

SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOTES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

Called to Order 6:00 pm

Present: Selectmen: Doug Baston, Melissa Spinney; Members of the Public: Ralph Hilton, Jeff Spinney, Ed Pentaleri, Paul Crandall, Tom McKenzie, Debra Brown, Jeff Verney, Maria Jenness, Anne Simpson, Roger Whitney, Beth Whitney, Chris Kenoyer, Bridget Mullen; Press: Jessica Clifford, Susan Johns; Clerk: Liz Brown

Public Comment:

Ralph Hilton would like to see the selectmen send DMR and IF&W a letter asking them to ask for town permission before placing any equipment at the dam. It is town property. Also, there is a need to talk about our town's harvest of alewives. The selectmen thought that Selectman Shute would be the best to deal with this issue as he already has been involved. Ralph also repeated that we should look for grant funding to build a Park'n-Ride lot at the end of the town office drive.

New Business:

Belvedere Historical Preservation Fund Grant

The town was awarded a competitive \$10,500 grant from the Belvedere Historical Preservation Fund to continue restoration work on the Puddledock School.

Recreation Committee Ideas

Anne Simpson represented the Recreation Committee with an idea to get The Window Dressers to build removable storm window inserts that will provide better insulation and might save on heating bills. Beth Whitney said they are used at her church and it has saved them a lot of money. The selectmen thought it would be a good idea to explore further and asked Anne to get a cost estimate. The selectmen thought some of the Belvedere grant funding might be applied to this project.

Another idea was to potentially write a grant for a possible wiffleball field. Paul Crandall suggested this. He thought that it would probably use about ¼ acre for a field. He said there was a grant fund that closes in March, 2020. He was interested in writing the grant. The selectmen said they would want to be sure that there was enough community support so the site would be used but were otherwise supportive of the idea.

Selectman Spinney submitted a grant Tuesday to The Stephen King Foundation for playground and trail equipment.

Old Business:

Sand & Salt Shed Update

Steve Zuppa is back doing work on the sand shed, putting a coat on the outside.

Old Town Office

The closing was supposed to be last week, but the title company was backed up so instead it will be next week. The new owners have moved in so they can get their children enrolled in school. They have insurance on the house.

ConnectME Grant/Tidewater Update

Selectman Baston reported that the numbers are very close. 65 sign-ups are needed and mid-last week he said they were in the low 60s. He will check Thursday for an update.

Code Violations Update

There have been a few violations and letters were mailed out today from the Code Enforcement Officer. Selectman Baston asked Tom McKenzie, the CEO, if he had talked to them. He has talked to both and has updates.

Communications

Sand Building Road

The town received letters from residents who live on Sand Building Road, the easement leading to the Salt & Sand Shed. The selectmen repeated that; (1) This is not a public road; it is an easement over the Kenoyer/Mullen land and the town is one of several holders of easements to use the way; (2) The town acquired the easement in the early 1980's for the express purpose of gaining access to an old sand pit where a sand and salt shed was to be built; (3) The town upgraded an existing primitive way so that the easement could carry the weight of gravel and plow trucks; (4) With easement the now passable, other folks have also acquired easements to use it and built houses.

None of this activity has changed the legal status of the road. It is private, and the town is merely one of several easement holders. The selectmen are willing to participate in some improvements to the roadway that aid the homeowners but are not deemed necessary for the town's purposes on the road. However, the town taxpayers will not pay 100% of the easement maintenance costs on a private way. After much discussion, it was agreed that Jeff Verney would meet with all the residents on that road and they would come up with a plan, having to do with ditching the left-hand side and a culvert and then come back to the town with costs. Depending on the nature of the work, the selectmen will decide how much of a share the town will pay for. Debra Brown will call Jeff Verney to get everyone together.

Public Comment:

Jeff Verney asked if a decision had been made about what to do on the Rabbit Path Road by Pinkham Pond where the cars all park when people go swimming. There was talk about maybe putting a small parking lot in. Selectman Baston will check it out. One thought also was that the recreation committee could get involved and that there might be grants available for clean up or that kind of thing.

Ralph Hilton asked if any progress had been made on the Park & Ride at the town office. Selectman Baston will work on it.

7:10 p.m Selectmen entered into Executive Session Pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.