

**Board of Selectmen
February 26, 2014**

Present: Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson; Richard C. Edwards; Connie M. Twombly; Teresa A. Williams, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Also present were: Ed Comeau (videotaping); Jim Miller; Donna Martin (videotaping); Tom Beeler, *The Granite State News*; Relf Fogg; and Rosemary Stewart. Pam Wiggin joined the session in progress.

Mr. Paul called the posted meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments

a) Nathan Fogg – Mr. Fogg stated that the Conservation Commission had solicited proposals for preparation of a Forestry Plan for the Town Forest, for which 3 proposals were received. At this point the Commission has rejected all 3 bids, as it was determined that the correct procedure may not have been followed. Mr. Paul noted the RFP should appear in our local paper, as well as on the Town's web site. Mr. Fogg indicated that had been done. In addition, he mailed the RFP to 7 area foresters. If the Board is in agreement, the RFP would be clarified and reposted. Mr. Fogg referred to the expectation to create a fund into which the proceeds of a timber harvest could be deposited. It is hoped that income would cover the cost of a survey, as well as the cost to prepare the management plan. Eventual use of that area would come under the Conservation Commission, rather than the Forestry Committee.

Mr. Fogg suggested the Commission might be able to "front" the necessary funds to pay for the management plan and the survey, to be reimbursed from the timber harvest proceeds. Ms. Williams stated that the funds generated from the harvest could only go into a fund to manage the Town forest. The Forestry Committee is charged by law to have a management plan for a Town forest. Mr. Relf Fogg suggested a warrant article to create a capital reserve fund into which the harvest proceeds could be deposited. Ms. Williams advised that only funds raised and appropriated at Town Meeting can be deposited into a capital reserve fund. However, the voters could establish a fund similar to that used by Parks & Rec and the Heritage Commission. If such a vote failed, all funds generated from the harvest would go into the General Fund.

Ms. Twombly was advised that the Forestry Committee and the Board of Selectmen would interview prospective foresters. Mr. Relf Fogg was advised that if a Forestry Management Fund were created, any unused money in that fund could be used for future Town forests.

It must be determined whether it is appropriate for the Conservation Commission to use some of its funds to pay for the management plan and/or a survey. Mr. Fogg will investigate this. Mr. Paul stated that the Forestry Committee should work with the Town Administrator initially. Ms. Williams stressed that the Board of Selectmen must open any bids received, then can confer with the Forestry Committee. That Committee may make a recommendation; however, the actual decision is up to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Fogg noted we may be able to wait for the survey until after a harvest.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1

--Mr. Relf Fogg stated the Town Forest came about via a petition, which was submitted by an individual who is now trying to be awarded the bid to prepare the forestry management plan.

Much time has been spent to address a forestry management plan for a Town forest, which would not have been necessary without the petition.

--Rosemary Stewart stated she is present to correct an incorrect statement made by Mr. Miller at the last Selectmen's meeting. She noted she is not currently suing the Town, nor has she ever done so. As a result of an 18% increase in the assessment of her water frontage, she filed an abatement. That abatement was denied by the Board of Assessors, and she appealed to the Board of Tax & Land Appeals. During that appeal process, she did receive an abatement. As a result of this process she gained much knowledge, which would be of benefit to her as a member of the Board of Assessors. Ms. Twombly asked whether Ms. Stewart currently has any other issues with the Town. Ms. Stewart indicated that she received an abatement in 2011 and 2012. However, her assessment increased again in 2013. She has researched "their" market study and has again filed an abatement. Ms. Stewart stressed that this is not suing the Town, adding she has never been a Superior Court petitioner. Rather, she appealed through the BTLA. Her application was not heard by BTLA, as the Town awarded an abatement during the mediation process. Ms. Stewart believes the assessment practice is not correct and that the market study used was/is flawed. She is questioning the accuracy of the data used by the Town. Ms. Twombly stated that she, personally, has complete confidence in the Town's Assessing Department.

--Mr. Miller apologized if he previously used incorrect wording. However, he stressed that the Town has spent over \$15,000 defending itself from a movement spearheaded by Ms. Stewart. His question (at the previous meeting) related to the potential of a legal conflict of such an individual running for an office with which he/she has issues. Additionally, considerable employee time has been spent on this issue, which of course relates to taxpayers' money.

--Mr. Comeau advised that the Town of Middleton rescheduled its public hearing on the proposed new golf course to February 27 at 6:30 p.m.

--Mr. Miller asked at what point the Board of Selectmen gets involved with the Master Plan. Mr. Paul advised that the entire Town must vote to approve ordinances. The Board of Selectmen is not involved with creation of the Master Plan. Mr. Miller referred to a certain group advocating inclusion of material into the Master Plan, citing it as "something we must do." However, he does not believe there is any legal requirement for this to be done.

4. New Business

a) Review of Bids for WWTF Septic Tank Cleaning – The Board opened the 2 bids received for this project, with the following results: Lakes Region Septic - \$0.17/gallon; Hartigan Wastewater - \$0.18/gallon. **Mr. Paul moved to award the bid to Lakes Region Septic at \$0.17 per gallon. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Renewal of Lease with Faith Renewal Fellowship Church – **Mr. Paul moved to approve the renewed lease with Faith Renewal Fellowship Church as presented (for Town property located at 1892 Province Lake Road). Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

c) Opera House Painting Project – Ms. Williams stated that WPI is heading up and paying for this project. However, since the work is being done on a Town building, the Board of Selectmen must approve the contract. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the contract with Consider It Done Painting Services, as presented. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

5. Proposed CRF Expenditures – None scheduled.

6. Correspondence

a) NH Div of Historical Resources re: Newichawannock Canal – Ms. Wiggin noted that this relates to the \$6000 grant to have this Canal placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This was a 2-state, 2-town effort with Acton, Maine. DHR is allowing each town/state to submit comments regarding this proposal.

b) Town of Milton Planning Board – The Town of Milton is notifying the Town of Wakefield, as an abutter, of a public hearing to consider renewal of an Excavation Permit for David Paey Jr.

c) Request for Use of Conference Room – The Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition has requested use of the conference room on May 10 for a housing expo. The Board agreed by consensus to this use, assuming that a Certificate of Liability Insurance is received in a timely manner.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2 – None forthcoming.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Liaison Reports – **Mr. Edwards**: The Highway Department continues to plow and treat roads! One truck will have springs replaced at Donovans. The Parks & Rec fishing derby is this Saturday, March 1. Join in!! Register at the Rec. The Transfer Station is in good shape, and “No Smoking” signs will be erected shortly.

Ms. Twombley: She noted she has received compliments regarding how well the Highway Department is doing in taking care of the roads in this weather. Pam Wiggin has done much work regarding movement of the PSNH building (located on Cosmar Drive). Ms. Twombley hopes to see it preserved. ZBA will have another meeting on March 17 regarding the denied petition on the Route 16 project. Carpeting and painting has been done at the Grange. Stagecoach material will be brought in soon.

Mr. Paul: PSNH has done much work in replacing utilities on Route 153.

b) Selectmen’s Letter of Appreciation – The Board agreed to send this month’s letter to Todd Nason. [Note: It was subsequently discovered that Chief Nason was the recipient of such a letter in January 2014.]

c) Administrator’s Update

--A request to waive an ambulance bill in the amount of \$104.99 has been received. Chief Nason has no problem with granting this waiver. **Mr. Edwards moved to waive the \$104.99 ambulance bill, as requested. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--At its last meeting, the Board voted to appoint Kim Proulx as Assistant Tax Collector; however, a wage was not set. **Mr. Edwards moved to establish Kim Proulx’s rate of pay at \$12.50 per hour. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--CMA had hoped to address the issues at pump station #1 at the same time they consider the possible extension of the Town sewer system to Rocky Point Road. The Town needs to move forward with the issues at pump station #1. However, the Rocky Point residents are hesitant to hire CMA without the blessing of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board has expressed concern regarding tearing up Witchtrot Road for the extension as it was just repaved. After discussion, the Board decided to wait on the possible sewer extension until the results of the issues at pump station #1 are known. The Board briefly discussed a recent call at pump station #1 and whether two employees should respond to night calls, rather than just one employee. Ms. Williams is investigating options to address nighttime emergency calls. Ms. Twombly referred to a sewer smell near Profile Bank and questioned whether that could be related to pump station #1.

d) Building Permit Releases – Mr. Paul moved to approve a building permit release for JKOJA Company on Belleau Boulevard. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

e) Payment Manifests – Mr. Edwards moved to approve AP #6 in the amount of \$38,764.06. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve AP #5 in the amount of (\$47.37). Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

f) Minutes – Mr. Edwards moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2014, as presented. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Ms. Williams advised she attended a very informative class on FMLA.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson

Richard C. Edwards

Connie M. Twombly