

Monday, September 9, 2024

Board of Selectmen Minutes – FINAL APPROVED



Board Members Present: Dianne Craig (Chair, Selectmen); Alicea Bursey (Selectmen); Derek Tremblay (Vice-Chair, Selectmen)

Guest (s): Anna White (UVLSRPC); Road Agent Shae Simino; Recording Secretary Melissa Salinardi

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board signed and reviewed the consent agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROAD AGENT REPORT

- **Lear Hill Road Repair:** Shae made the Board aware that the Lear Hill Road repair and paving will be taking place on Wednesday, September 11th. The road will be closed to non-resident traffic all day for this project. The road has been posted with signs and notices of the closure have been posted on the Town's website and Facebook page.
- **Roadside Mowing:** Shae updated that the roadside mowing is underway and should be done within the next week or so. The Highway Department will then begin work with the grader and roller.
- **Beavers:** Shae mentioned that there is a problem with beavers creating dams in the waterways and clogging the culverts along Mummy Road. Shae mentioned that the Highway Department has cleaned out the town culverts and has spoken to the property owner to see if the owner would be willing to contact NH Fish & Game to remove the beavers from the area of the stream that runs along their property. Shea will continue to monitor this situation.
- **Burn Permit:** Shae reported that he is still waiting for approval for a controlled burn at the Transfer Station. The area around the burn pile has been cleared as suggested and he hopes to start accepting brush again once the controlled burn has taken place.
- **Road Maintenance:** Shae mentioned that the Highway Department will be using the recently fixed roller/compactor to work on the roads, beginning on Cross Road. Alicea Bursey asked about the towing restrictions and whether the roller had to be towed. Shae stated that the roller did not have to be towed and would be driven to the job location.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC):**

Anna White introduced herself as the resilience coordinator for the Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program entitled “Flood Resilient and Equitable Transportation Infrastructure for New Hampshire and Vermont”. She shared that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission was awarded funding from the Department of Transportation for a 3-year grant. She added that nine New Hampshire and six Vermont towns are interested in being part of the project. Ms. White asked the Board to speak on the needs of the Town that might pertain to this program.

Alicea Bursey mentioned that flooding and erosion along Route 10 has been an issue for the town. She added that it has been recommended that a H & H study be done for the erosion issues. Dianne Craig mentioned that the area behind the Grange building and Fire Department have experienced a lot of erosion and if something is not done, issues will arise. Mummery Road is also a point of concern as the bridge has been flooded and houses have been damaged due to the flooding during previous storms. Anna White asked if the state has been helpful. The Board stated that they have been as helpful as they can be.

The Board again mentioned that runoff, flooding, and erosion from storms have been major issues for the town. Dianne Craig mentioned Ball Park Road bridge was red listed by the State and that the Town has not heard anything updates. She added that the Town is also waiting for the second appeal to be reviewed by FEMA for Ball Park Road bridge.

Anna White asked if there are any other issues that are not associated with the flooding. The Board spoke about the condition of the roads, including Brook Road and Route 10. Alicea Bursey mentioned several of the hairpin turns on Brook Road and it was mentioned that several accidents have occurred. Derek Tremblay added that there is a lack of guardrails on Brook Road which contribute to the problem.

The Board continued by sharing that it would be helpful to have support for town building infrastructure needs and for long-term maintenance plans. It would also be helpful to have access to grant writers or someone who can help with the grant writing process. Anna White stated that the UVLSRPC is always willing to help Town find grants or assist in the grant writing process.

Dianne Craig stated that Goshen is a small town with limited resources and over the years have had a lot of infrastructure and land damage due to storm damage. Anna White thanked the Board for meeting with her and stated that she will be creating a community work plan to outline some of the potential projects. The Board thanked Ms. White for her attendance and information regarding this program.

Anna White left at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Review of Public Hearing Meeting Minutes (August 26, 2024):

Alicea Bursey motioned to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024 “as is”. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.

• Review of Regular Meeting Minutes (August 26, 2024):

Derek Tremblay motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024 “as is”. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATES

- **FEMA:** Melissa mentioned that all RFP information for the Lempster Coach Bridge repair project has been sent out and bids are due by September 16, 2024. The Board will hold a Public Hearing to review all Lempster Coach bridge bids on September 16, 2024 at 6:30pm. She also mentioned that a copy of the Lempster Coach Bridge plans are available for the Selectmen and residents to review at the Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Hazardous Building:** Melissa Salinardi mentioned that an abutting neighbor of the hazardous building property has voiced concerns that the building is extremely dangerous and actions should be taken by the property owner to remove or fix the issue. The abutting neighbor was not happy that nothing has been done by the property owner and would like to see some action taken. Melissa stated that she spoke with the abutting neighbor and let them know that certified letters from the Board have been sent and that the Selectmen are aware of the situation. The Selectmen agreed to follow up with the hazardous building property own by the end on September.
- **Handbook:** The Board will continue to work on finalizing the handbook.
- **Utility Update:** No update at this time.

STANDING ITEMS & OTHER BUSINESS (Some standing items may not have been discussed during the current meeting).

- **Monthly Budget Review**
- **Veterans Monument Repair**
- **Planning Board Update:** Derek Tremblay stated that the Planning Board held the Public Hearing to review a major subdivision proposal and many residents attended the meeting. Another meeting to continue discussion on the major subdivision is scheduled for October 3, 2024 at 7:00pm. The other Selectmen members were interested in attending. The meeting will be posted for Selectmen quorum attendance. Derek Tremblay continued to provide a summary of the meeting and shared some of the concerns that were addressed by the residents and the Planning Board (see Planning Board Meeting Minutes of 9/5/24 for further information).
- **Brickyard Road Bridge**
- **Abandoned Property**

Shae Simino provided an update on the Highway truck. He stated that he heard from the vendor, ATG Trucks, and they hope to have the work completed on the new vehicle by mid-October 2024. The Board suggested that Shae reach out to the company and discuss terms of payment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gunnison Lake Access Road Complaint:

Alicea Bursey formally recused herself as a member and moved to the public side of the room to address a complaint that was brought to the Board regarding her property on Washington Road.

Dianne Craig explained that the Board received an email from a resident concerned that proper protocol was not followed at the Washington Road property. The resident was concerned that the Bursey's had created their own private entryway to the Gunnison Lake access road. There was also a question as to whether or not the Bursey's had permission to cut on town property.

Alicea Bursey addressed the complaint, stating that there has been no cutting of trees on town property, only their own land and that the agriculture driveway onto Gunnison Lake Road existed before she purchased the property in 2006. She added that there should be a logging permit on file with the Town for a timber cut prior to November 2006 to verify that the access road was used for the hauling of the timber from a previous owner.

Derek Tremblay mentioned that documentation of the Timber cut may be hard to find. Dianne Craig clarified that the trees were not cut on town property. Alicea Bursey stated that, "no trees were cut on town property." Dianne Craig and Derek Tremblay had no further questions or concerns. Melissa Salinardi will respond to the resident's concern.

Derek Tremblay motioned to adjourn. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0. Alicea Bursey abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi