Home Days. Summer crowd is here. Bad checks and thefts are the crimes. They have had issues at the same place with employee thefts. We have had three incidences. Traffic was intense during Old Home Days. The floats have an accordion affect creating safety issues. There were no incidences after the event. Nothing horrible happened so that is a plus.

A couple of bear went into two houses. The last one was a Fish & Game Officers home. Gary Piloted had two bears involved that had to be put down. One had to be tracked. Once a bear goes into a home he will do it again.

Issues at the Public Safety Building being worked out they are happy with it. The computer system has to be double checked. Kim thinks there is a bad smell in the gear room from the drainage pipe.

Chris came in and he said he needed to do community services. Kim has benches that need painting. Chief said Chris has to do community service which is ordered by the state. He was busted for marijuana 6 or 7 times. He was arrested by NHSP. Kim said all the benches need to be painted and he can do without supervision. It has to be done. He is not a bad guy. This is not on the town's shoulders. He can go to any town to do his community service. He has a fine of \$980. Chief will talk to him. He can pick up trash on the sides of the road. John will give him different options. He cleans up behind the businesses along the trail according to Kim.

Greg Wells - The Summer people are here and Greg and his crew are very busy. The only drawback is the recycling market. Commodity prices have dropped. He doesn't see it coming back anytime soon. Greg will fine tune and present. Everything else is the same.

Kim Cowles - Old Home Day draws a big crowd. She has concerns about crosswalks being painted right before next years Old Home Days. Recommends crowd control and no parking out front here. People were into the road. John said he will cone off from the bridge to the library next year. The 4th being on Saturday probably drew more people here. There were a lot of out of Towner's. Other towns are not offering fireworks. We got \$1024.56 from the bucket that was passed around at the event. All fireworks and concert was paid for by donation. Another issue was trash on Main Street. Maybe next year a business can take this on if they wanted for sponsoring old home day. We could put up a sign. Kim is open for suggestions. Public bathrooms are being taxed. Steve Heath suggested building public bathrooms. Maybe we should have a sign on the street in front of the town building directing people to the public bathrooms by the rink. Steve Heath & Thad Presby has been thinking about a small welcome center. All businesses are hurting for cash. Franconia is dying. It's going to be difficult. We are a retirement home now. Garnett Hill is pulling out. Both Steve Heath and Mike Ford are biding their time to retire. Mac's market does not support the town. They don't do anything to make their building more presentable. Lincoln draws the crowd. We don't want to be Lincoln. We need to be proactive to see what our niche is. Garnet Hill brought families here. How many kids are leaving? Kim does not know. We won't know until September. What will happen here in five years from now? We need to be proactive. Is that a planning board issue? Mary Grote was asked to respond to this question as she is a planning board member. Right now the planning board is updating the master plan. The Planning Board is working on a questionnaire where people can comment on what they want and what they don't want for our town. We will have a few things that are on a list for further discussion as well. All we can do is collect data from the public. What would you like to see the downtown area to look like? Mittersill is expanding and we have NMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) in town now. Trail maintenance is being done. Franstead Campground shut down the portion of the trail that goes thru their campground. The other portion of this trail is now being worked on. Maybe making the trails less

extreme so that everyone can enjoy them. We need easements to go with that and the master plan will help. Trails are on private properties. It is a nice trail that follows the brook. It used to go thru two camp sites at Franstead Campground. The owners are running a tighter ship. Kim has tried working with them. They do not want people walking thru their campsites. Someone used the outhouse in the winter time when it was shut down and ruined it for everyone else.

Kim is working on a network of trails. We became NMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) to be able to go onto WMNF. It could be a big part of rebranding Franconia for recreating. They will go to Lincoln and we will get the overflow. We need to give them a reason to come into town. The Dew Fest went down to Lincoln. The Community will need to be involved. We do not want to see the town die. When we had the Triathlon the people had nowhere to go and eat.

Kim Cowles - 3:30 – Kim Cowles – Recreation 2nd Q Budget Review - Budget is too early in the season to review. How are you doing with the wages? None of the numbers are in here. Until it is 3rd Q Kim will not know. Need two staff members per group of 8 students. Kim is not sure exactly the number of students maybe 60 or 70. We have names and can give a report. Peter would like to see a copy of that report.

Parks – was there anything that was unexpected? Lawn mower had to be serviced for about \$400. It just happened so it is not on this budget. It would come under Equipment. When Kim took over the parks, she took over the mowing the Dow, the school island, space by Dr. Wolcott's, Splude's place and Ernie Doolan's, the old Dairy bar and two places behind the guard rail going up Route 117. It does include weed whacking. Kim also takes care of the gardens. Was that Jeff's job before? White Mountain Garden Club does the flowerboxes. Do you tend any flowers out by the town hall? No, that is Jeff's area. The daisy's were planted by Kim.

Kim uses the downstairs of the hall. Do you do any plowing? She has plowed the sidewalks before. She is the backup for plowing the sidewalks. Maintenance of the Dow is done by Kim. The Playground and equipment repair is done by Kim. The water fountain was installed and is maintained. She is not responsible for shoveling. She shovels the boards at the rink. Kim tends to the rink. She snow blows the rink and then shoves the snow by the boards. Shoulders do okay it is the lower back that gets tired. The stuff she does for the Fire Department is volunteer work. Kim maintains the lawn mower and sometimes the snow blower. She has replaced lots of sheer pins on the snow blower and she repairs the weed whacker and back pack blower. Do you have different equipment than Jeff? Yes she has his hand me down equipment. The lawn mower Jeff had with zero trade in value is what she uses to do the parks.

Kim told us about a 114 acre parcel of land. It is the Lawrence property that abuts some of our town properties. It is out behind Stony Brook. We had it appraised. Working with ACT and working with Land owners. Want to put in an offer for Conservation Commission with Conservation money. We will meet on Thursday to discuss and to go forward to put an offer on it. Land has an aquifer if we ever needed water. Land is land locked which means it has no access. You could go in on Sawmill Lane and build a bridge. See if we can get a Conservation easement it is protective land and already a network of trails that go over this property. It is heavily inhabited with moose and deer which will enhance it. It will maintain easier trails. It is a nice trail and is hard to get to because the closing down of the campground trails. Parking could be on the side of Balancing Rock Road. It is Conservation Commission's money but they do have to hold a public meeting. Get all the answers ahead of time before the meeting. Mary said we have gone and looked at the parcel and have walked it. It really fits into what we have and compliments what the town has. It protects the aquifer and has lots of animals. It would be great if the town could get it. It will be an asset. We are not losing a lot of tax dollars because it is in current use.

Lathrop – Response was shown to Eric Meth. He agreed with what Sally wrote. She wants signatures on the response. We have a new end date because Mr. Lathrop did not get the certified receipt from the first mailing.

Meadowcrest – Ken brought in the road profiles. Reports will be in to be discussed for next Monday’s meeting.

Not on the agenda – Our intersection is very hazardous. Maybe we can get Stop Ahead stenciled on the pavement. We have a new larger stop sign with a red light. Bernie has tried to talk with the State. They do not respond. Should the Select board follow up? Littleton may have the stencils for Stop Ahead. Scott Leslie will ask Littleton. State has nothing to do with cross walks in town. We pay \$600-\$700 to paint the crosswalks in town. Maybe installing a stoplight or a four- way stop is the way to go. NH DOT did a study on our intersection. A resolution may be installing a new traffic light with LED at the intersection. What does Littleton do? Scott can check. We applied for grant money for stop sign enforcement. We won’t get it until 2016.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Report from Health Officer - Will be discussed during Closes Session.

Building Permit – Forest Road – Tom Beaulieu – signed and approved by the Board of Selectmen. Allan did not have to sign.

Letter from Northern Grafton County Democrats – Re: Dow Field Barbeque Annual Fund Raiser/Barbeque. They are asking for permission for beer and wine. They have done it before. Our insurance has covered it before for weddings. They cannot sell it. It has to be BYOB.

Bernie made a motion to allow them to have their beer and wine, Bob seconded it and all voted in favor.

Letter from LRH - Thanks for the letter but we are not making changes. Bob will respond to the letter.

Thank You Notes – We received a thank you note from Adaptive Sports and Centers for New Beginnings for the appropriations for 2015.

Cemetery Trustees – they are meeting today and Sally talked to Barbara - August 10 at 4pm.

Northern Pass - Margot Connors – Chairman of the Select Board of Sugar Hill is very concerned about Northern Pass using our building. She feels that Northern Pass is not cooperating to work with the people. We did agree with them that we support a group of towns that are fighting Northern Pass. She feels it is not supporting them if we allow this. Right now they are going to rent the hall and set up a trade show with tables for an informational meeting for Northern Pass.

Dawn Steele advised that Northern Pass wouldn't let anyone come in to view it if they are not a resident. Easton and Sugar Hill refused to let them set up at their town buildings. Dawn Steele suggested that we talk to Sugar Hill. Northern Pass did not hold their informational meeting at their town halls. You will need extra police for protestors and traffic control. A lot of people will show up for this. She recommended speaking with Margo and Dave Wentworth. It can be contentious. They want it from 3-11pm. They didn't have it that long with the Sunset Hill House. We do not want to be charged with discrimination. We will need extra police coverage, double the rate it is late. Give the police officers the keys. Bob not in favor of them using the hall. They have used the building before. This is a hot topic now. Peter had attended the Easton meeting. Our facility may not be big enough to handle it. We are concerned about logistics and public safety. We do believe in freedom of speech. We have a safety issue. They are using our brand to make it look like we support them. We can only have a 110 people in the building. This is a branded community that has an image in NE. It lends legitimacy to Northern Pass. It was not held in public buildings in Sugar Hill or Easton. Our town is not involved with this but Easton and Sugar Hill are. No one wants it. They will not bend. It is their way or no way. Sally will be in touch with them. It's about the use of the building and policy. It is a public safety and logistics issue. They are asking to do it here because they know that they cannot hold it anywhere. This subject is more controversial now.

Alice Shambo – called and complained about Ken King. He has a dumpster in front of his house and he hasn't done anything and she wants the dumpster to be removed. Dumpster has been there for two years. There have been a lot of calls from other chalet owners. Please remove it. Something in zoning in regards to timing. It is two years. People were told it was going to be done by the summer. Sally will write a letter requesting removal.

Technology Committee – Bob has talked to Davis.

List of items to do – The door latch on the back of the hall. You can see daylight out around the door jamb. We would like to visit the town garage, public safety building, and Jeff's garage. We can come in earlier to visit. When we go to the public safety building we would want someone from the fire department, police department and the life squad there. We can meet next week at 2pm at the public safety building. Sally will contact the departments and schedule.

Correction of Minutes to be corrected – We need to vote to amend the minutes of the June 8, 2015. This was requested by Margo Connors, the chairperson of Sugar Hill Board of Selectmen. Under Common Interest agreement in regards to Northern Pass: **ALL THREE TOWNS VOTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMON INTEREST AGREEMENT. ATTORNEY BERNIE WAUGH WILL SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF ALL THREE TOWNS.**

Bernie made a motion to accept the changes to those minutes and Bob seconded and all voted in favor.

Miscellaneous – Bernie will not be around on July, 27th.

Evergreen – Will have to go into Closed Session to discuss.

Closed Session – Bernie made the motion to go into non-public Closed Session per RSA 91-A3, II(c); Bob seconded it with all in favor. We went into closed session at 4:41 pm.

Returned to Public Session at 450 pm.

ITEMS TO REVISIT

Overtime Policy for HW/BG - 03/30/2015 **(To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent)**
Mittersill Roads Winter Policy – 04/06/15 **(To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent)**
Road Safety Report - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15
Safe Routes to School - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 05/11/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/15/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15
Dow Clock – 04/06/15, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/15/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15
Technology Committee – 04/06/15, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/29/15
Zoning Ordinance Vote - 04/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15
Harvard Street House - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15, 5/18/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15
Honor Roll Sign at Town Hall - 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15
Evergreen Apts - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15, 7/6/15
Follow up on Sidewalks/Business area - 4/27/2015, 5/11/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/22/15
Telephone/Internet at PSB - 4/27/2015
Fire Ponds & Cisterns - 5/4/2015, 6/1/15, 7/6/15
Hiring of Relatives 5/11/15, 6/1/15
Fire Dept Generator to School 5/11/15, 6/1/15/ 6/8/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15, 7/6/15
Delinquent Taxes 5/18/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15
Performance Reviews 5/18/15, 6/1/15
Vehicle Issue 6/8/15
Kim's insurance 6/8/15, 6/15/15, 6/22/15
Members of Trustees of the Trust Fund 7/6/15
Cemetery Trustees 7/6/15, 7/13/15

We came out of Closed Session at 450 pm. Bernie made a motion to seal the minutes of the closed session, Bob seconded and all voted in favor.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bernie seconded the motion with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary