

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Justin Campbell, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Jason Lisai, David Tetreault, and Preston Gregory (GMP); Adam Haskell (Kleinschmidt); Nick Seifert (Energy Committee); Al Lundberg

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Baker

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Dog Complaint, Request for changing shrubs, School St paving quotes, picnic shelter

**Public Comment:** none

**Minutes:** approved the minutes of the May 2, 2023 Selectboard meeting

**Marshfield Dam:** Jason Lisai explained that GMP has a memorandum of understanding with the Agency of Natural Resources to make operational changes at Marshfield Dam in conjunction with the safety upgrades. He summarized the work that has been done.

Primary spillway: concrete resurfacing, installation of a gate that can be remotely monitored. Replaced the headgate structure. New communication was added.

Plant and dam: Updated the plant. Bypass pipe installed at the plant. It ramps the output up and down, to mimic what could happen in the stream from a fisheries standpoint

Bypass pipe at the dam: maintains at least 8 to 12 cfs into the brook, to benefit brook trout and also allows for operational changes.

There is an alternate power source at the dam that can operate the spillway.

Operational changes: normal operating level is lower, 4 ½ ft from the top of the spillway. Used an analysis of the maximum precipitation. Old operating level: 536.55'; New operating level 531.7' They can drop the level two to six feet in the winter depending on snowpack. Output was 8166 megawatts annually; new modeling is forecast to be 6355, or 20% less.

Looking ahead, there will be an evaluation of the surge tank, and work on the penstock from the surge tank to the plant.

Emergency spillway: it was installed in 1990. It has been inspected and was found to be in good condition. Work was done to the walls.

Nick Seifert asked about the operation of the emergency spillway. Jason Lisai explained that the stop logs are an accepted method, but he reiterated that with the work that has been done and the operational changes that have been made, it is unlikely that the emergency spillway will ever be

used. They are now able to lower the level of the water in anticipation of a storm. Adam Haskell explained that if the emergency spillway was opened, the primary spillway could still be opened and closed to have some control of the flow downstream.

Nick asked about communications. Preston Gregory explained that GMP has switched their communications to fiber optic wherever possible.

Dave Tetreault explained that there is much more security at the dams now, including fencing and cameras.

**Planning Commission:** The Board appointed Bob Buchanan to fill the term vacated by Severine Aster.

**Resignation:** Kathleen Hayes has resigned as Zoning Administrator and Health Officer effective June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board is looking for a replacement. Rich is willing to train someone.

**Flag and Lighting:** The Board approved the purchase of a new flag. They approved a request from Robin Gomez to remove the shrubs around the monument, and plant a flower garden. Justin is working on a lighting plan and will look at a different light for the flag pole. He is looking at lights for the parking lot, and recommends digging a water line and installing electrical conduit to the picnic shelter at the same time.

**School St:** The Board received quotes for paving. Pike bid \$38,850 and Hutchins bid \$43,852.50. The Board discussed whether it would make sense to pave now, before Route 2 is paved, or next year after the drainage work is done. Justin is going to attend the Route 2 meeting and will ask if there is an advantage to waiting, whether we could piggyback on their project, and whether there is any work planned at the intersection of Route 2 and School St.

**Dog Complaint:** The Board received a complaint about a vicious dog belonging to Earle Rogers on Route 232. The complaint has been referred to the Animal Control Officer.

**Picnic Shelter:** Rich has been notified that we did not get the grant for the picnic tables. The Board discussed other possible funding sources.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a curb cut for Severine Aster.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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