

## **Minutes**

### **Albany NH Selectmen's Meeting**

**May 8, 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 Lee Grant and June Johnson. The following business was conducted.

#### **Regular Business:**

- Reviewed & approved May 1 minutes-Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Signed checks totaling \$136,654.60.
- Reviewed & approved auditor representation letter.
- Reviewed & approved letter allowing Almost There to serve alcohol on their outdoor patio.
- Reviewed DRA modified assessed values.
- Reviewed DRA Community Action Report.
- Discussed Dugway Picnic Area—see below

#### **Dugway Picnic Area:**

Sara received a call from a neighbor who said someone left a fire going in the grill located at the Dugway Picnic area. He spoke with the Forest Service who did not seem to be concerned even though it is very dry out and the fire danger is high. Sara noted this was the area the Forest Service had slated to close. The pavilion has been removed, so maybe the Selectmen should ask the Forest Service to remove the grill also. Sara added there is still an outhouse there as well as the stairs that lead to the river. It is their property but it could be a place where people gather to party and why not shut it down? Jack said the stairs may become dangerous if they are not maintained. Sara said maybe we could tell the Forest Service we don't mind if all accessories are removed from the area. Lee Grant said it would still be a parking lot. Maybe they should block it off with boulders. Kelly asked if it really had anything to do with the town. Sara replied if there was a fire there and it moved down the river it could affect neighboring personal properties in Albany. Kelly suggested placing a phone call to Mike from the Forest Service about the concerns and to give him a heads up of what is going on.

#### **Valley Coalition Meeting:**

Jack attended the Valley Coalition Meeting yesterday. He said Albany was well represented. Planning Board member Josephine Howland attended as well as Rob Nadler of the Conservation Commission and fellow Selectman Sara Young-Knox. It was sponsored by Mount Washington Valley Housing Coalition in addition to Mount Washington Valley Economic Council. The topic of the meeting was the direction of where the valley is going and to develop and further the livability and productivity of the valley. 75% of the valley's revenue today comes from tourism and it needs to change. Jack noted, unfortunately the Economic Council should be in the driver's seat for this but has failed miserably from a marketing point of view. He added the Chamber of Commerce on the other hand has done a great job of marketing tourism. Jack is hoping to be able to improve the situation and get enough representation to make the change. He feels towns need to come together and cooperate in the responsibility and development of the change. Jack believes the North Country Council could play a large role but newly appointed director Jeff Hayes didn't represent them well or speak up on North Country Council's behalf. Jack concluded by saying he thought it was a good first session.

Sara said what she found most interesting was the comments by the attendees. Part of the failure in changing the valley is the economy because it is geared toward tourism and provides inadequate wages. When tourism is high in the valley, employees are offered additional hours and when tourism drops off, the hours are lost and so is the wage. Jack said the situation needs to improve by offering alternate job venues.

Sara noted banks are not lending to the tourism businesses these days and an effort like this will take years to accomplish. Sara added she liked the meeting. It was attended heavily by Selectmen and Planning Board members who deal with practical everyday matters. They have a different awareness. Jack said Selectmen and Planning Boards should play a major role in the plan and he reminded Jeff Hayes of this at a North Country Council meeting this morning. He feels strongly their capability of planning could get grants to get a plan in motion.

### **Conservation Commission:**

Jack reported the Conservation Commission met with Mike Martin of the Forest Service and determined where the permanent access to the town forest will be. It is now in the hands of the Forest Service and NHDOT. The goal is to have a permanent access to the property and to not make the Forest Service entry permanent. The proposed entrance is just after the former

NHDOT garage. Mike said the Forest Service would do whatever it takes to create the access including paying for it. Jack said all accesses will be gated once complete.

Jack informed the Board the legislation passed by the Senate to elect Conservation Commissioners was sent to an assembly committee who rejected the bill because there is no provision for removing a Commissioner or replacing a Commissioner. It was handed back over to sponsors, Mark McConkey, Jeb Bradley and Jeff Washburn for an amendment. Odds are it won't get to the full house before fall.

**Cyclists:**

Sara is concerned that cyclists riding on Passaconaway Rd. may be at risk of getting hit by a car. Many tourists ride up Passaconaway Rd. to the Kancamagus highway or to access the Swift River. They are not familiar with the road and may be travelling too fast to react to a cyclist in the road. She feels strongly the cyclists should be travelling in a single file to prevent the possibility of being struck by a car. Sara is going to write a letter to the editor of the Conway Daily Sun. She would like all of the Selectmen to sign it. June Johnson suggested putting larger signs on the road. Sara thought that might take away from the scenery.

At 4:24 p.m., Sara made a motion to adjourn, Jack seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vizard  
Administrative Assistant