

Monday, March 11, 2024



Board of Selectmen Minutes – FINAL APPROVED

In attendance: Dianne Craig (Selectmen, Chair), Alicea Bursey (Selectmen), Derek Tremblay (Selectmen), Shae Simino, Melissa Salinardi, Ernie Dennis, Jessica Dennis, Laurie Wilkinson, Ryan Palmer, Doug Frost, Renee Frost, Bonnie Belden

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BRICKYARD BRIDGE DISCUSSION

Chair Craig explained that the reason for this public hearing was to discuss Brickyard Road bridge and the denial of funding from FEMA and additional information received from the NHDOT.

She continued to state that after submitting the first appeal and receiving a denial for funding from FEMA, she contacted the NHDOT for bridge reports, however; the NHDOT responded that they had no bridge reports on Brickyard Road Bridge or that Brickyard Road continues to Brook Road. She added that at no time did the Town of Goshen submit any changes to the NHDOT that would include the mileage or making the Brickyard Road bridge a Class V; this fact also contributed to FEMA funding denial.

Chair Craig opened the floor to the Board. Alicea Bursey asked questions about the status of the road including whether the road was recognized by the state, on official maps, or receiving maintenance.

Chair Craig opened the floor to the public. Jessica Dennis made mention to a Town vote that was made in 1993. Dianne Craig stated that the Town may have taken a vote during the Town meeting, however; the information was never given to the NHDOT, therefore the road or the bridge was never changed according to the NHDOT.

Jessica Dennis asked whether the berm was removed on the other side of the bridge. The present abutters discussed and concluded that they believe the berm has been removed. Dianne Craig said that when the weather was nicer, she would walk to the area in question to confirm the berm was removed.

Jessica Dennis mentioned that one of the abutters had voiced concerns to her that if the bridge does not reopen they may pursue legal action against the Town. Jessica Dennis suggested that if the Town decided to not repair the bridge that another option be pursued. She added that she believes that making the bridge a walking trail bridge under RSA 231-a might be a solution. The Board agreed to research this RSA further and consider her suggestion further. Ernie Dennis shared that he did not personally care if the bridge was reopened.

Laurie Wilkinson wanted to make sure that all Town Boards were working together on this project and wondered if the Planning Board was aware of the bridge concerns and if they had discussed the topic further. Derek Tremblay mentioned that this topic has not been a topic of conversation amongst the Planning Board. He added that it may be in the Master Plan which is something that the Planning Board will be looking into. Laurie

Wilkinson reiterated that she just wanted to make sure all Boards were on the same page. Derek Tremblay stated that he will make sure the Planning Board is aware of this concern.

Laurie Wilkinson asked if the NHDOT did not recognize the bridge that meant that the Town did not have to repair the bridge. Dianne Craig explained that the bridge had not been worked on since the removal of the decking which is over five years. Based on this information, the bridge would be reverted back to a Class VI bridge which the Town would not be responsible to repair.

No further questions were made from the public.

Dianne Craig asked the Board if they had any further questions. Alicea Bursey stated that she supports doing more research and bringing it before the Town meeting next year in 2025. The other Board members agreed.

Dianne Craig stated that no motion will be made at this meeting. Derek Tremblay recommended tabling the discussion. The Board will continue research and discuss this at a future meeting and then bring it before the Town for a Town vote in March 2025.

Dianne Craig thanked everyone for coming.

Dianne Craig motioned to close the public hearing at 6:47pm. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried, 3-0.

Public hearing adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Ernie Dennis, Jessica Dennis, Laurie Wilkinson, Ryan Palmer, Doug Frost, and Renee Frost left the meeting.

The Board called the regular meeting to order at 6:48pm. The Board continued with their regular meeting agenda items.

ROAD AGENT UPDATE

- **Highway Maintenance:** Shae Simino shared that the Highway department has been working to fill ruts with a slightly different material that he hopes will help in the long-term maintenance of the roads. He shared that this material has already been added to Cross and Lempster Coach Road and the rest of the roads that need attention will be taken care of within the next few weeks.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Shae mentioned that the John Deere Backhoe needed repairs and is now back up and working.
- **Storm Damage:** Shae shared that the damages from the previous storm are being taken care of by the electrical and power companies. He stated that once the companies have finished repairing the area, he will go back and remove downed trees and finish cleaning up all of the damaged areas.

Alicea Bursey made a comment regarding the new material that Shae is trying on the roads. She stated that she is excited to see how this new material holds up. Shae explained that his plan is to top all the roads with the new material so that it will get mixed up with the older material and hopefully create a better seal on the roads. Alicea Bursey thanked Shae for trying this new method.

Shae also mentioned that in this last storm, he had plowed the roads on the narrower side and asked if a statement could be made to the residents letting them know that until the snow melts, the roads may be narrow

in several places. The Board agreed to notify the residents through social media. Alicea Bursey posted the following on the Town of Goshen Facebook page, “After the storm yesterday, clean-up is nearly complete. Our Road Agent has shared that to preserve the integrity of the roads, snowbanks will make roads a little more narrow until the snow melts.”

Shae also wondered if having a Goshen Highway Department social media page would be beneficial for the Town. Dianne Craig thought that it would be best to have important messages put on the Town’s website. There was some concern that the Town website does not also get viewed. Shae thought that it might be quicker to get the word out on social media. The Board did not have a problem with Shae posting updates on the Town of Goshen’s Facebook page and discussed whether having an additional page for Highway would be necessary. The Board will revisit this subject at a future meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Bonnie Belden – Library: Bonnie Belden asked if a link could be added to the Town of Goshen’s Facebook page for easy access to the Town’s website. Derek Tremblay noted that the link was already on the Facebook page. Bonnie asked is the Library could post events on the website and the Town’s Facebook page. The Board stated that as long as the content is approved by the Selectmen the information could be posted.

Bonnie Belden continued her report and shared that the Library received a \$15,000 grant from American Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) for the purpose of energy efficient replacement windows and a front door. She added that bids have already been received and the project is ready to begin, however; due to an increase in pricing since the September 2023 bid, which is now \$17,450, the Library Trustees are requesting that the remaining \$2,450 be contributed by the Town from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Alicea Bursey and Dianne Craig were in agree for the Town to contribute the funds as long as the money was available in the capital Reserve Fund. Derek Tremblay looked at the most recent Capital Reserve Fund report and stated that there were funds available in the Town Buildings and Maintenance CRF. Derek Tremblay was also in favor of contributing the money to the Library Trustees to be used for this project as long as an official written request was presented to the Board by the Trustees. The Board also asked Bonnie to submit a copy of the grant along with her written request.

Derek Tremblay motioned to approve the Library Trustee’s request for additional monies from the Town Buildings and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$2,450 contingent upon the Board of Selectmen receiving requested supporting documentation and verification of the funds available in the Capital Reserve Fund. Alicea Bursey seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried, 3-0.

Bonnie Belden thanked the Board and left at 7:19 pm.

****Note: The Library request has been rescinded (please refer to Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024).**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Review of Minutes (February 26, 2024):**
Dianne Craig had a few edits to the minutes.

Alicea Bursey motioned to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024 “as amended”. Dianne Craig seconded. All were in favor; motion carried, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATES

- **Eldest Citizens Distinguished:** Melissa Salinardi updated the Board that the resident who will be receiving the walking cane that gets passed to the oldest Goshen resident will be in attendance at the Town meeting on March 16th. The Board discussed presenting the individual with the walking cane at the beginning of the meeting. Derek Tremblay suggested that even if the individual is not able to attend, that the Board ask a family member to receive the award in his place. The Board will contact the family and discuss this topic further during the Town election on Tuesday, March 12th. Alicea Bursey reminded the Board that she unfortunately will not be able to attend the Saturday, March 16th Town meeting.
- **Ten-Year Plan – Letter of Intent (UVLSRPC):** Melissa made mention to an email that was sent to the Board regarding submission of a letter of intent for future projects through the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. She asked the Board if they wanted to consider future projects and determine if a letter of intent was needed. The Board briefly discussed potentials projects that could be included in this ten-year plan. Alicea Bursey mentioned that the erosion on Route 10 and the intersection of Route 31 and Route 10 may be qualifying areas. The Board will continue this discussion during the Town election on Tuesday, March 12th.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Employee Benefit Discussion:** A question was proposed to the Board regarding FMLA/FMLI benefits for Town employees. Alicea Bursey explained the difference between the two programs. Dianne Craig stated that the Town does not currently participate in FMLI and that it would be up to the employee whether they wanted to participate.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

- **Performance Reviews:** The Board will hold employee performance reviews during the Town election day on Tuesday, March 12th.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Property Concern:**
The Board had previously reached out to the Town's attorney regarding a property concern. The Board took no further actions.
- **Property Concern/ZBA Inquiry – Pending ZBA Review.** Alicea Bursey mentioned that she has been asked to join the Zoning Board during their next meeting on Wednesday, March 13th to discuss the concern that was brought before the Zoning Board. No further details were given at this time.
- **Handbook:** The Board will continue to make edits to the handbook during the Town election on Tuesday, March 12th.

STANDING ITEMS (These standing items may not have been discussed during the current meeting).

- **Monthly Budget Review**
- **Veterans Monument Repair**

- **Planning Board Update (confirm Board member attendance):** The Planning Board held a Public Hearing for the Excavation Permit Renewal of the Davis Pit on March 7, 2024. Alicea Bursey stated that permit has been approved for another three (3) years. She added that the Planning Board moved their first meeting in April to April 11th so the 30 day appeal period could run its course and the permit can then be signed. She also mentioned that the Planning Board had a conversation with Mr. Shaun Carroll, Jr. regarding the activity at the Anderson Pit on holidays and reminded Mr. Carroll which days were allowed for operation as stated in the excavation regulations.
- **Brickyard Road Bridge:** Alicea Bursey asked to add this as a standing item for future meetings and discussion.

Derek Tremblay motioned to adjourn. Alicea Bursey seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi

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