



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2019
9:00 A.M.

Selectmen Present: Nancy Carney, Daniel Baker, Charles Kenison

Ms. Carney called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

PRIMARY:

***** APPROVE MINUTES**
- January 14, 2019

Mr. Kenison made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Baker seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the manifests. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW SIGNATURE FOLDER – The Selectmen reviewed and signed.**

9:15 MEET WITH SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – KRISTEN NOONAN AND WINSTON WRIGHT

Kristen Noonan and Winston Wright, Fitzwilliam School Board representatives met with the Selectmen to discuss the School Board's stance on the funding formula going forward. Mr. Wright shared that there were many differing options of what needs to be done by the towns. Mr. Baker asked about the motion made by the School Board to go 75/25. Mr. Wright stated it would be challenged tonight as a motion to rescind would be made to keep it the same. This can only be made by someone that voted yes. Mr. Wright discussed the tax implication of changing the formula from 75/25. Ms. Noonan shared that she wanted to talk with Eric Stanley to find out his rationale for the motion. Ms. Noonan thought the reason to vote in favor was that if it changes it would be for five years and if it's voted to keep the same, it would only be for one year. Ms. Noonan stated that she felt the Board didn't do enough but the 50/50 wasn't fair. Ms. Noonan thought that Roxbury was thinking of leaving the district. Discussion was held on rescinding the motion and a petition warrant article. Mr. Wright asked if the Selectmen wanted them to keep the motion. Ms. Carney shared that it was unfortunate that the School Board as a whole per their vote, didn't spend the year looking at a formula and instead came in a few months before saying they weren't ready. Only the School Board could authorize an amount other than 50/50 or 100%. Ms. Noonan shared that if the previous motion stands, it would be the School Board's recommendation to stay at 75/25 and it wouldn't be on the ballot.

Mr. Wright discussed the cuts to the budget and mentioned someone was looking into the legality of how cuts were made. The concern was that this would be a wasted year. Ms. Noonan felt they tried to start the process earlier but it kept getting pushed back. The Selectmen shared that they needed to publicize getting people out to vote. Discussion was held on the possibility of changing the Articles of Incorporation to allow for more flexibility to change the data. It was noted that the figures used were two years old.

Mr. Wright asked where they should go from here. Ms. Carney shared they should work towards a fair formula and not to keep pitting Troy against Fitzwilliam. The Selectmen agreed that the two towns needed to work together. Mr. Wright and Ms. Noonan acknowledged the need to schedule a quarterly meeting with the Selectmen to keep them updated. Ms. Carney asked for an update on tonight's meeting.

The Selectmen thanked Ms. Noonan and Mr. Wright for their time.

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**9:30 MEET WITH DAN SUTTON – HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- Discuss Welcome Packet**

Dan Sutton of the Historical Society, met with the Selectmen to discuss having a Welcome Packet available for new residents. Mr. Sutton shared that a packet used to be distributed and the Historical Society wanted to get it back up and running but wanted the Selectmen's support. Mr. Sutton discussed what would be included in the packet. They needed help in the distribution of the packet. Mr. Sutton discussed the options that might be available to assist with this. One possibility was having packets in the Town Hall, instead of mailing them out. Ms. Favreau shared that something could be included in the newsletter, such as having a single sheet inserted and periodically noting that packets were available at the Town Hall for new residents. Ms. Favreau also shared that it would be the Selectmen's Office that would have to send out the Welcome Packets when transfers were processed. Mr. Sutton thought it was a good concept to put some information on one sheet and have it inserted in the newsletter. Mr. Sutton shared that they would get working on this.

Mr. Sutton thanked the Selectmen.

10:00 MEET WITH THE VILLAGE COMMON COMMITTEE

Members of the Village Common Committee, John Fitzwilliam, Carole Beckwith, Barbara Brook, and Gene Cuomo met with the Selectmen to discuss their ideas for improvement of the Village Common. Ms. Beckwith shared that the Committee came up with a purpose and she gave the Selectmen a handout and reviewed the committee's purpose and their responsibilities. Mr. Cuomo discussed the removal of the current tree, location of the new tree, relocation of the flag pole and restoration of the common.

The Selectmen agreed that the tree needed to be taken down. Mr. Cuomo shared that it would be easier while the ground was frozen and thought it would be a minimal expense. Ms. Beckwith shared that the Committee would come back to the Selectmen for approval of a replacement tree. An article would be put in the newsletter to let residents know what was happening on the common, removal and replacement of the tree and an acknowledgement to Ellie Luopa for donating the tree.

Discussion was held on the restoration work to be done on the common, possibly restoring back to its original look, a dog waste station, where to locate, benches and the water fountain. A budget for replacing the tree would be given to the Selectmen for review. Ms. Favreau shared that an arborist had assessed the trees on the common and had done some trimming. It was determined that the trees were healthy. It was suggested to get a replacement tree that was 7 to 8 feet tall. Mr. Cuomo shared that PLP would refinish the flag poles. Ms. Beckwith asked how people would donate to the common. Ms. Favreau shared that the donation would need to be earmarked for that purpose. Ms. Beckwith asked the Selectmen if they had any suggestions.

***** MEET WITH GENE CUOMO**

Mr. Cuomo shared that Upper Gap Mountain Road should be a Class 5 road. Mr. Cuomo asked about talking with the Troy Board of Selectmen about Fitzwilliam maintaining part of the road in Troy. Mr. Cuomo shared that if the road was changed to a Class 5 road, he would be able to maintain it and make a better turn around. Mr. Kenison asked if it needed to be a Warrant Article. Mr. Cuomo stated it would need to be. Mr. Cuomo shared that he didn't have the history on why Fitzwilliam began maintaining Troy's portion of the road.

The Selectmen agreed to draft a letter to the Troy Board of Selectmen regarding maintenance of Troy's portion of Upper Gap Mountain Road.

***** APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
- Susan Silverman**

Ms. Carney shared that the Conservation Commission recommended appointing Susan Silverman as a member. A question was asked if creating a position. Ms. Favreau shared that the Conservation Commission could be 3-7 members and that Laurie Haywood found that over the years the commission has had a varying number of members.

Mr. Baker made a motion to appoint Susan Silverman as a member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD
- Barbara Young**

Ms. Carney shared that the Planning Board recommended appointing Barbara Young as a member until March. She was currently serving as an alternate.

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Mr. Baker made a motion to appoint Barbara Young as a member of the Planning Board. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** DISCUSS LCHIP**

Ms. Favreau shared that Mr. Baker had talked with Dave Drasba, who suggested that we go to Concord and meet with the LCHIP grant members to view the scope of the \$10,000. Mr. Baker questioned that if this was an LCHIP requirement, why we didn't have that when we submitted our application. Mr. Drasba had shared with Mr. Baker that we didn't include a small section of the Town Hall. LCHIP would give money for the steeple, but there needs to be a full assessment of the building. Mr. Baker thought it might be a good thing to do to have a full assessment of the systems in the building. If going to LCHIP we will have this information and without it, we wouldn't get a grant. Mr. Kenison shared that it was understandable spending money on the steeple only to have the building fall down. Mr. Kenison discussed what was done at the Blake House. Discussion continued on having a full study. Ms. Carney agreed with Mr. Kenison that we need to know the entire needs of building. Ms. Favreau shared that sill work was done probably 10 years ago and leveling the floor was done a few years ago. Mr. Kenison would get the assessment information for work on the Blake House.

***** LAND USE CHANGE TAX
- Map 10, Lot 23**

Ms. Carney reviewed Avitar's recommendation. A permanent camper was found on the land, which was all in current use. Ms. Favreau shared that it was found when they were doing pick-ups. The land use change tax was \$1,700.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve Avitar's recommendation and the land use change tax in the amount of \$1,700. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **E-MAIL FROM SUSAN SILVERMAN – SB-57** – The Selectmen reviewed and discussed.
- **LETTER FROM DES – Map 1, Lot 8 – Old Pierce Road** - The Selectmen reviewed.

The Selectmen reviewed their February meeting schedule. They agreed to keep their meetings as scheduled, with the exception of meeting on Tuesday, February 19th at 9 a.m. instead of Monday, February 18th.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

- **STEEPLE PROJECT** - The Selectmen scheduled their meeting with Jay Southgate in Vermont for February 8th or 15th.

January Meeting Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - Thursday, January 3, 2019
~~7:00 p.m. - Monday, January 7, 2019 - CANCELLED~~
7:00 p.m. - Monday, January 14, 2019
7:00 p.m. - Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – Meeting with NextEra and Planning Board
9:00 a.m. - Tuesday, January 22, 2019
7:00 p.m. - Monday, January 28, 2019

Mr. Kenison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m. Mr. Baker seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Nancy Carney, Chairman

Daniel Baker

Charles Kenison
Board of Selectmen