

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Ed Rolfe, Dinny Richmond, Martha McLeod

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00pm - Ed Rolfe – Harriet Taylor Appreciation Sign: Ed Rolfe was commissioned by Harriet Taylor's family to design a plaque that is being made to honor Harriet's years of service taking care of the Dow Clock. The family would like the sign mounted in front of the building by the sidewalk (and the Dow Academy Board approved that location) but Ed thinks the sign should be placed in the tower. After a brief discussion about the location of the sign, Selectmen Meth and Town Administrator Cowles said since the sign will be on private property and privately funded, it is not a matter for the town to be involved in.

3:15pm Keith Batchelder – Short Term Rentals, Recycling Economics: This appointment was postponed until October 19th.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

Minutes September 14, 2020 – Postponed as no quorum.

Transaction List – September 28, 2020 – Selectman Meth signed the transaction list that Chairman Brewer had signed remotely earlier in the day.

Septic Permit Application – Mittersill Rd – Map 28 Lot 167 – Postponed as no quorum.

Septic Permit Application – Iron Foundry Rd – Map 15 Lot 33 – Postponed as no quorum.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Heritage Council – World War II Plaque: After offering to replace the Honor Roll plaque that is on the outside wall of town hall, the Heritage Council provided a mockup design of the bronze plaque for the board to consider for approval. However, as there was no quorum the approval and acceptance of the donation was tabled until the next meeting.

USDA National Rabies Management Program: Town Administrator Cowles said the USDA has air dropped oral rabies vaccinations to wildlife in the area and now request permission to trap some animals for testing. She said they would be trapped, sedated for a blood draw and then released after regaining consciousness. Town Administrator Cowles will ask some additional questions of the program person at USDA regarding the trapping.

Selectmen Meeting Schedule: This topic was not discussed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Kim said there is a meeting scheduled with NHDOT on October 7th to discuss paving Main Street next year and the plan for the sidewalks. She said NHDOT is currently paving Mittersill and the water project there has also been completed. Next year they will do additional roads there.

Due to the current drought conditions, the Water Department has instituted a mandatory outdoor water ban and it is recommended that those with private wells also conserve water. Due to the high fire danger, the Governor declared a state of emergency prohibiting outdoor burning on public property, excluding public campgrounds. Smoking cigarettes or cigars outdoors in or near public woodlands or trails is also prohibited.

In regard to a previous meeting with Jessica Bahrakis of the North Country Mural Project, the murals that the board previously agreed to have displayed at two locations in town will be erected this month. Two photos of the murals were provided for the board.

Kim said she has also talked with local parents about a plan for Halloween. The Governor has advised that municipalities may make their own decision about Halloween activities. Kim said she would like to scale back the usual festivities and hold trick or treating at the soccer field. People can set up stations to disperse candy. The event will not be advertised. There will be no bonfire this year, which Kim will notify residents of before brush is delivered there. Selectman Meth said he thought this was a good plan.

The Dow Clock recently malfunctioned and is currently not operational due to excessive dinging. Kim has reached out to the repair company.

Budget review and planning with department heads is beginning next week.

Tax rate information from the Dept. of Revenue Administration will be coming soon so the town's tax rate can be set.

In regards to recent discussion about short term rental policies, Kim suggested starting with the town's existing ordinances and possibly updating them so they are more applicable to common issues with short term rental properties.

Kim said we have some temporary sign issue complaints ongoing, but as there are many violations of the temporary sign ordinance in town, we should take a look at the policy and consider how enforceable it is.

Selectman Meth and Kim briefly discussed Monday, October 5th's meeting with the tri-towns in Sugar Hill at the Crapo building. Kim said we will have the regular Select Board meeting here in Franconia at 3pm and head to Sugar Hill at 3:45 for the 4:00 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: No update at this time.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: Raising Solar will be doing a presentation for the Energy Commission.

Planning Board: No update at this time.

CIP: No update at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary