

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 AT 6PM AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Dan Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Karen Foss, Lynn Terres, Rosaline Page, Nicole Patashnik, Larry & Karen Plate, Meredith Pratt, Aaron Johnson, Nick & Sharon Mike, Mike Betley, Thad Presby and Chief Mac Cashin.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The September 27, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of the July 26th, 2021 public hearing were approved as amended on a motion by Selectman Meth and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

A Driveway Permit Application for Map 26 Lot 19 was approved by the board.

A Septic Permit Application for Map 28 Lot 150 was approved by the board.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

6:00pm –Rosalind Page – Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust: Rosalind said that the letter sent to the board that was reviewed at the June 7th meeting was not actually requesting that the selectmen allow hunting on the Lawrence property but was instead intended as a questionnaire for information gathering.

DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Mask Ordinance: The board tabled this for two weeks.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The town received notice from the Bureau of Tax and Land Appeals that Isabel & Trevor Hardy's appeal of their abatement denial must first try to be settled through mediation before the BTLA will schedule a hearing.

The town received a letter from the New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation (NHDOT) inviting the town's residents and decision makers to attend public hearings to provide input on NHDOT's ten year plan and the town's transportation needs. The closest hearing to Franconia is October 25th at 10am at the Lyman town hall.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Town Administrator Cowles said CIP season and meeting with department heads to discuss budgets will commence in October. Tomorrow she will meet with Eversource and Consolidated Communications to discuss burying power lines at the town hall/library properties and then meet with Avitar to discuss the

MS-1.

The sidewalks are primarily complete with the only remaining work being for the Highway Department to spread loam and grass seed and some reparative lawn work.

There is some driver confusion with the new four way stop at the intersection but no accidents there so far. Town Administrator Cowles plans to ask NHDOT to paint crosshatch on the area in front of the gas station as some drivers are using it as a right hand turn lane. We are also still waiting for NHDOT to paint the crosswalks back in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Broadband Initiative Committee: Selectman Meth had no update but expects the next meeting to be on October 29th at 5pm via Zoom.

Chamber of Commerce: No update since the last meeting.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC met Tuesday the 21st at the Dow Pavilion with Tim Clough, a representative from Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and NEMBA to discuss rerouting the Pebble Beach Trail. A map was provided and is attached to these minutes.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC met Thursday the 16th and finalized the Solar Ordinance. It will now go to the Planning Board.

Planning Board: No update since the last meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Meredith Pratt inquired about the Breach of Peace Ordinance and whether the motion adding additional language to the ordinance at the August 30th meeting finalized it as an addition. Meredith made additional comments and made an agenda appointment for October 4th.

There was additional discussion about the Breach of Peace Ordinance and if there will be another hearing to discuss it.

Larry and Karen Plate asked about the Welcome Center RFP bid opening that took place at last week's meeting.

Mike Betley asked if the new stop signs will be illuminated. The board clarified that only the stop sign on Route 116 will be bordered with LED lights. Mike also asked if bike lanes were added on Rte 116 (as mentioned as potential input for NHDOT at the ten year plan hearing) would be on both sides of the road. Town Administrator said yes.

Larry Plate asked when there would be another hearing to discuss the Breach of Peace Ordinance. No date has been proposed yet.

Mary Grote commented on the process for changing or creating an ordinance.

Larry Plate asked if intermittent (not sustained for 30 minutes) but chronic animal noises would be considered in the updated Breach of Peace Ordinance.

There was an open discussion with multiple residents commenting about short term rentals and how they may be addressed in the updated ordinance and the registration process with the town.

Mike Betley asked if people meeting with the board could be seated in such a way that would help make them easier to hear by the meeting attendees.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary