

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, June 8, 2015**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, June 8, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board –

Also attending – Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Russ Cumbee, Dawn Steele

**SELECTMEN’S TIME:**

**BOS Minutes 06/08/2015:** Formal readings of the June 1, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. Bob will abstain from voting because of his absence at this meeting. The minutes of June 1, 2015 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2 Bernie received a copy of by us and John Rhodes is the new person at the state.

Eric made a motion to accept the minutes with the above changes and Bernie seconded, with all in favor to accept the minutes.

**FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:**

**Transaction List for 06/08/2015-** The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 06/08/2015.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**3:00 - Scott Leslie:** He is here for an update on the sidewalks. He met the Engineer and Ed from Central Paving and John Bushway. He thinks we should pave across those driveways to get rid of the holes. We will have to speak to the owners to taper the sidewalks down to their homes. One has pavers and sidewalk has to come up. Grind sidewalk and put new asphalt curb and then gravel and over with 2 inch asphalt on the top. Bernie mentioned to maybe have colored macadam with iron oxide to get the colors. Scott said that \$20K is not getting us very far. State thinks we should go with granite curbing. Scott asked the State if they paid pay half we would pay half and they said not. The curbing is special asphalt and a lot more money per ton. Some sidewalks have it already. Not sure where Ed at Central gets his asphalt. Bernie can call Ed to see if he can change the curb coloring to differentiate between the road and sidewalk. The colors are the same as the road now. The granite curbing you can see it but it is very expensive. There are parts of the sidewalk that doesn’t have to be done. Let’s see what Ed says.

Scott has to meet with Red McCarthy for Meadowcrest, the road we are taking over. He is an Engineer. Scott has a feeling that where it meets the state road we may have to have a 50’ paved approach. On Wallace Hill Road the stones come out into the road. It has three inches of gravel.

They will have to spend some money. Red will know what they need. When paving there is a binder which is coarse and then 3/8" of asphalt paved over it. The first coat of the road is a binder which is set for a year and then a top coat of 1 inch of asphalt. For road asphalt Eric wanted to know if they recycle. Scott said Pike does a lot of that. Not as good as asphalt made from the aggregates. Glass can be used instead of gravel which is better for a base for drainage. We can get it from the Littleton Transfer Station if we give them notice. The safety service building in Littleton has it as a base. We could do it for the sidewalks to save money. Traffic control would have to be used which is costly. Littleton lets them haul out the ground glass which is not sharp. You would have the cost of trucking the glass. Scott will ask Ed about it. Bernie says we need some good drainage. The catch basins that are near Wendell's is the States issue. Bernie wants Scott to talk to the State. Scott said the State will not do anything about it. When they paved a lot of the drainage was not done. Bernie said we need residents and businesses to complain to the State. Scott said he is not sure how that works. The catch basin by Chef Joe's has been done a couple of times and the basin on the bridge by 142.

We do not have the traffic control to do that. Let's see if we can get the pricing. How far can Ed from Central Paving go with the finished product? We would be responsible for laying and compacting and bringing it up to grade. It makes much more sense for them to do it. Maybe we can haul in the glass and have them do it. They used it on the sidewalks in Littleton. Ed would make more money on asphalt.

Scott gave the money amount for the check to be written for the new truck from Iriquois.

Bernie asked if town was working on the upper part of Wallace Hill on the class six crossover to Bethlehem. Scott Lelie said that we try to straighten it out the best we can. We do maintain it in the summer for emergency people. Bernie also said that there was a sign up there that has been changed from 30 to 80. Also Scott said that Lafayette Road and Kerr Road will have culverts replaced and paved.

Where they dug up for the pipe for the public safety building by route 18 there are big holes that need to be fixed per Bob Montagno. We need to call the water commissioner and see what their plans are to get them fixed. The hole is about a foot deep. Bernie will go take a look before she calls.

**3:30 Kim Cowles** - ...Disc Golf which is very popular and is an Eagle Scout Project. It will barely be noticeable. It is a nine hole course that Carter Merrill will take care of raising the funds for it. It will be between the trail and the field that goes along the river. They will be removable. It is set in concrete and a sleeve. Do you have to do a clearing for the "T" with a post and sign with a map and description of where the course is. It will be named the Ronnie Berlack Memorial Golf Course. When the funds are complete it will happen. Carter leaves the first of September for his semester abroad. Once the money is raised it will go fast and easy. There is one at Bretton Woods.

Will Kim be involved with the Triathlon? Russ Cumbee mentioned that there was no relief that came for them so they just left this year. A follow up meeting was needed. They should have had a sweep to see how everyone was doing. There is a sign on the side of the road that needs to

be picked up. The Organizer of the event Jeff Cole had an issue with his organizational skills which were lacking. They had to remind him of everything we needed.

First Aid training next Tuesday at 8am at the Elementary School.

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**Northern Pass – Common Interest Participation Agreement.** Eric said there was June 2<sup>nd</sup> email from Jennifer Gaudette in regards to a common interest between the towns to defend against Northern Pass. The three towns should agree to this agreement. Has voted to enter into agreement unless the Select Board changes their minds. Please review the draft. Will we endorse this? We need to review the legalees and discuss the confidentiality between the towns. We may have to do a closed session. For the town citizens have the right for freedom of information. Sally will have to update us on this. Leave on the agenda. Mary Grote recommended that we look at what we voted on at town meeting maybe to register the opposition of Northern Pass. Dawn said we sent a letter to the state in regards to this and we need to look at the Warrant Article.

**Dow Clock** – our friend is threatening to sue us. Bernie talked to the reporter and he couldn't speak to her because of a pending law suit. He has conflicting stories. Eric agrees the ball is in Donn's court. Bob said the man is not healthy and he doesn't want any unpleasantness. There is an article in the paper so we need to let the chips fall where they may with no further actions.

We have a serious issue in regards to the clock. We received an email from Harriet she wants to know who should be the decider for having the bells silenced at night. Some residents mainly Ed Rolfe said it should be turned off from 7-7 or 10-7. Eric doesn't hear it and he lives there. No one hears it. There may be a physical sensitivity issue with the children and the sound. Maybe a trial run is needed to see how it affects everyone. Is it a selectmen's issue? The bell is part of the clock so that is part of it. You bought a place with a bell and a clock. Eric thinks he may have to recuse himself from this matter. Bernie said that you have to recuse yourself before the discussion starts. We will wait to see if the Dow Association comes to us and then we will have to deal with it. Eric did voice his opinion before this was mentioned.

**Building Permit** - Medanich/Steber – off Butter Hill Road. It is on 7.22 acres. Lot 10.10 two stories, 4 bedroom.

Do we have a checklist for a building permit. Herbie looked and could not find one in the computer. Bob wanted to table this until Sally gets back.

**Sally Small Retiring** – She will be retiring in the next year and a half. Bob said she has a tremendous wealth of knowledge. We need to get someone in here for a training period. We will need to come up with someone to fill her space. We should get a breakdown of what she does so we can draft up job description. We will have to plan on how to recruit them. We will have to come up with extra money in the budget to train this person. We need to understand how her retirement works. Sometimes there are amounts of money for sick days and vacation days not used. Peter Grote mentioned this could be an opportunity to converting that position to a

town administrator. Maybe making it the position into a town manager like Littleton has. We could take Sally's position and add to it. We should do whatever is more cost effective. Selectmen do things they shouldn't have to be doing. Bob said we aren't qualified to do when it comes to the RSA's. We need someone who will supervise the employees that is what the town manager would do. Bob does not know about the position and the management and the political portion. Eric said there is a whole section on town manager in the Knowing the Territory Book. The Select Board will read the section of Knowing the Territory for the next meeting.

A task list of what we have to do to get a replacement or a new position.

## ITEMS TO REVISIT

**Equipment** – Bob had contact with Chief Monaghan that they have to get some equipment. Will talk to Sally about the letter.

**Safe Routes to School** - Bernie got a copy of the letter that went out to the lawyer. There was never a reply. She called Holden Engineers to see what they had in regards to Bill Rossignol. That is a discussion to have with the president of the company Cathy Holden. Her secretary came on the line and said I will have her call you back. Bernie has not heard anything back.

**Technology** - All computers are installed and operational at the Public Safety Building. Bob would like the committee to do an assessment of what we have for a computers and software. Right now there are more computers there in the public safety building. There are too many computers. We need an inventory of the hardware. Bob said the computers are right that we bought for them. The old computers were never taken out. Every computer costs us money to maintain. Google docs all done as far as Bob knows. We need two people to do it. Does the board want to meet with them? No, Bob will have them report to us and keep the others posted.

**Harvard Street** – We received a phone call from the owner stating that he received Sally's letter and he will be having a roofer go look at the property. We also received a letter on 6/8/15.

**Honor Roll** – We had not heard anything from Jeff as of yet.

**Evergreen** – We had a tenant come in to say they were taking the owner to court. We will discuss the rest of this in Closed Session.

**Delinquent taxes** – Eric trying to get up to speed. John Lachapelle gave the materials to Lydia Cumbee. Eric trying to get up to speed on the tax lien process and the RSA's and sit with Carol and the attorney who volunteered to answer all of our questions. Bob said we should have an update. New liens have gone out.

**Zoning Board** – Joan Hartford would make a good candidate. We will have Sally give her a call. Peter Grote volunteered to be a new member. Bob talked to Dinny about it there is not a lot of activity. The board is not up to date on zoning with the latest regulations. Bob doesn't think it is a select board issue. How do we go about getting it done? We need an appointment letter and Carol can swear him in.

**Trustees of the Trust Funds** - Get reports from the Trustees of the trust funds. Ask Sally to send a letter to that committee stating that the select board needs to be updated on the status. Wait until the quarter is over and then they can report to us. They should come in twice a year. They can report six months after working with the firm that manages the funds. We should have a calendar of events for new Select Boards. Google has a calendar that is built into it. Have Sally write a letter to the members of the Trustees of the Trust Fund from us. That was discussed at town meeting.

**Generator** – We will have Sally see if the school wants the generator that was bought with FEMA money.

**Miscellaneous** – The person to work with Jeff Phillips was Taylor Oaks. Was Scott involved in the hiring because Bob wanted him to be.

Bernie wants to talk to Kim about using her own vehicle. Is she putting in for mileage on the use of her personal vehicle. If she is not being reimbursed it is not an issue. Bernie will check with Kim. Mary Grote has a question why the van could not be used for her maintenance needs. The van is for transporting people not or transporting maintenance items that are usually dirty. Maintenance stuff needs a truck. The one town truck that would be appropriate for what she does would be Scott's truck and he needs that. We can think about it. We may have to make a decision about that.

Bernie made a motion to go to closed session at 4:35pm to discuss Evergreen and 2nded by Eric with all in favor.

4:41pm the Board came out of closed meeting. Bernie makes a motion to go out of closed session and Eric 2nded it with all in favor.

Bernie made a motion to seal the minutes, Eric seconded with all in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:44pm by Bernie and Eric seconded it with all in favor.

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</b>
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Respectfully submitted,  
Herbie Bartlett  
Executive Secretary