

Adopted

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting April 17, 2017

PRESENT: Joe Constance Selectman
Rodney Towne Selectman
Christine Quirk Selectman
Peter Flynn Town Administrator

Fire Inspector Eric Dubowik, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni, Road Agent Dick Perusse, David Litwinovich, Kaleb Jacob, Lyn Lombard, Willard Dodge, Karen Scott and Lester Byam of the public were present for all or part of the meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Rodney Towne at 6:00 PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Joe moved to approve the consent agenda including reappointments of Elizabeth Whitman to the Conservation Commission; David Litwinovich to the Planning Board; and Re-appointment of Road Agent Dick Perusse for three years. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 1: Eric Dubowik-Fire Inspector-Request For Implementation Of Tent Inspection Permit Fee: Fire Inspector Eric Dubowik was present to meet with the Selectmen to discuss implementation of a tent inspection permit fee. This is the first reading. The NH Fire Marshall asked each town to begin inspecting tents after a tent collapse that caused fatalities. Eric has been inspecting tents for commercial use and is here to discuss implementing a fee for this service consistent with other New Boston building permit inspection fees. The tent permit form and application were reviewed. The Selectmen asked if it would be possible to waive the fee for certain groups and events such as the Duck Race and Recreation Department. This will be considered further. Joe moved this request to a second reading. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Item 2: Road Committee Discussion Re: Future of the Committee: Rodney reported the town has been discussing the future of the Road Committee since the fall. Rodney researched the history of the Committee and the Selectmen will decide its future tonight. Rodney learned the Road Committee was established by Warrant Article 15 in 1954 but the reason for its creation is

not clear from review of minutes from the time. Rodney thought the Committee was established to assist Road Agents over the years. At the time, roadmen were not as experienced as Road Agent candidates that are available today. Road Agents were elected at the time but now are Selectmen appointed and the Selectmen have the ability to search out experienced candidates. Rodney does not see the need for this Committee to continue, and suggested it be an ad hoc committee appointed every five years to meet in the fall before budget committee meetings to review the ten year plan and make recommendations.

Joe noted he served on the Road Committee and agreed with Rodney that having a professional Road Agent is significantly different than what New Boston had when he moved to town 30 years ago. He also said the hiring process established by the Town Administrator is now more systematic. He said the old style of the Road Committee is not very beneficial to the Road Agent although there are town residents that are knowledgeable in this area. Joe is not sure that an ad hoc committee is needed as the town has a Highway Safety Committee that meets as needed and deals with traffic. The Highway Safety Committee could begin holding regular meetings and its duties could be expanded to take on the Road Committee tasks. The Selectmen, Town Administrator and Road Agent could discuss Highway Safety Committee membership. A non-professional Road Agent is not expected to be appointed in New Boston's future. Christine agreed.

Willard Dodge of Tucker Mill Road was present and explained the history of the Road Committee further as his father was very active on the Committee for many years. He said the Committee began in 1951 when appointed by the Town Moderator. An extensive report is included in that year's Town Report but the Committee was disbanded the next year. The Committee began again in 1954 and met yearly with the Selectmen and Road Agent to establish a program for the coming year. The Committee was very effective for many years. Willard reviewed all subsequent Town Reports for more information. He has been a member of the Road Committee for many years. He said around 2009 there was dissention within the Committee. Part of the problem was the town had a Road Agent that was well liked but roads were deteriorating. The Committee at that time was driving around reviewing road condition and finding the same roads needed to be redone each year as repairs did not last. The Town Administrator at the time was taking money from the Highway Department budget to use in other areas of town. The Road Agent and Town Administrator were removed and the town hired a professional Town Administrator and Road Agent through the efforts of a proactive and capable Board of Selectmen. The Road Committee then reviewed and documented all New Boston roads and various aspects of the roads under its Chairman Tom Miller. At the last meeting the members discussed if the Committee should continue. Willard met with the Selectmen last fall for guidance and recommendations but nothing came forward. Willard discussed and partially read aloud a 2009 memo from the Selectmen regarding the Road Committee. Willard recommends the Selectmen take a hard look at the Road Committee and discontinue it.

Peter noted the Road Committee was assigned through Town Meeting so needs to be discontinued through a Warrant Article. Joe moved that by July 15, 2017 the town conclude its study to: 1. Should New Boston retain its Road Committee as constituted in 1954 and 2. Should the current Highway Safety Committee absorb the functions of the Road Committee perhaps

with added functions and different makeup and Warrant Article prepared for 2018? Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Joe asked about the road management software project the Committee has been considering in recent years. These programs have not been effectively used in New Boston and there is no current plan to use them.

Item 3: Adoption of Public and Non-Public Minutes of April 3, 2017: The Selectmen reviewed the Public Minutes of April 3, 2017. Joe moved the Public minutes of April 3, 2017 be accepted as amended. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 The Selectmen reviewed the two sets of Non-Public Minutes of April 3, 2017. Joe moved both sets of Non-Public minutes of April 3, 2017 be accepted as presented. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 4: Acceptance of Resignation Recreation Commission: Peter reported David Hulick has offered his resignation after serving twenty-seven years on the Recreation Commission. Recreation Director Mike Sindoni was present and noted the Department's thanks to David for his service. He noted the Department's appreciation for David's unique willingness to serve for so long; he has been an invaluable resource to the Department. His community service and involvement are unmatched and the Department will miss having David on board. Peter will prepare a letter of thanks on the Selectmen's behalf. Joe moved to accepted David Hulick's resignation from the Recreation Commission with regret. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Item 5: Discussion re: Cutting Tree in the Common: Peter reported that the thirty-five year old fir Christmas tree on the common has been dying over the years. Peter brought in three tree experts during this time who recommended a heavy treatment program to save the other trees at expense to the town but the Christmas tree was beyond saving. This tree is important to the townspeople so it was kept as long as possible but Peter is now getting requests from townspeople saying it is time to take it down and another tree go up. Peter spoke with the Selectmen about this who asked that it be included on the agenda for open discussion. Peter invited Lyn Lombard who is an advocate of maintaining the common. Peter spoke with Recreation Director Mike Sindoni as the Recreation Department shares in the groundskeeping and hold a Christmas Tree Lighting event each year. Mike noted the Recreation Commissioners recommend by unanimous decision that the tree come down. Peter requested the Board to make a decision tonight. The cost to take it down is available in the budget. Lyn was present and said she was there when the tree was planted and she helped choose the trees on the common. She recommends removing the roots and Digsafe should be called. People have told her they want another Christmas tree and she recommends replacing the tree with another Christmas tree such as a spruce (prickly and hard to decorate) or a fir (easier to decorate). Willard Dodge and Lester Byam were also present and they and Lyn discussed options and prices of trees to plant. Joe suggested bringing in a Christmas tree each year instead of planting one. Rodney noted he prefers a live evergreen on the common for winter enjoyment but it does not have to be lighted. He prefers a spruce tree and suggested decorators wear gloves when they are decorating. The Selectmen decided the tree will be removed now and its replacement will be selected later. Joe

moved to remove the fir tree on the town common as soon as possible. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Peter will research how to remove the tree.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 6: Review of Thibeault Land Purchase Vote Facts of Selectmen's Presentation at Deliberative Session of 2013: Rodney asked this be included on the agenda as he has been misquoted and this has become part of the Fire Department issue. There are no current plans to purchase this land, the Warrant Article did not pass, the town and the property owner have moved on and a portion of the property has since been sold. The 2013 Warrant Article is included in tonight's information packet along with Rodney's Powerpoint Presentation that he presented four times and an additional time for the Grange. One presentation was advertised with a mailing. The townspeople have recently decided this formerly proposed purchase was to be used to build a new fire station on but in the presentation a Fire Department substation and training area were discussed. The Fire Wards rejected that location for a fire house. This information is being provided again now for accuracy when townspeople discuss it. Peter will attach the presentation to the minutes for the record. A letter by Ken Lombard published in the New Boston Bulletin at that time is not included in this information packet as Rodney did not speak to it. Joe noted that at the time there was a lot of discussion of possible ways the town could use the land.

Item 7: Town Administrators Report:

- Old Coach Road Issue with Fairpoint: Peter verified the project is complete with the Road Agent. The contractor bond is now signed off and the Road Agent approved the Fairpoint portion of the project as complete. Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and said work at the lower end of the road needs to be completed.
- Formation of Records Committee: Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Strausbaugh presented to the Finance Committee in the fall when the Finance Committee and Selectmen decided to support the idea of forming a record retention committee. Cathy and the Selectmen's office each researched record retention companies. Cathy explained to the Finance Committee that a grant was available through the state library if the town appropriated money to support the project. The town agreed to appropriate \$5,000. The Selectmen support this committee and are considering its formation. The Selectmen authorized the Town Administrator to work with Cathy to move forward with the committee who will identify how the money should be used and how the records should be retained.
- Ridgeview Lane Radio Tower: A resident noted a noise problem in the area. Peter met with the resident along with the Police and Fire Chiefs and the Road Agent for a productive meeting. Mr. Abbott is very proactive and will help get information from a contractor to bring to a second meeting for review along with any other pertinent information to be considered for a solution. Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Lane was present and asked if this project originally went overbudget after continued communication problems were discovered with the equipment. The Selectmen were unsure.

Item 8: Selectmen's Reports:

Joe reported the Forestry Committee made considerable progress on the Colby lot since the last meeting staking out where sample plots should be located and laid them out with help from Willard Dodge and another volunteer. The Committee will work at the O'Rourke lot next.

Today the Committee met with the Interim Hillsborough County Forester. The former Forester retired and may not be replaced. The Committee will continue with Management Plans under the American Tree Farm System. The plans should last for fifty years and a cut is occurring now at the ballfield and Transfer Station under the system.

Joe reported the Planning Board began working very vigorously again on the Master Plan and discussed the Transportation Chapter that will be condensed compared to the previous version of the Master Plan. A draft will be brought to the next meeting. Planner Mark Fougere brought interesting information about New Boston accident statistics over the last ten years.

Rodney extended the Board's condolences to Recreation Department Assistant Sheri Moloney and her family for the loss of her daughter and to Road Agent Dick Perusse for the loss of his mother.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Kaleb Jacob of Fraser Lane asked if the Selectmen have considered the trust he proposed at the last meeting. The Selectmen said they have not taken any action yet but it is feasible.

Karen Scott of Dane Road noted Clark Hill Road is being destroyed by construction vehicles in recent years. The Selectmen will consider this with the Town Administrator and the Road Agent. She is also concerned about road damage and wildlife after logging that occurred at a swamp area on Clark Hill Road in recent years. The Selectmen noted that was a legal cut and there may be an approved house lot at the location. Road Agent Dick Perusse was present and noted he is aware Clark Hill Road is deteriorating but is waiting to plan repair until construction in the area is complete. Karen asked if contractors can be required to pay for repairs. The Selectmen said any road items are paid through property taxes on the lots and this arrangement cannot be changed per applicable laws.

Item 9: Request for Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and (c) Personnel Issue: Joe made a motion to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:II(a) and (c) at 7:06 PM. Christine seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0-Poll Vote: Joe-yes, Christine-yes and Rodney-yes. Board then entered non-public session.

Move to exit Non-Public Session: The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 7:19PM.

Joe moved to seal the non-public minutes for five years. Rodney seconded the motion. All voted in favor 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM seconded by Rodney. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on May 1, 2017 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
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Handicap Access available**