

Minutes

Albany NH Selectmen's Meeting

July 3, 2013

At 3:30 p.m., the Selectmen's meeting was called to order. In attendance were Jack Rose, Sara Young-Knox and Kelly Robitaille. Also present were Rob Nadler, Cort Hansen, Steve Knox, Mike Helmers, Kathy Carrier, Joe Ferris, Josephine Howland, Ed Foley and Steve Parker. The following business was conducted.

Regular Business:

- Reviewed & approved June 26 minutes-Jack made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Signed checks totaling \$24,503.95.
- Reviewed & approved one septic design-Sara made a motion to approve the septic design, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Reviewed Primex Revised Invoice-the town received another premium holiday. There is a negative balance on the invoice.
- Reviewed Local Government Center Property Liability Trust Member Agreement.
- Reviewed deed list with Steve Parker-see below.
- Administrator report-see below

Ed Foley:

Ed informed the Board the VFW sign to be posted underneath the Municipal sign is complete except for the backing. The sign will be in conformance as the Selectmen have requested. Ed added it looks great. He told the Board he has rallied a few volunteers to take care of repainting the reader board portion of the municipal sign. It will have to be taken down to bare wood and repaired, primed and given a finish coat of paint. Jack asked when the Board may see the VFW sign and its artwork. Ed replied as soon as it was completed. Jack said he would like to see the artwork before the sign is placed and he appreciates the refurbish work on the reader board. Kelly agreed saying it is very generous and thanked Ed.

Ed told the Board he also took five of the old tables from the town hall. He thanked the Board and left the meeting.

Steve Parker:

Steve and the Board discussed the mobile homes that are on the deed list that would not be a liability to the town. Sara would like to drive through the mobile home park to make an exterior inspection of each mobile home. Jack agreed. Jack made a motion to drive through Piper Meadows at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, July 5, Sara seconded the motion and all were in favor. Steve left the meeting.

Planning Board:

Jack said the question had come before him if Joe Ferris had been appointed to the Planning Board as an alternate and referred to the prior Planning Board meeting when Matt Parker was appointed. Mike Helmers felt a Planning Board candidate should come before the Planning Board if he/she would like to be a member. Josephine Howland said the Planning Board had already approved Joe as an alternate member. Mike said he must have missed that meeting and apologized for the mix up. Sara made a motion to appoint Joe Ferris as an alternate to the Planning Board, Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Skimobile Club:

Sara asked the TA to contact Chip Henry to see when he may be available to come to a meeting to answer the public's questions regarding their request to use the gated portion of Passaconaway Rd. during the winter in order to connect two existing trails.

Town Administrator Report:

Both Blake Family Roadside Service and Olson's MotoWorks have been referred to the Planning Board for approval of their amended site plan reviews.

The Local Government Center has not returned an opinion of the submitted Town Administrator job description as of yet.

Meeting Time:

Rob Nadler told the Board that later meeting times would be more convenient for him and many others. Jack asked for some public input. Kathy Carrier said during the school year she doesn't get out of school until 4:00 and she can't make the 3:30 meeting.

Jack asked Sara if she told her boss when she applied for her job that she is a Selectmen and has meetings to attend. Sara replied she had and her boss said that she cannot leave. Sara went on to say when she was at Comfort Inn, she made sure she was not scheduled to work on Wednesdays. And she gave up many stories as a reporter at the Union Leader in order to attend meetings. Sara went on to say that her company is based in New Jersey and the owner of the company was not flexible; the decision could not be made by her local manager. Sara added she did not go looking for this job, but when she saw it and applied for it, she could not refuse the full time hours and benefits. Full time work with benefits doesn't happen often in our area.

Joe Ferris said the Selectmen position has always been flexible and tailored to everyone's schedule. These jobs in town are basically volunteer. Joe added it is nice to all work together so everyone can do what they have to do. Joe said he was lucky enough that he could change his schedule to attend Selectmen meetings.

Jack said we have a problem. Sara would like a 5:30 meeting time and Kelly has a problem with 5:30. We are at an impasse.

Steve Knox said the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission meet at night. Albany residents can attend. In the evening people have the time to volunteer. When Steve was a Selectmen, the meetings were at 7:00 p.m. The main obstacle is it is difficult to get people to commit. Whatever time is chosen it should be for the Albany residents.

Jack said since he has been on the Board the meetings have been at 4:00 at the latest. It has never been an evening meeting.

Kelly stated he felt this was becoming his burden. When he was elected, the 3:30 meeting time fit his schedule and worked for him. He can do a later meeting here and there temporarily but this doesn't help for the future meetings. Kelly's wife is actively looking for a job and telling her she couldn't work on a Wednesday, may limit her possibilities and he does not want to do that. If she gets a job she has to take it.

Sara said right now the meetings are at 3:30 and the burden should be on her unless it was legally bound somewhere. Jack asked Sara if she felt like she could gain some flexibility. Sara replied she would love to say yes but the owner of the company says there will be no flexibility. Sara went on to say she would be willing to donate part of her Selectmen salary towards a babysitter for Kelly. Kelly replied that he and his wife have never been fond of hiring babysitters and have committed to taking care of their children.

Kelly said this whole thing has happened very fast and he does not want to see Sara go. He values everything he has learned from both Jack and Sara during his short time on the Board. For his own sake he has been trying to make it work. Any job his wife may take will probably begin at 6:00. If Selectmen decisions need to be made and he has to leave, it wouldn't be fair. Kelly thought the latest he could commit to would be 4:30.

Sara said when she saw this job, she had to take it. It doesn't come up too often around here.

Rob Nadler suggested having the meetings every other week throughout the summer. Jack asked Sara if she might be able to do a biweekly meeting and get out of work at 4:00. Sara replied she was not sure.

Kathy Carrier said Selectmen are elected to the position for a meeting, not a time. She understands Kelly's family and employment issues. Kathy is a teacher and doesn't get out of school until 4:00, so she cannot attend Selectmen meetings. She added it happens to a lot of people and would like to see it change.

Josephine Howland, Planning Board Chairperson, said it is very difficult to make a living in this valley. To find a job with benefits is very rare. At her last job she didn't get out until 4:00 so she could not attend Selectmen meetings either. Josephine applied for a job today and told them she would not be available during Planning Board meeting times.

Sara sympathizes with Kelly as she and Steve have brought up two children themselves. Sara told Kelly he has her complete sympathy. She wished there was another way and she does not want to disrupt Kelly's family life and this decision is not all on Kelly.

Jack suggested that Sara make another attempt to gain some flexibility at work. He asked Sara if the meetings were to go biweekly, could she make it. Sara replied she did not know. She felt the woman she works under would be more than happy to be flexible but it was the owner who is not flexible. Jack asked Sara to go back and make another attempt to get out of work at 4:00 every other Wednesday to attend the Selectmen meetings. Kelly said he didn't want to get into a bind and then it would be his burden to ask to change the meeting time. Jack would like to meet next week at 5:30 again. Everyone agreed.

Mike Helmers, Planning Board Co-Chairman, said in his nature of work it was impossible to attend Selectmen meetings but feels it critical that the

Planning Board and Selectboard be in sync. A later meeting, possibly concurrent with the Planning Board meeting would not allow for the Selectmen's representative to the Planning Board attend. Maybe the day should change also.

Jack announced next week's meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. and asked Sara to try to get some flexibility with her job. Sara said she would.

Miscellaneous:

Rob Nadler noted Sara had mentioned strategic planning for the town at a prior meeting. Rob thinks that all of Albany's Boards and elected officials should be involved in this type of planning. Things to be addressed would include crumbling roads, building and land improvements. Once complete, at budget time, the resources could be looked at and projects could be decided upon. Sara noted projects such as items from the energy audit. We should have a plan so a future board can look at it and continue or make changes to it. Steve Knox said it sounds more like a long range capital plan. Sara suggested the Board begin the plan in the fall.

Jack asked Kathy Carrier about the plans for the upcoming picnic. Kathy said she has put in a donation request to McDonald's for hamburger rolls, cheese and napkins. After looking through the paper products leftover from last year, more will need to be purchased. Kathy has borrowed a grill from her neighbors. Jack added the VFW is donating the use of their grill also. Kathy said Jack is in charge of getting the meat, ice and soda. Jack said all of the soda is being donated by Coca Cola. Kathy added she is working on a water donation. Shirley VanDyne is getting the hot dog rolls. The tent has been ordered along with tables and chairs. The ad will be in the newspaper next week and two times the following week. Jack will work on donations to raffle off.

Excavation:

Mike Helmers told the Board it was obvious the Planning Board was not involved with the approved excavation by Alan Valladares. Mike said the concern is clear. There is the potential for the removal of 17,000 cubic yards of earth. We need to know more. We should find out if they are taking more than what they are approved for. There could be slump issues if they take out too much and it runs over Route 16. Mike spoke with the state gravel appraiser and asked if this happened, who would ultimately be responsible. The gravel appraiser replied she was not a lawyer. Mike feels strongly that in the end the cost of the cleanup would ultimately lie with the town.

Sara told Mike that Alan Valladares did come before the Board. He had been approved to build a garage for his personal use. He stated he had spoken to the state and the state hasn't been happy with his private road, Kelly Drive, but it would be in a better condition when he was done. Alan told the Board his driveway has always washed out toward Route 16 and the state knows that. Sara said her problem is they seem to be doing what they want. Subaru had major drainage issues and had to come before the Planning Board many times and had to make many adjustments. The Valladares' should have to play by the rules also. Jack feels the only thing that has saved that property is that it is mainly sand so the water washes right through.

Mike said there are two issues. There is a proposed boundary line adjustment submitted to the Planning Board by the same party and it is also apparent that the property can only be taken down so far and the driveway will soon not be acceptable.

Kelly remembered Alan coming in to the Selectmen meeting because it was his first official meeting as a member of the Board. The Board told Alan they wanted to see a drawing and Alan had described what his plan was. The Board then asked Alan to draw it up and bring it back to the Selectmen. Rob Nadler suggested asking for a topographical map of the lot and what they are proposing, adding the town cannot afford a cleanup like that. Jack thought the whole project was misrepresented and there was no indication that hill was going to be cut in half. Jack wants to find out what their plan is.

At 6:40 p.m., Jack made a motion to adjourn, Sara seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard
Town Administrator