

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday, May 31, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:01 pm on Monday, May 31, 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: Barb Holt, Scott Leslie, Mary Brubaker

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Karen Foss

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 5/23/2016: A formal reading of the May 23, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 5/26/16 - Approved and signed by the Board
Appointment - Trustee of the Trust funds – David Starr

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Open Time – Barb Holt – She thinks we should have flags for the telephone poles for Memorial Day and July 4th. We could have a fund raiser to obtain money for 15 flags. Sally will call Eversource and ask permission to put flags up on the telephone poles. Barb will ask the Museum if they want to donate to the fund. Sally will ask the Lion's Club if they want to donate. Barb said the Chamber is closed and there is no one at the booth. They are looking to hire an attendant. There are citizens who think that the Chamber should have been open for Memorial Day. Sally will ask Barbara to see when they will open. Peter Grote wants to know who the Board Members are.

Peter Grote – The Forest Service was turned down as Intervener. We need to schedule a Franconia Informational Meeting for town residents in regards to Northern Pass. We are looking to schedule it for June 15th at 6pm but Peter is trying to organize with Will Abbott. We are inviting all Department Heads to next week's BOS meeting to discuss this. Sally will email the Department Heads to attend next Monday's meeting. We will post on the web and the sign to read, "Northern Pass informational meeting for Franconia Residents."

The Northern Pass Committee needs to encourage Franconia Residents to send letters to Concord – The more letters that are sent the better our voices will be listened to. The Northern Pass Committee can assist any residents who want to write a letter. The planning session should last a half hour for next week's meeting.

3:15 – Cemetery Trustees – Met to discuss Jeff Phillip’s leaving: Who has the authority to hire and fire for Jeff’s job and his assistant? Sally is awaiting a response from our attorney. According to Barb’s interpretation of the RSA’s the Cemetery Trustees should hire the person. John’s interpretation of reading of the RSA it is that it is not clear. The Group is looking for guidance and clarity. We will wait to hear from town counsel. Barb is working on a new job description for the assistant. John recommends speaking with Peter Carbonneau from Sugar Hill if she has questions. The Trustees are going to Concord for a four hour seminar.

Barb asked how the town defines capital gains as opposed to maintenance? Anything over \$5K is under CIP. It was suggested that the Town should not do wooden pickets around the cemetery. There are other materials that can last longer and it is possible to get the Grafton County Work Crew to come and assist with this project.

Bernie asked the Cemetery Trustees if they had received Chris Brooks’ emails in regards to stone cleanings. They had and have gone on line to research power washing of the head stones. They are no longer doing power washing. They want an expert to come in and evaluate. There are some people who have been hiring their own cleaners to clean the stones. The Trustees are not using deeds; they are using Rights to Inter Letters for burials. The rules and regulations have to be voted on at a meeting. It could be a Selectmen’s meeting. It has to be advertised 7 days in advance. We have had 9 burials since 2009.

The last time the Town contracted out the mowing of the cemetery, the Sexton was dissatisfied. It didn’t seem to work at all. It takes a good 10 hours of weed whacking non-stop to complete the job. You do sections of weed whacking for two hours and then mow that area. Scott, Kim and Suzanne each did a section this time.

We should gravel and spread ledge pack for the roads throughout the cemetery. It will last forever because it isn’t plowed. A path gets snow blown in the winter for a walking trail.

3:30 – Scott Leslie- The sign needs to be put back up at the entrance of the Scragg Mountain Road. There is a legal opinion in the file and it is a Class VI Road.

Discuss Cole subdivision of Delage Farm Road – what is the history of the care of that road? Scott said that they plow all the way to the house. It is a town road after the bridge. We would have no other way to turn around if we didn’t. At the hammerhead, there is plenty of road frontage for subdividing. The weight limit is the same carry as the rest of our town bridges. The road used to be named Nancy Road and then Delage Place. We have maintained the road since the early 1950’s. Road Reports that Ron Taksar had states that it is a town road. The Coles had wanted to access off Timber Lane at one point but Nanette Avril & Phil Hetzner had contested that. It is still in dispute.

Garage Doors –It will save in fuel by replacing the doors. Bernie suggested that we should start a fund for replacing the highway garage. There was discussion about hooking a fan to blow air thru the old furnace ducts to circulate the hot air.

John made a motion to spend \$12K for replacing four garage doors on the highway garage, Eric seconds the motion and all voting in favor.

Air Conditioners need to put in this office as soon as you as Scott is able to do so.

Sott suggested permission for the road crew to participate in community service for Copper Cannon Camp – to haul gravel to do the road. Sugar Hill and Bethlehem are donating time and trucks to haul the road gravel. It will take about four hours. Bernie asked if Copper Cannon had their own gravel. Scott said they did and that he would just be hauling it. The Board agreed to donate to this cause.

Bridge on Bickford Hill – the metal grating sticking up will take out a tire. Scott has pounded down the sharp spikes and stated that you cannot get that expanded steel anymore. Scott has been welding steel plates on the bridge. The bridge is not red listed. The Lafayette Bridge is starting to do the same thing.

4:15pm – Closed Session: Defining the Town Position created by Jeff Phillip’s Resignation.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Wright Easement Waterline ROW – The Town needs to get a new easement. Sally will call Keith Batchelder in.

MTAG Meeting – If MTAG gets the contract to us first Bernie will go to the workshop. Chris is spearheading it. He is counting on Planning Board support. Tara Bamford is on Board. Adaptive Sports will be helping.

Parking at the Church for Bikes – Parking at the Town Hall is getting congested. The Board decided to have the bikers use the church parking lot. Sally will ask Kim to address this issue.

ITEMS TO REVISIT:

Donation Form – Table til next meeting.

Heritage Museum Lease –Table til next meeting.

4:15 pm – Closed Session – Legal and Personnel – As per RSA 91-3:II (e) the Board voted to go into closed session. At 5:45 pm the Board voted to come out of closed session and seal the minutes.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary