

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan (arrived at 5:55); Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors Gary Leach, Steve Newton, Joanne and Stanley Martin, Judy and Norm Dix, Rich and Kass Phillips; Michael Baril; Scott Williams

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Municipal Planning Grants; Thompson Road, Road and Bridge Standards

Public Comment: Scott Williams is the new operations manager for the sugaring operation on Route 2. There was trash dumped on the railroad bed. It was reported to the State Police. Trooper Fox responded. They are going to put up cameras and hope to be able to keep the property open to the public. Rich Baker asked whether they are still looking into the Forest Legacy Program. Discussions are ongoing.

Thompson Road: Donna London's property on the Thompson Road is for sale. The access to the property is gated off. The Town does not have a key to the gates. The property would be easiest to access from the Pitkin Farms Road. The Selectboard decided that the concrete blocks will be moved and the owner of the property will be given a key. A key to each gate will also be kept at the Town Clerk's Office.

Fence Hearing: Chris explained that he will recuse himself from the hearing. He explained that if one landowner owns livestock, state statutes allow adjoining landowners to ask the Selectboard to find that their land is unoccupied and they are not required to pay for a share of maintenance of the fence.

Laurie called the hearing to order at 6:02 p.m. She explained that the Town has received a letter from Norm Dix, Stanley and Joanne Martin, and Michael Baril, asking the Board to find their lands unoccupied and relieve them of the liability of maintaining the fence. Norm Dix expressed that this should also be pursued as a case of animal cruelty. Laurie explained that this is not the subject of the hearing, but she explained that she did contact the Department of Agriculture last summer but to no avail. Rich Baker explained that the cattle would not be considered neglected because they eat on other land.

Mike Baril explained that he has constructed his own fence across the area where the Leibold cattle typically access his land, but the Leibold fence is on the ground. Chris explained that the Martins have constructed a fence 200-300' from their boundary with Leibold, so they don't have any animals adjacent to Leibold land. Norm Dix does not have livestock.

Rich Baker moved that the Board find that the three properties under consideration have no

livestock and therefore no liability in regards to maintaining the fence. Laurie seconded – Rich and Laurie voted in favor. Chris recused himself. The hearing adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

The Selectboard and those present brainstormed ideas to deal with the ongoing problem of the cows roaming at large, eating from others' land, and being on Route 2.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the July 2 meeting with one addition.

Old Schoolhouse Common: The Library Trustees asked Susan to come and talk to the Selectboard about the emergency exits. The door behind the desk gets blocked by snow in the winter. The Board will ask Dan Tetreault about putting a roof over the downstairs door, and putting a panic bar on the upstairs door.

Susan discussed the lack of cleanliness in the building. The current cleaning service is having trouble finding enough staff. She offered to check around to see if we could find another cleaning service.

Susan asked the Selectboard if they would be willing to be interviewed as part of a study of rural libraries. The Jaquith Library was one of eight chosen by national researchers for this study. The Board agreed to be interviewed as part of their August 20 meeting.

Animal Control Ordinance: The Board discussed the items that should be in the ordinance. They also discussed the state statutes and how the statutes can be enforced.

Cemetery Ordinance: The Cemetery Sexton submitted a few comments. Rich will incorporate the comments, and the ordinance will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Radon: Chris reported that the air handling units that would service the rooms in the Old Schoolhouse Common could be installed by a local carpenter or plumber. Chris will get some prices.

Bunker Hill Circle: The engineer has a work plan but we have not received it yet.

Road and Bridge Standards: The Board adopted the new Road and Bridge Standards as recommended by VTrans.

Municipal Planning Grants: Rich reported that there might be a possibility to apply for a grant to hire someone to coordinate with VTrans to update the 1998 Conceptual Study of Route 2. This would be helpful as part of the Model Communities program, for the task force that is looking at Route 2 and the villages.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 16, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
