

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, March 14, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3: 00 pm on Monday, March 14, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board: Carol Walker

Others in attendance: Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Peter Grote

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 2/29/2016: Formal readings of the February 29, 2016 BOS meeting minutes were waived.

Eric makes a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Bernie seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 3/17/2016 – Approved and Signed by the Board

APPOINTMENTS:

3:15 – Carol Walker – Grace Montagno's resignation – Carol received an email from Grace resigning as one of the Trustees of the Trust Fund. There need to be 3 trustees. There is an upcoming NH Municipal Association seminar. This is a full day and a half seminar for the Trustees of the Trust Funds and the Cemetery Trustees which is a part of the job. The replacement needs to be educated and become a functioning group.

We need to get two capable interested people appointed. It is critical to have a financial background that deals with investment reports and be able to understand the fiduciary role that is required. Must be detail oriented and has access to a fax machine or scanner during the day.

3:30 – Mark Taylor – Plantation Road – On February 16th a portion of Plantation Road was flooded. There was a half a mile of ice jam on the river. There would be an environmental issue if we did anything to it. Plantation Road is damaged. Emergency Crews accessed a portion of Plantation Road and Cicle via the Forest Hills Association. There were some rocks and small trees that had to be removed to allow emergency vehicle access to the portion of Plantation Road that could not be accessed from Route 18. Mark spoke to Dr. McArthur and Mr. Huggett who gave permission for access because everyone thought it was their land that was being accessed. Plantation Road flooded again on Thursday the 24th. We went up with the road agent. We needed a straight shot in because of the sharp turn. We would never get a fire truck thru. There was a row of rocks that lined up. Mark asked Scott Leslie to move the rocks and small trees. Scott said that it was extremely mushy in that area so he bought in stone and firmed up the area.

Mr. Walker said we were on their property. The town tax map shows that we were on McDougal McArthur's property and/or Mr. Huggett's property. Mrs. Walker wrote a letter addressing the issue. She believes that we were on her property. The Town plans on fixing the damage to the property when the ground thaws out. Bernie said the Emergency Crews did a good job.

Mrs. Walker asked what happens the next time this happens? It was suggested that putting in a gate may be a good idea. The other neighbors were open to those ideas. Jim Walker wants rocks and trees put back in. We can do that. We will get with the Forest Hills Association to use the other walking paths to get in there. It is the Associations decision to bar this trail.

Jim and Carol Walker are okay with the town putting back the property to the original condition. Carol has mixed feelings about gates. Keys to the gate would be given to the property owners and emergency management would have a key. Mark has final say on who goes where during an emergency.

Carol Walker wants to look at her survey and would like to share it with Mark. Mark truly thought he had his basis covered by looking at the map we had and contacting the land owners.

Carol was asked to meet with Forest Hills Association and they should get back to the Selectboard as to how they want to move forward. Dawn Steele – is the president of the Association so we will have her make an appointment. There are 12 to 14 homeowners whom live in there. The river has changed position in its bed. This could happen again.

DES will consult with experts and come back with the Army Corp of Engineers in the summer to get the river to be more concave or building up of the berms on the side of the river. Mark Taylor will keep us apprised.

Mark went above and beyond under RSA P-21.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Town Hall Staffing – Bob Montagno will continue to chair the committee for Town Hall Staffing. Others suggested for the Committee are Phil Krill – Human Resources, Jim Hamlin, Jeff Woodward, Karen Foss, Chris Harris to consult for IT experience – John Lachapelle' to represent Select Board and John may know some people. Dawn Steele was suggested as another member of this committee.

Rules of Select Board Meeting – Bernie asked that the public use the public comment section of the meet in the beginning to address any agenda items. Then, if the citizen would like to have more input they should ask to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dawn Steele – In the minutes Feb 22nd in regards to cutting the Chamber of Commerce budget by \$5K. Bob was supposed to call Barb Ashley to tell her we reducing her budget to \$5K. This was not addressed at annual meeting. Dawn suggest when something like this occurs that you need to address the group. This issue was never brought up. The minutes are on the website. Northern Pass as well. We didn't know if the Chamber supported or was opposed to the Northern Pass.

We did discuss the above subject on February 29th per Bernie.

Northern Pass – Eric Meth will be going down to the meeting in Plymouth to speak for the Selectmen to state the summary of the towns concerns.

Holding Engineering Issue – This is to be tabled.

The Select Board entered into non public session according to NH RSA 91-3:II(c) at 3:25PM. The Select Board returned to public sessions at 4:00pm.

John makes a motion to adjourn the close session meeting and seal the closed session minutes, Bernie seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

ITEMS TO RVISIT:

List of items to be revisited

Bernie makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm, John seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

There may be a possibility of a closed session meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary