Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Town Offices  Date: October 16, 2014

Meeting Opened: 7:00 PM  Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM

Jay Jacobs, Chair ☑ present  ☐ absent
Charles Michal ☑ present  ☐ absent
Seth Kallman ☑ present  ☐ absent

Met with Leslie Downing, Trustee representing the Cemetery Committee to discuss several items: She reported that the fence at Riverside Cemetery had been painted, but that no one know who had done this. The effort is much appreciated. Also, some people have planted trees on plots in Island Cemetery, against regulations. She will notify plot owners that these must be removed. Leslie said that lilacs will be planted along the fence line at island cement. Seth noted that plant materials could be purchased at a discount this time of year. Finally, in a change of policy, cemetery maintenance staff will be placing grave cornerstones in the future.

Met with Winston Sims, Conservation Commission Chair. Winston states that Will Kirkpatrick is a resident who has expressed interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. Selectboard would like Mr. Kirkpatrick to come in on a Thursday night for an introductory meeting prior to appointment to the board.

Winston discussed his desire to see ongoing and current permitting and zoning/planning applications be recorded in some central database or tracking system. Seth and Charles explained to Winston the expectations the Selectboard has for centralized recording of permits, and stated that there was no plan on this Selectboard’s part to raise additional budgets to cover more sophisticated data systems for a town our size. Jay stated that he was interested in improving the ability to connect the history of past permits to individual tax parcels.

Rick Brackett of the Monadnock Conservancy had requested a final $7,400 payment upon completion of the NRI study. The Conservation Commission has approved paying the Conservancy the full amount, and talking on the responsibility of seeking the $4,499 reimbursement from the Mooseplate Grant on their own. Selectboard advised Winston to withhold full payment to the Conservancy until the grant is received.

Seth brought up with Winston Alan Saari’s recent complaints regarding the Conservation Commissions’ tardy minutes and at least one unnoticed meeting. Winston apologized and stated that the Conservation Commission had taken step to correct this. Secretary Les LeMois circulates draft minutes via email; final minutes are voted on in regular session. The draft minutes will now be distributed within the statutory time limits to Town Clerk.

Seth raised with Winston Sims the correspondence received from John Cucchi in which Mr. Cucchi claims he had been impersonated in a flawed appraisal where the appraiser (Powers and Smith) had stated in writing that the land had been visited by the appraiser in the company of both Mr. Sims and Mr. Cucchi. Jay stated that this is not a town matter at all, as the appraisal was arranged privately and funded privately through Mr. Sims personal interest as part of conversations he was having with Mr. Cucchi at the time. Charles stated that since the Selectboard was responsible for appointing individuals (including Mr. Sims) in positions of integrity and unbiased public service, it was important to clarify if there was any validity to Mr. Cucchi’s claim. He asked Winston if he would swear under oath in court that both he and Mr. Cucchi had met together with Powers and Smith, and that Mr. Cucchi’s claim that he had been impersonated was false. Winston stated that Mr. Cucchi had accompanied him, and answered that he would.

Alan Saari met with the Selectboard and complained that the Selectboard past minutes had not included his observation that he had seen Chief Driscoll outside the Harrisville limits on multiple occasions. Charles asked Alan why he believed that Chief Driscoll’s duties wouldn’t take him to Keene or nearby municipalities.

Alan noted that he suspected it might be possible that the recently erected trail bridge east of Skatutakee might not be on town land. Selectboard declined to pursue the topic.
Jay informed Alan Saari that Alan’s claim made at the last Selectboard meeting that a 911 call could not raise any Harrisville police officer was in fact incorrect. Marlborough Police logs of the incident show that Chief Driscoll, while on vacation, had communicated with Marlborough and requested coverage that was provided.

Documents signed or reviewed:
Financials for the week. A check for Big Brothers/Big Sisters appears to be for the 2015 season and was not signed. This should be voided and recut next year.

Community Kitchen submitted request of funding support in the amount of $900.00 for 2015. This will be reviewed as part of next fiscal years budget preparation.

Signed an Intent to Cut for Mark Nicholson for property located on 86 Cobb Hill Road (Map 50, Lot 10)

Received this year’s Cheshire County tax bill (due by December 17th) in the amount of $647,485.00. Bill will be held till due.

Department Items:
Administration - Selectmen noted that they should discuss with Angela procedure to insure that standing meetings of all boards/committees are posted somewhere in the Town Offices (since we have discontinued the use of the notice board down by the road).

Angela relayed a conversation she had with Fiber Cast Cable regarding outages in Harrisville. Fiber Cast is looking to purchase approximately 1 acre of Town property to place a small building and satellite dishes so that they may supply residents with cable and internet. Harrisville (with the static) is one of the more difficult Towns to serve. The company has researched land in Nelson as well, but is wondering if the Town of Harrisville would be able/consider to sell a piece of Town owned land for this project.

Selectboard ask Angela to contact Winston Sims and Sherry Sims and asked to be placed on the Agendas of the November Conservation Commission and November Planning Board to discuss the Selectmen’s plans for 119 Main Street.

Planning Board – Submitted Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2014 and October 8, 2014.

Town Clerk – Wetlands Application for James Putnam for property located on 133 East Side Road to reconstruct a new porch.

ZBA – Letter from Hal Grant regarding a possible new member Curtis Taylor, to serve as an Alternate on the Zoning Board. Hal also relayed the information that at least one private party had indicated an interest in the Town owned 119 Main Street.

Highway Department – Wes Tarr reported that he is purchasing loam for the Island Cemetery fence project.

Other business:
Charles will be contacting Dubois and King regarding the letter from Deborah McWethy, Patrick & Judith Gagne requesting clarifications on easements needed as part of the final engineering for the South Road Bridge.

NRRA Annual Meeting Luncheon scheduled for November 19, 2014.

Upcoming Meetings:
November 31st – Trick-or-Treating hours will be from 5pm – 7pm
November 4th – General Election, polling hours are from 8am – 7pm
November 11th – Veteran’s Day (Office Closed)