

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, May 16, 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: Scott Leslie, Kim Cowles, Peter Hilton, Ray Peltier, Rich McLachlin.

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Karen Foss, Russ Cumbee,

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 5/9/2016: A formal reading of the May 9, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 5/9/16 - Approved and signed by the Board
Pole License for a replacement pole at Mittersill – Approved and signed by the Board
Solar Permit – Cumbee (M30/L2-4) - Approved and signed by the Board
Solar Permit – Presby Recycling, LLC (M23/L8) – Approved and signed by the Board
Solar Permit – Presby (M7/L1) – Approved and signed by the Board

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 - Open Time – Russ Cumbee – Russ spoke in regards to the Northern Pass flagged stakes along Route 116. We have been told that it is for the Northern Pass boring survey. A property owner objected to Northern Pass boring on their property and they moved the bore stakes. Mr. Cumbee stated that the ownership of their property goes to the center line of the road. The Grote's have submitted a formal letter to Eversource objecting to the two bore sites being staked on their property. The Grote's will be protecting their property rights. The town is opposed to the boring. Peter will provide a copy of his letter in case someone wants to see what he wrote. The Board felt that we should have someone from Eversource come here so we can discuss the boring stakes and ask about the cutting of trees in the right of way.

Bernie brought up the Scragg Mountain Road ROW having spoken with a local Realtor. She found out that there are two kinds of Right of Ways, one that is purchased along the highway and one going across land that a property owner has allowed access. Bernie felt we should get legal advice on this and John pointed out that we have Attorney Walter Mitchell's opinion in the file.

Dawn Steele had questions about the Asplundh's cutting of the ROW for the power lines and the markers near Forest Hills. She is not sure if they are on Forest Hill's land but will be asking Gardner Kellogg about surveying the property lines. She was concerned because they seem to be just leaving the downed trees. Scott Leslie said that they have been picking it all up or they were giving the wood to landowners. Dawn also wanted to know if the trees were in the State ROW and not on Forest Hills land could they chip the wood and use their chips at Forest Hills. Scott Leslie told her to contact John Bushway, the foreman at the NHDOT shed next to the Alpine Clinic.

Wage Salary & Benefits Information – The committee needs information on who is a smoker or nonsmoker before they contact the insurance companies. The committee is working on a spreadsheet in regards to the information by contacting the employees.

Jeff's position does not have to be a Franconia Resident.

3:15 – Scott Leslie – We need to review and update Jeff's job description and assign a rate of pay. The Board discussed separating the Building and Grounds and Cemetery jobs. John Lachapelle said that he had called Jeff into their salary and benefit committee on Thursday to see what Jeff's duties were and to pick his brain. They wanted to get a true sense from him in regards to his job description.

Cemetery – Jeff has one dedicated assistant who is working with the Cemetery Trustees and Scott. There is a lot Jeff does at the cemetery that is not listed in the job description. John asked the question if the Cemetery Trustees have the authority to hire and fire.

Bernie questioned whether or not the Building and Grounds should be part of the Highway Department as well as the Parks. Sally pointed out that the State accounting separates Buildings and Grounds from Highways and they are different categories for workman's comp. Scott felt that the next candidate should have a CDL driver's license so that person could help the highway department in an emergency. In writing the job description there are physical requirements that need to be defined. In the interim Kim Cowles said she could help with the mowing. In July, Sam Johnk who helps Kim with the parks could also help mow while we figure out Jeff's replacement. Once the job description is ready we will post the job and will advertise the job for at least two weeks.

John Lachapelle questioned the mulch that we bought at \$35/yard. He said he got similar mulch from Poulsen's for \$17.50/yard including delivery. Kim explained that she uses the mulch for the gardens and traffic island which puts her in awkward positions because of the traffic so she only uses a half a yard at a time because that is all she can fit in her personal truck. The board suggested that we could stockpile the mulch at the Maintenance garage and Kim could use the Buildings & Grounds truck for tending the mulch areas.

John Lachapelle will bring a copy of his notes from his conversation Jeff had with the Salary, Wage & Benefits Committee.

Scott has ordered a new street sign for Balancing Rock Road. The sign has come up missing. These signs are very expensive. The Board also asked when we were going to replace the "Bathroom Sign" in the Town Building parking lot with a more universal looking sign. Kim and Scott were going to look into that and report back to the Board.

3:45 – Water Commissioners – The Commissioners brought in a detailed map where the existing water line is on Plantation Road and where they would like to place a new line that hooks up with the Public Safety Services Building. To accomplish this they would like to do directional drilling under Route 18. The existing line is coming from an old section of the water line that could create more problems in the future. By relocating the line under Route 18 it would prevent freeze ups like what occurred at the new building when it first opened. Before any work takes place we need to contact the NHDOT for a permit and make sure the easement obtained from the property owners across the street, during the water project, is still in place. The Commissioners gave the board a quote that was only good for 30 days but it was good enough for an estimate of the project cost. Not included in the quote was the cost of having EJ Prescott assist in hooking up the line and the paving in the parking lot.

The hydrant extension that is needed is an extra \$400. Mac said to call Jim at Lancaster DOT to discuss the permit and to tell them that we'd be using HDPE Pipe to see if we needed to sleeve the pipe.

The Board asked how long it will take to do the project. Mac felt that the Public Safety building would be out of water for only a day.

The permitting and project was not budgeted for in the Public Safety Service Building. What are the ramifications if we do not do this? If we have a hard winter it will freeze up and with the old water line there is more chance of breakage and or leaks.

In discussing the proposed Northern Pass route the Water Commissioners questioned if Dig Safe had come here to mark the water lines because they have never notified Peter Hilton. Mac said that seven years ago we were member of Dig Safe so we should still be. Sally may have it on file. Mac told the board that they have to put a new line in by the Dairy Bar from the Dutch Treat down thru which has to be taken care of in the near future and questioned how that would be impacted by any Northern Pass work.

Northern Pass Hearings are being held on Thursday at the MT View Grand. There is one in the morning for SEC motions and procedures, and one at 6pm for the Interveners

Peter Grote of the Northern Pass Committee would like to host an information meeting for the town. Wants to show the town what the visual impact would be. He would like to have Representatives from all town departments at the meeting. We also need to get a letter from the Chamber of Commerce stating their position in opposition to Northern Pass before they receive their 2016 appropriation.

Bill 616 just approved designated Route 93 as a utility corridor. The 1.7 mile stretch where the WMNF intrudes onto the highway won't be a problem.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

4:30 pm – Closed Session – Legal and Personnel – As per RSA 91-3:II (e) the Board voted to go into closed session. At 5:25 pm the Board voted to come out of closed session and seal the minutes.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary