



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Selectmen Present: Daniel Baker, Robyn Bates, Charles Kenison

Guests: (via Zoom) Robert Ford, Jean Ford, Stephanie Scherr (in-person) Suzanne Gray, Skip Hagstrom, Dana Pinney, Susan Silverman, Robin Peard Blais

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PRIMARY:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Pinney shared that there has been a lot of activity on the Task Force Broadband page. Mr. Pinney mentioned that Hub66 has been putting door hangers in Fitzwilliam stating that they are bringing in fiber. Mr. Pinney asked for the Selectmen's permission to post information on the Fitzwilliam Community page as well as the November newsletter, which contains factual information that would be beneficial to residents regarding Broadband. Mr. Pinney would also like the letter to be posted on the Town's website. Mr. Pinney shared that it could be posted without comments. Ms. Favreau shared that Hub66 has sent an e-mail to the Selectmen. Mr. Pinney shared that Hub66 representatives came to the Broadband meeting in Chesterfield and started selling their product. They had registered with the Attorney General's Office a month prior. Mr. Baker asked why they didn't bid on the Town's RFP. Mr. Pinney stated that they chose not to bid. The Broadband Volunteer Task Force felt it was important to get this factual information out to residents to educate them where the Town is regarding Broadband. Mr. Baker stated that he didn't want to get in the middle of competition. Mr. Pinney shared that the Task Force wanted to get factual information out but not respond to comments. Mr. Baker asked that readers be referred to the Broadband website for additional information.

Mr. Pinney noted that he would send thank you letters to the consultants that offered technical information.

The Selectmen agreed that the Task Force could send a thank you letter to the consultants, post the Broadband update information and turn off comments.

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

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

***** APPROVE MINUTES
- October 1, 2020**

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

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

***** REVIEW HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATION
- Kenneth Beckwith**

Mr. Baker shared that Kenneth Beckwith was interested in serving on the Historic District Commission. Ms. Bates asked if the Historic District had met to approve the appointment of Mr. Beckwith. Ms. Bates shared that the Selectmen have asked other Boards/Commissions. Ms. Bates asked that the minutes reflect that John Fitzwilliam, Chair has recommended that Mr. Beckwith serve on the Historic District Commission.

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Ms. Bates made a motion to appoint Kenneth Beckwith to the Historic District Commission for a 3 year term. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** REVIEW CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATION

- Map 12, Lot 26
- Map 42, Lot 2-79

Map 12, Lot 26 – Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the Construction Permit for Map 12, Lot 26. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0
The Selectmen agreed that an Occupancy Permit was needed.

Map 42, Lot 2-79 – Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the Construction Permit for Map 42, Lot 2-79. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0
The Selectmen agreed that an Occupancy Permit was needed.

*** REVIEW CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

- Map 27, Lot 12-2

Map 27, Lot 12-2 – Mr. Kenison made a motion to approve the Certificate of Occupancy for Map 27, Lot 12-2. Ms. Bates seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** DISCUSS CLEANING OF VOTING BOOTHS BETWEEN VOTERS

- Booth set-up to maintain social distancing
- Enter and exiting of building needs to be separate

Ms. White explained that Carol Ann Rocheleau had requested this be discussed at the Selectmen's level. Discussion was held on hiring someone to wipe down voting booths, slowing the voting down, and maintain social distancing. Mr. Baker felt that this should come as a recommendation from our Health Officer and the Town Clerk. The Selectmen asked to meet with both Ms. Rocheleau and Heidi Wood. Ms. White would contact Ms. Rocheleau and Ms. Wood.

*** REVIEW ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE PURPLE HEART PROCLAMATION

Ms. Favreau shared that it was through Veteran's Affairs. Mr. Baker was fine as long as it was a legitimate organization. Ms. Bates shared that she had reviewed the information and noticed that some towns have done this. The Selectmen asked Ms. Favreau to get clarification on the cost to put the Town's name on the sign.

The Selectmen tabled until additional information is received.

7:30 MEET WITH SUSAN SILVERMAN

Susan Silverman shared that Robin Peard Blais has joined the Prime Wetlands Subcommittee and they wanted to update the Selectmen where they were in their process. Mr. Baker stated that they haven't been approved by the State. Ms. Silverman stated that the Town has changed the ordinance. Ms. Silverman showed a map of the six that were adopted in 2015. The three larger ones were based on the NH Method System to evaluation wetlands. Ms. Silverman reviewed the chart of the point system, which shows the different considerations.

Ms. Silverman wanted to talk with the Selectmen about having a Selectmen representative on the subcommittee. Mr. Baker asked if this would be the next level of importance. Ms. Silverman shared that they are very high points. They were looking at inflow and outflow, which could be divided by a road. There would be a public hearing and Rick Van de Poll has offered to do a presentation, similar to the one he did the last time. Dr. Van de Poll would be happy to host a Zoom meeting. Ms. Silverman shared that the meeting could be virtual and open to the public. All of the water supplies are affected by what happens in the wetlands. Some wetlands have huge aquifers and once a wetland is compromised, it isn't coming back on its own. This is to protect them for future generations and also for flood control. Wetlands can absorb a lot of water, essentially lessening flooding. Wetlands protect open space and wildlife.

Robin Peard Blais shared that there would be representation from the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission. Ms. Silverman and Ms. Blais shared that they have identified wetlands that they would like to include but wanted to discuss with the subcommittee first before bringing forward. Ms. Blais shared that in a case where someone is making an application on Kemp Brook. Sportsman is protected and this can be "teeth" to have identified as a prime wetland. Ms. Blais shared that some property owners think of this as taking of their land, but it isn't. People need to understand what this is.

Ms. Silverman shared that Scott Pond is divided by Routes 119 and 12. Mr. Baker asked if Rockwood Pond was on the list. Ms. Silverman confirmed that it was. The Selectmen agreed that there was a lot of activity on the water.

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Ms. Favreau asked if we needed to appropriate money for this. Ms. Silverman shared that she didn't have an estimate from Dr. Van de Poll. Ms. Favreau asked how we could bring it to this year's Town Meeting and also asked if Dr. Van de Poll would be starting the work before it has been appropriated. Ms. Silverman shared that all of the mapping has been done and mapping of the buffer would need to be done. Dr. Van de Poll would be able to import the wetlands into the Avitar assessing system.

Mr. Baker asked for them to get an estimate of cost and to follow up with the Selectmen. Ms. Silverman shared that it was important that the Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board know what is going on. The intent is to make sure that everyone is in the loop.

Ms. Bates asked if Ms. Silverman understood the point system. Ms. Silverman reviewed what is included in the mapping and the explanation in the map legend. It was noted that Fitzwilliam contains 5,000 wetlands that are each over an acre in size.

7:45 MEET WITH ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Suzanne Gray and Skip Hagstrom met with the Selectmen to give an update on the Economic Committee. Ms. Gray shared that they have had challenges getting members and it has gotten worse with Covid-19. In the past they would do quarterly networking events with businesses. Ms. Gray shared that there may be a couple of people interested in joining the committee, but Committee members feel they are at a standstill. Ms. Gray mentioned that Committee members have discussed using Facebook to let business owners know they are here. She thought it would be a good time to do a reach out session with business owners. The challenge is reaching people. Ms. Gray and Mr. Hagstrom asked the Selectmen how they felt about them using Facebook to reach out to business owners and utilizing the newsletter for an "ad" to draw businesses. Ms. Bates asked what the Economic Committee's purpose was. Ms. Gray read their Mission Statement. Mr. Hagstrom shared that they are trying to get the word out and right now it is difficult. Ms. Bates stated that she was in favor of using the newsletter to get information out. Mr. Baker thought this was a good way to try it out but noted that the Town doesn't have the resources to manage an on-line site. Ms. Gray shared that they wanted to reach out but didn't want comments. Contact information would be provided if people had questions. Committee members don't want this to be comment driven.

Discussion was held on businesses in Town and getting momentum to let them know that the committee is here. Mr. Baker asked who would manage the page. Ms. Gray shared that they would just post of the Fitzwilliam Community page. Mr. Hagstrom shared that one thing we don't have in town is a welcome committee. The Economic Committee spends a lot of money on the brochures. Mr. Hagstrom brings them to new residents so they know the businesses in Town. Ms. Bates asked about the commercial property owners, and how the Economic Committee could help them. Ms. Gray mentioned a town in NH that has a section on their website that shows properties for sale. Discussion was held on what information new resident's need that would be helpful in the absence of a welcoming committee, where the brochures are handed out, there being a lot of home-based businesses that people don't know about, and the networking events.

The Economic Committee needed the Selectmen's permission to use the newsletter and posting to the Fitzwilliam Community page.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the request of the Economic Committee. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

8:00 MEET WITH SHEENA ROYCE – RECREATION DIRECTOR

Sheena Royce met with the Selectmen to discuss ideas for Halloween. Ms. Royce shared that generally they put on the Spooktacular but it wouldn't happen this year. The Commission met and decided not to offer alternatives for Halloween, not knowing what the Town would be doing. They felt it was up to each individual family to decide what to do. Ms. Bates felt we needed to do something but because of social distancing, she didn't know. Ms. Bates mentioned blocking off a section of the road near the Town Hall and the Library.

Ms. Royce shared that she watched a video of what other Towns were doing. If doing trunk or treat, how would you manage traffic control and social distancing? Ms. Royce mentioned that nothing is happening at school facilities. Ms. Bates asked if things could be done on the Town property. Other towns are just saying to use common sense. Consider wearing masks, stay home if not feeling well, etc. It is Town driven. Ms. Bates shared that she likes the trunk or treat because not pushing the children to their house. Ms. Favreau asked if people don't want to participate wouldn't they turn off their porch light. The Commission discussed putting out some common sense recommendations. Mr. Baker asked how we communicate this, as we have missed the newsletter. Ms. Royce stated she could put something on the Recreation webpage. Ms. Favreau could also post on the Town's website. Mr. Baker mentioned that if something goes wrong and we promote something. He would lean towards people making their own decisions and being respectful of neighbors not having their light on. Ms. Royce would get information to Ms. Favreau to post on the website.

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Ms. Royce shared that the Recreation Department has been invited to participate in the Holiday Light competition with other towns. People would enter by December 6 and judging would be December 11th. At the town level, a prize would be from a local business. The Selectmen approved.

Ms. Royce shared that soccer is going well, there were 39 kids that registered. The kids are having a blast with skills and drills. The cost would be covered. The Take-A-Hike Challenge has ended. Youth, teens and adults had registered. Ms. Royce shared that the Commission wanted to offer again this summer. Litter cleanup is underway and is scheduled for this week through October 13th.

Ms. Royce wanted to check on the small repair at the Pole Barn, under the water spigot. David Streeter had something to finish up and would look into. It was mentioned that the water needs to be turned off. Ms. Royce would mentioned it to Chris Rocheleau.

*** DISCUSS CIP REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Kenison would be the Selectmen's representative.

*** DISCUSS TRICK OR TREATING – Discussed earlier with Sheena Royce - Chief DiSalvo's recommendation

*** VOTE TO ACCEPT GOEFFER GRANT MONEY

Ms. Favreau shared that the Town received \$4,051.60 in CRF Municipal Aid.

Mr. Kenison made a motion to accept the grant money. Ms. Bates seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Ms. Favreau shared that she is working with someone at FEMA and would apply for the voting grant for the general election.

*** REVIEW E-MAIL FROM JOE HOPPOCK

The Selectmen reviewed. Attorney Joseph Hoppock's research indicated that Tract 1 is unrestricted. Ms. Favreau shared that the buyer for the Route 12 property wanted a Warranty Deed. The Selectmen agreed to have Ms. Favreau ask Attorney Hoppock if the additional language could be added to the Warranty Deed for the Route 12 property.

*** REVIEW E-MAIL FROM BETH BUMBARGER – HUB 66

The Selectmen reviewed the e-mail from Beth Bumbarger, CEO of Hub66. The Selectmen were willing to meet with her but want to find out why she didn't submit a bid.

*** POLICE REPORT ON TAX DEEDED PROPERTY

Mr. Baker shared that Police Officer Gene Cuomo, at the request of the Selectmen, verified that the property of Christopher Bateman, was vacant. Ms. Bates asked if we could find out from NHMA if there is something specific the Town needed to do.

Ms. Favreau shared that Joyce Breuning made a payment of \$6,500. The Selectmen waived tax deeding.

*** REVIEW LEGAL INVOICE

The Selectmen reviewed the invoice in the amount of \$937.50.

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

*** REVIEW LETTER FROM AVITAR

Ms. Favreau shared that Avitar responded to the Selectmen's request asking for a reduction in fees do to interior inspections not being done because of Covid-19. Ms. Favreau noted that interior inspections for years 2020 and 2021 would be done.

*** NON-PUBLIC SESSION - RSA 91-A:3 II(a) - Compensation

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***** NON-PUBLIC SESSION - RSA 91-A:3 II(b) - Hiring**

At 8:41 p.m. Mr. Baker made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Mr. Kenison seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

At 10:11 p.m. Mr. Kenison made a motion to leave non-public session and seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Ms. Bates seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

***** NON-PUBLIC SESSION - RSA 91-A:3 II(e) – Legal**

At 10:11 p.m. Mr. Kenison made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(e). Ms. Bates seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

At 10:19 p.m. Ms. Bates made a motion to leave non-public session and seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Mr. Kenison seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

INFORMATION

***** Transfer Station Principal Operator License – Chris Silvia will renew**

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

***** AMBULANCE SERVICE**

***** SOLAR**

***** TOWN-WIDE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT**

- Unregistered vehicles
- Debris and junk in yards

Meeting Schedule: Meetings will be back to every other Thursday morning and Wednesday evening.

Mr. Kenison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. Ms. Bates seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Daniel Baker, Chairman

Robyn Bates

Charles Kenison
Board of Selectmen