



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2015

Selectmen Present: Nancy Carney, Chris Holman, Susan Silverman

Ms. Carney called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PRIMARY:

***** APPROVE MINUTES**
- November 30, 2015

Ms. Silverman made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Carney seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Abstained, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 2-0

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

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

7:15 MEET WITH EVERSOURCE

Laurel Bovine, Ian Farley and Dave Crane of Eversource met with the Selectmen to discuss tree cutting along Town roads. Ms. Carney apologized for halting tree cutting last week but stated it was important for them to come in and meet with the Selectmen as residents were concerned about what was going on. Ms. Carney wanted to provide education for residents to let them know what was going on and asked to be notified of what roads would be affected and when so that this information could be posted on the website. Ms. Carney shared her concern about the Historic District and even without an ordinance it needed to be protected. Ms. Carney asked how we could work together and Ms. Silverman wanted to be clear of what the property owner's rights were. Ms. Bovine introduced Dave Crane and Ian Farley who are part of Eversource's Vegetation Management program. Mr. Crane managed the maintenance trimming and Mr. Farley managed enhanced tree trimming.

Mr. Crane explained that standard maintenance trimming was Eversource's base program and that they go through all lines on a 4 year cycle. Trees were cut 10 feet below and 15 feet above the lines with an 8' clearance. Mr. Crane talked about the reduction in outages as a result of maintenance trimming. Mr. Crane shared that permission was needed to work on private property unless they had an easement and that Eversource has a license from the State or Town to work within their right-of-way and to cut anything within the public right-of-way. Eversource required their contractors to contact land owners.

Permission cards for maintenance trimming go out 2 months in advance and are sent to the owner of record. Property owners are given a 45 day period and if they don't contact Eversource to agree or disagree – it is implied consent. Consent is given for the maintenance period – for that season through the end of the year. Once the maintenance cycle was done and Eversource needed to go back for additional clearance – they would need to get permission again. Mr. Crane shared that 38% of property owners return their cards. Hazardous trees are taken down on a case by case basis and Eversource wanted written consent on any large tree that was taken down.

Mr. Crane shared that the enhanced tree trimming program (ETT) was put under one arborist so that crews wouldn't go from maintenance to enhanced trimming. ETT was typically done on main lines and had been done in Fitzwilliam on Rt 119 several years ago. Mr. Crane talked about the reduction in outages as a result of ETT. Mr. Crane shared that 3 phase lines are more vulnerable and the higher the voltage the more vulnerable as well. Mr. Crane stated that Eversource planned to do maintenance trimming on the west side of town next year.

Ms. Bovine reported that the schedule for ETT was based on outages – top 50 circuits and that outages were looked at state-wide. Mr. Farley stated 25% was trimmed state-wide – only do 75 miles and the specifications are a minimum of an 8' clearance and they clear everything under wires and all overhang. Mr. Crane talked about the differences in the ETT and maintenance trimming. Ms. Bovine stated that it is referred to as ground to sky as they are trying to eliminate the possibility of an outage.

Mr. Farley explained permissions and their contract with Northern Tree. Northern Tree employees are required to go to each property owner and individually get permission for the trees and if they can't talk to the property owner they would ribbon the tree. Mr. Farley stated that with ETT – have to go door to door and as it takes months to do the work – they would repeat. If they don't get permission – they don't cut. Mr. Farley shared that complaints are from people that don't live on the road – to them it seems aggressive. Mr. Farley shared that at the campground – they were pleased that they could keep all of the wood. The Selectmen talked about being able to see all of the campers now. Ms. Carney asked about the log landing and Mr. Farley reported that Craig Chamberlain had arranged it with Northern Tree. Ms. Bovine shared that permission was received from all but 2 property owners.

The Selectmen asked about the common and Ms. Favreau shared that someone from Northern Tree had asked about the trees on the common. Ms. Silverman stated that if the trees were taken down there wouldn't be any on the common and Mr. Cuomo stated that it needed to be addressed as all of the trees have grown into the lines. Mr. Crane stated the trees have been a problem for quite a while and that they could remove them as they are a maintenance problem for Eversource. Mr. Cuomo stated they needed to be addressed sooner or later and Ms. Silverman stated it was common land – owned by the Town as a whole. Mr. Farley shared that he told Northern Tree to hold off on the trees in the common. Mr. Crane and Mr. Farley suggested that they meet with someone and walk the area. The Selectmen shared their concern was that they were making a decision about the common space and Mr. Farley suggested to move forward on the rest of the trimming and talk about the common when the Selectmen felt more comfortable. Mr. Farley reported that the project would be done by the end of the month. Ms. Bovine agreed with giving more time to engage the public and then add it back into the maintenance cycle. Mr. Crane suggested that they just trim the trees now and they would be back in the spring and could plant some small trees then. The Selectmen discussed bringing this up at the Town meeting on March 8th and the cost of planting 6-7 trees. Mr. Crane shared that he would send the Selectmen some information, which could be put into the newsletter.

Ms. Carney reiterated that the Village and Depot Commons were on hold until the Selectmen had time to review and that Mr. Cuomo would do a walk through with Mr. Farley and Mr. Crane to get a better understanding of work to be done and why.

Mr. Cuomo asked about their chip policy and that someone from Northern Tree stated they had permission to broadcast the chips within their permission from the property owners. Mr. Cuomo stated his concern was the amount of chips in ditches. Terry Silverman asked what the chips did to the ph of the ground. Discussion was held on the area, type of soil and the different kinds of trees. Mr. Crane shared that it was environmentally beneficial for them to broadcast the chips and not dump in one area. Mr. Cuomo reported that the pavement was damaged by Northern Tree as they didn't put pads down when stabilizing their truck and damage had also been done to some stonewalls. Mr. Farley stated that they would plan a ride along.

Ms. Silverman asked what Eversource's policy was on invasive plants. Mr. Crane reported that knotweed was not a problem – doesn't grow tall enough. Mr. Farley reported that typically they wouldn't target Japanese knotweed – wouldn't see the need to cut it. Mr. Crane stated they don't cut anything that isn't capable of growing tall enough.

Ms. Bovine shared that she would send a link to Eversource's website and anytime there was a concern to click on the concern tab and register their concern. Ms. Bovine shared that the action plan going forward was to: schedule time for a daytime visit, give information as a tool to educate the public, and the Selectmen would bring to Town meeting. Mr. Farley and Mr. Crane would go over a tentative schedule for next year and send out to the Selectmen sometime next month.

Mr. Crane and Mr. Farley stated that the wood belonged to the abutting property owner and that it was easier for them to leave it but the wood should be left in a manor not to impede roads or property. Ms. Bovine shared that she could always be contacted.

Ms. Carney thanked them for meeting with the Selectmen.

7:30 MEET WITH ROAD AGENT GENE CUOMO
- Discuss Snow Removal and Plowing Contract

Mr. Cuomo reported that he and Ms. Favreau had worked on a Snow Removal and Plowing Contract and the Selectmen asked Mr. Cuomo if he was okay with it. Ms. Silverman asked what the necessity was. Mr. Cuomo stated that it didn't come from him and Ms. Favreau shared that Mr. Holman had suggested that we have something and Ms. Favreau did some research and got a sample contract from the Town of Hampstead. Mr. Cuomo stated it was basically what he already did – just haven't had a contract. Mr. Cuomo shared that Mark Sweeney and Harry Damon are contractors that have plowed for the Town for several years and Mr. Cuomo's concern was that if we had a contract he wasn't sure if Mr. Sweeney or Mr. Damon would be willing to plow as plow guys don't make a lot of money.

Mr. Holman shared that his goal was to protect the Town and he referenced a current lawsuit. Mr. Holman stated that an indemnity clause would hold the Town harmless and Ms. Favreau shared that Mr. Holman was concerned about the liability. Ms. Favreau stated that it might be better to have an inclement weather policy. Discussion continued on how roads are plowed, policy, concern that contractors could be put off by a contract, and the need to have workmen's compensation if the contractor has employees. Mr. Holman reviewed some of the language in the contract and stated that he didn't want it to be a problem for Mr. Cuomo. Discussion continued on the content of the policy and Mr. Holman stated that he wasn't concerned with the people that Mr. Cuomo had working for him.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to continue to examine the contract and do further research but not put into place at this time. Mr. Holman seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Discussion continued on insurance, content of the policy, contractor billing and the difficulty of finding people to plow.

8:00 MEET WITH FRANK BATEMAN AND DOROTHY ZUG

Frank Bateman and Dorothy Zug met with the Selectmen to let them know how wonderful the emergency crews were and the assistance they provided for Mr. Bateman's medical needs.

***** CONSTRUCTION PERMIT**

Map 26, Lot 1-3

Map 4, Lot 67

Map 26, Lot 1-3 – Ms. Silverman made a motion to approve the permit for Map 26, Lot 1-3. Mr. Holman seconded.

Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Map 4, Lot 67 – Mr. Holman made a motion to approve the permit for Map 4, Lot 67. Ms. Silverman seconded.

Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW EMAIL FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY RIGHTS NETWORK**

- **Warrant Article Request**

Ms. Carney reviewed the email from New Hampshire Community Rights Network and Ms. Silverman asked that it be put in the warrant folder.

***** UPDATE SOUTHWEST REGION PLANNING COMMISSION**

- **Transportation Advisory Committee**

- **Fitzwilliam Representative for SWRPC**

Transportation Advisory Committee – Ms. Carney stated the Board of Selectmen needed to write a letter of nomination for Frank Bequaert and the SWRPC Board would vote on Mr. Bequaert's nomination.

Ms. Silverman made a motion that a letter of nomination to SWRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee be written for Mr. Bequaert. Ms. Carney seconded. Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Fitzwilliam Representative for SWRPC – Ms. Carney reported that Mr. Cuomo was interested in serving as Fitzwilliam's Representative on SWRPC. Ms. Carney would notify the Planning Board.

***** REVIEW COMPLETED ASSESSMENT RATIO FROM AVITAR**

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed. Ms. Favreau reported the DRA had approved changing our assessment review year from 2018 to 2017.

***** BUDGET DISCUSSION**

- **Conservation Commission**

- **Police Department**

Conservation Commission – The Selectmen reviewed and had little discussion as the total request was \$3,335.

Ms. Silverman reported \$5,000 had been requested from CIP.

Police Department – Ms. Silverman reported the budget had been revised and Ms. Favreau shared that it was still higher than last year’s request. Ms. Favreau would contact the state to see if we can prepay gasoline. Discussion continued on the benefit of prepaying. Ms. Silverman shared her concern that Chief DiSalvo needed to fully understand his budget even though he doesn’t overspend.

Ms. Carney stated that CIP would be meeting with the Budget Committee on December 17th and Ms. Favreau reminded the Selectmen of their budget work session on Sunday from 1 – 3 p.m.

*** **PIPELINE**

- **FERC Notice of Application**
- **Letter from Senator Ayotte**
- **Invoice – Arthur Cunningham**
- **Memo from Chris Holman**

FERC Notice of Application - The Selectmen reviewed and discussed.

Letter from Senator Ayotte - The Selectmen reviewed and discussed.

Invoice – Arthur Cunningham - The Selectmen reviewed and discussed.

Memo from Chris Holman – The Selectmen reviewed and discussed.

*** **REQUEST TO ATTENED ENERGY SYMPOSIUM**

The Selectmen discussed Mr. Holman’s request to attend the Energy Symposium sponsored by BIA (Business and Industry Association) at a cost of \$145. After discussion the Selectmen agreed that it was of no benefit to the Town.

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

At 8:56 p.m. Mr. Holman made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(b). Ms. Silverman seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

At 8:58 p.m. Ms. Silverman made a motion to leave non-public session and seal the minutes. Mr. Holman seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Ms. Carney - Yes, Mr. Holman - Yes, Ms. Silverman - Yes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Carney reminded the Selectmen that Rick Van de Poll would be giving an update on the Prime Wetlands Study at 6 p.m. on December 21st.

Mr. Holman shared that he sent Cindi Beede information on bike and walking trails and as a result would be meeting with the Recreation Commission on January 11th.

Ms. Silverman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Mr. Holman seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Nancy Carney, Chairman

Chris Holman

Susan Silverman
Board of Selectmen