



Office of Board of Selectmen Town of Mason

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Selectmen Meeting 6/14/2022
Approved Minutes

Present: Selectmen Kate Batcheller, Charlie Moser, John Suiter; Admin Asst Jen Tenney, Town Clerk Deb Morrison, Moderator Dotsie Millbrandt; Residents – Mike Davieau, Wendy Sue Avery, Dennis Avery, Kirk Smith, Robin Smith, Derrick Matthew, Bob Larochelle, Kim Gutheil

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chair Kate Batcheller, attendance was taken by roll call as reflected above.

Approvals:

- Noted that the accounts payable and payroll manifests had been reviewed and approved prior to the meeting.
- Minutes of 5/24/2022 BOS / HWY meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.
- Minutes of 5/24/2022 BOS / FD meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from John. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.
- Minutes of 5/24/2022 BOS meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.
- Minutes of 6/2/2022 BOS meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from John. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.

New Business:

- Budget Reviewed – Highway Department numbers have not hit yet; all other numbers appear within their expected percentages. Fuel costs continue to increase. Road Agent Dave Morrison needs to fill the fuel tank. Selectmen are working with Dave to look into potential state contracts to help offset some fuel costs. Selectmen recommend Dave proceed with filling the fuel tank at this time. Charlie would like to review the policy of checking with Selectmen before department heads make any purchases greater than \$1,000. This will be reviewed at the next department staff meetings.
- Jeds Lane Abutter Easement – Selectmen had asked the Jeds Lane abutters to attend this meeting in hopes to sign the temporary easement papers; all abutters are present. The Selectmen had hoped to distribute these papers to the abutters for review prior to the meeting date. Unfortunately, these papers were not completed and given to the Selectmen to distribute until a few hours before this meeting. Kate has requested the abutters to take time to review the temporary easement papers and let us know if they have any questions.

Kate has asked the abutters to review and return these papers by 6/28/22 (the next Selectmen meeting). All Selectmen and abutters are in agreement to this request.

- Moderator Dotsie Millbrandt requested to discuss election Planning. The primary elections will be held on 9/13/22 at 11am at the Town Hall. Dotsie reports ballot clerks are lined up, she is still setting up ballot counters. General elections are on 11/8/22 and a significant crowd is expected. Dotsie is recommending voting hours be from 8am until 7pm. Kate motioned to accept the proposed hours for the general election on 11/8/22 to be held during the hours of 8am-7pm at the school as recommended by the Moderator, second from John. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.
 - It still needs to be determined if the March Tuesday town election will be held at the school or Town Hall. Town Hall Renovation Committee to give input before final decision is made.
 - March Saturday town meeting will be held at the school.
- Driving Range Noise Complaint
 - Mike Davieau issued a complaint regarding the noise level of the Driving Range for the concerts held on 6/3 & 6/4/22. The noise level is negatively impacting his quality of life while at his residence. Mike states they are supposed to be tracking decibel levels and is questioning if this is happening? Concern expressed regarding the temporary stage that was set up the week prior to the concerts and is questioning if permits were needed? He has tried to speak to the property owner. Mike asks if the Selectmen can bring them into compliance regarding decibel level and asked if there was a way to amend their approval for playing music until 11pm to ending the playing of music at 10pm?
 - Wendy Sue Avery supports Mike Davieau's complaint and expressed the same concern. Wendy states the noise level seems much worse this year than last, though last year the noise level was still loud and bothersome.
 - Derrick Matthew also supports the complaints made by Mike Davieau and Wendy Sue Avery, issuing a similar complaint of his own. Derrick expressed concern about potentially needing to temporarily close his business since the students being taught on his property cannot hear the instructors when the music is playing at the Driving Range. Derrick also adds that the Driving Range started testing equipment around 5pm, an hour before they are permitted to play music.
 - Mike Davieau, Wendy Sue & Dennis Avery and Derrick Matthew all expressed concern regarding the new cleared lot next to the Driving Range (J-60) and the cut path between the lot and the Driving Range. They also report that the excessive loudness does not happen with every time as there was music there on 6/12/22 and no concerns were perceived.
 - Selectmen acknowledged all complaints and concerns regarding the noise level and time of music playing at the Driving Range. Selectmen state this will take time to gather information and determine what is needed from there to ensure the Driving Range is in compliance with the noise level and time of playing. Jen to get recorded site plan for the Driving Range from the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds. Jen to request the Planning and Zoning Board gather all information they have regarding Driving Range (especially any Notices of Decision, site plan changes etc) and forward to the Selectmen by 7/12/22.
 - Selectmen also acknowledged the concern regarding J-60 and state they are serious about bringing the Driving Range into compliance. Selectmen explained the lot was purchased by the Driving Range on 4/14/22. Selectmen were notified

of work being done without proper approvals in place around 5/23/22. A Cease-and-Desist order was served on 6/10/22, though it appeared the work was finished by then. Selectmen were then informed that the lot is still being used and transportation is being provided between J-60 and the Driving Range using what appears to be a large golf cart and the newly cleared path.

- Another request has come in to use the Town Hall for an upcoming event. This event takes place during already scheduled repair work (phase 1) at the Town Hall. Kate recommends we decline the use of Town Hall for public events until phase 1 of the repair work is completed and that the Selectmen review the use of the Town Hall for public events once phase 1 is complete. Selectmen are in agreement to this recommendation. Charlie to reach out to inquiring resident for upcoming event.
- Selectmen were approached by several town employees, that do not live in town, requesting use of the quarry. Selectmen agree that town employees that live out of town can request a quarry tag but must follow the same guidelines and process to get the tags.
- Conservation Commission have expressed concern regarding junk vehicles on L-45. Selectmen would like to get permission for the Health Inspector to do a property inspection. One Selectmen will also be in attendance. Selectmen will draft a letter by the next Selectmen meeting which is to be mailed via certified mail by Jen.
- Jen and Todd Moriarty approached Kate with concerns regarding drivers not using awareness for horseback riders along Starch Mill Rd. Selectmen agree to have Jen order three caution for horses' signs to be placed on Brookline Rd and Starch Mill Rd.
- Further Fuel Discussion – It has been determined that the town cannot use the fuel contract the Department of Transportation has for the State of NH. Jen to move forward with creating an account for the town to bring town vehicles to the state's distribution centers. Further discussion regarding this topic will be held at the next Highway Department meeting. Road Agent Dave Morrison will be asked to give ideas regarding any areas where we can save fuel, for example, is there anywhere that we don't need to be running the trucks? Any projects (town cleanup) that can be held off on for now?

Old Business:

- Locality Equipment Purchase Program – Kate checking in with Jen if anything further is needed? Jen reports that we have received a Notice of Award and nothing further is needed until invoices can be provided by Chief Burns.
- Current Historical Society seems to be non-responsive. Charlie will reach out to interested new members again and discuss the society roles with them.
- Jen to reach out to interested Recreation Committee members to see if they have been contacted by current committee members.
- Dog waste station has arrived, Groundskeeper Wally Brown and Kate discussed where to install it.
- Selectmen reviewed the proposed contract from grant writer Bonnie Kelly, LLC and had requested some edits to the contract. Bonnie Kelly responded that her council recommend not making these changes. Kate suggests not moving forward with using Bonnie Kelly, LLC as our grant writer service. Selectmen are in agreement with this. Alternate options will be looked into.
- RFP posting for plowing and ice control has been posted by Jen on the town website, on the NHMA website and in the Monadnock Ledger with an ending date of 7/8/22. All inquiries were directed to contact Road Agent Dave Morrison.

- Wally cannot locate the master key for the basement door which is needed to make a duplicate for Chief Burns. Jen to contact the County Store to see what can be done.
- Selectmen approve the new town seal. Ok to let the department heads know Jen has files for the new town seal and for Jen to distribute as requested.

Public:

- Anne Moser is in attendance for the Conservation Commission. Anne discussed the Conservation Commission's recommendations for knotweed management. Selectmen did inform Anne that Road Agent Dave is managing the knotweed around the school area. Dave will be asked to give an update on his management techniques at the next department staff meeting. Charlie did ask if the Conservation Commission is doing any sort of campaign for public education? Anne states not much has been in place since COVID and the Conservation Commission would like to revisit their public education efforts.

Non Public:

* Motion to enter Non-public session made by John, seconded by Kate by reason of:

- RSA 91-A:3, II (c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

Roll call vote to enter non-public session – Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye. Entered non-public session at 9:47pm.

Motion to return to public session made by Kate, second from Charlie; returned at 10:05pm. Motion from Kate, seconded by Charlie, to seal the minutes because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would

- affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

Roll call vote to seal the minutes Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Kate motioned to adjourn, second from Charlie. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye. Meeting adjourned at 10:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Tenney

BOS Administrative Assistant