

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, May 20th, 2019
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Draft Copy**

Board members present Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock
Others present Debra Miles, Ann Cothrell, Tim Goulet, Jim Bennett, John Jaworowski, Jim Tierney, Robin Irving, Dennis Micucci, Jim Gibson, Sam Oakes, Pete Marshall, Jim Morse, Andrew Cote, Al Rossetto, Nancy Mellow, Paul Perras, Bill Noons, Richard & Tracy Dupuis, Joseph Kennett, Barry Normandeau, George Kenison, ? Kenison, Rebecca St. Cyr
- Recorder

1. Chairman opens the meeting: C. Wheelock opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to accept the May 2, 2019 minutes by: J. Weagle
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance, Police

Jim Gibson – EMS Chiefs Report

1. 2019 we have had 202 calls to date.
2. 2018 there were 220 calls for the same time period.
3. We are currently down 18 call from last year's numbers.
4. We have had 58 requests for transfers to date, 11 accepted, 47 declined.
Declined: 6 – No medic
2 – No second provider
36 – No crew
3 – Weather
5. Comstar report: Gross commitments - \$139,782.00. Total collected for 2019 to date - \$65,354.57.
6. The three Zoll defibrillators that were approved to order at Town Meeting have arrived and we are waiting for Zoll to schedule training before deploying them.
7. Ambulance A3 was currently at Berlin City getting recalls done and having a faulty airbag sensor and coolant sensor replaced.
- J. Gibson asked if anyone had received a call from a resident that thought the

ambulance was free for residents. J. Weagle said he will ask Becky Craggy to reach out to the resident and he plans to meet with him.

Dennis Micucci – PD

Opened 17 new cases.

Made 7 arrests for everything from negligent driving to shop lifting.

Covered 2 car accidents.

We wrote the 1st ATV ticket of the season.

Alissa is back from the academy and working on her own. She is doing very well.

Working on back grounding for potential applicants.

The new internet company was here this past week to start working on the construction and the new server. They will be back at the end of this week to finish up.

C. Wheelock asked if the racetrack had contacted the PD to make their payment. Micucci said he spoke with Dick Therrien, he had everything taken care of for the parade. The races were cancelled. Wheelock asked if the 2018 payment was made. Micucci wasn't sure if the payment was actually made; he will have to speak with Michelle. We will bill weekly this year.

- b. Discussion of Policy Concerning Water Demand Fee – this is in regard to Bo Matson and waiving of the water usage fee. R. Irving updated a list for the Board, it identifies whether they are commercial or residential and what they pay quarterly. Irving further explained the information on list. C. Wheelock asked if the other storage units on the list; Irving said they don't have a demand fee attached to them – they had been waived at some point. Irving reviewed the statute that indicates if they are within 100' of the line they are required to pay the demand fee. She doesn't know how the waivers were approved. The other storage units in town have a service line which has been capped. Bear Storage doesn't have a line and would have had to tap into it. Bo's has a service line. J. Tierney commented that when he was on the Board, nobody came to the Board for a waiver on the demand fee.

C. Wheelock will have Becky Craggy research to find why the Perras sheds were waived before a decision can be made for Matson.

- c. Follow up discussion by Board on Lost Nation Road/Letter sent to Clinton Savage – C. Wheelock isn't sure if they are waiting for another hearing, he had no plan to schedule one. Wheelock said he met with the Lancaster and Groveton ATV club on Saturday. They have a proposal, which includes some private and State property. This week they plan to secure signatures on the private property and then will go to the State for help from them. There is some discussion about County Road (near the old Gainer farm) on the Lancaster end and Spaulding Hill Road on the Groveton end. The Groveton club was measuring out this parking lot looking for some long-term parking and will come to the Board with a proposal. Wheelock spoke to Clint Savage regarding extending ATV access on Route 3 from past the swimming pool to the moose sign (just north of the storage sheds). He said that's with Larry Meservey, Clint will bring forward again. They were also going to look at (as a backup) using some Lancaster roads to access the south end of Lost Nation; that's a plan C because

they want to get through in the woods. Clint said if access is found they would be willing to re-open Lost Nation Rd.

J. Jaworowski said the Board made a request to take down the signage on Lost Nation Rd. The ATV clubs are trying to make this happen; taking the signage down is making it harder for them. Wheelock said per Clint we can send another letter to them to have it re-opened. Jaworowski said why close it. It was opened due to running on Page Hill. Everyone has worked so hard to go forward with the ATV's in the North Country, now we are going backwards. Jaworowski was also speaking for North Country Chamber – it's a negative move. Wheelock said this would give residents an argument to open all the roads in Groveton.

A. Cothrell asked if the request to close Lost Nation came from residents that live on the road. C. Wheelock said they haven't been heard; they came for years and were told it would stay open. They would come, but didn't shout out without being called on, didn't start petitions to get people to come in and upset the select board meetings. They take the vote and are told its temporary year after year. Wheelock commented that there are two ways to approach it; it doesn't mean that one is any more right than the other. Kenison asked if there is a possibility that Lost Nation can leave from their homes to the trail. Wheelock said there are streets in Town where people can ride. The ATV shared route went to Page Hill, why is Lost Nation being closed?

J. Jaworowski asked about the letter sent to Clint Savage; it was signed by only 2 of the Select Board members. J. Weagle didn't sign it – why? J. Weagle explained that he wasn't in favor of it. It wasn't that the clubs weren't doing anything, they were trying, but kept running into roadblocks. When there was a concern with signage, they went out and put some up.

A. Rossetto said we have a GREAT meeting coming up on 5/23; if the ATV clubs came to the meeting, they might be willing to help with the signage for the parking lot.

A. Cothrell asked if everyone knew about the previous meetings. Wheelock said a month ago the Kilkenny Club asked to be on the agenda for the annual access approval. It has to be done for liability insurance coverage. It was on the agenda, which was posted. Those clubs chose to come with the people that came. Everyone knows why we took Page Hill off; it's been discussed at length for years and clearly for the last 2 years. When we met with the club on Saturday, they understood they didn't ask for it to be back in but asked if it could be if they came up with some options. Wheelock told them the Board would listen. The President and/or Trail Masters from each of the 2 clubs were at the meeting.

G. Kenison asked what would it take to leave Lost Nation open? He doesn't have a trailer and wants to travel from his home to the trails. Discussion ensued regarding Lost Nation and keeping it open to ATV's. Wheelock said we had the Public Hearings, laid out the rules and followed them. M. Phillips said we voted to close temporary

access to Page Hill and Lost Nation. There needs to be a place where the ATV's don't go.

- d. Discussion of Commercial Waste Policy – Barry Normandeau – He received and has reviewed a letter re: Commercial Waste Policy. He feels it needs to be broadened. Paul Perras is doing an exceptional job there, but there are other problems that need to be addressed. Wheelock said we are getting stuff from the Normandeau compactor truck that's putting us (as a town) at risk for liability. It creates more work and you've shown that you can't control what goes into the truck. Paul Perras has spoken to Normandeau a number of times and we've had recent loads that don't fit into the rules and regs of the transfer station.

You can haul all the legal trash and recyclables that you want to that's not in the compactor truck. Every commercial hauler received this letter. Normandeau discussed what you can find in the compactors. Sharon Gauthier at AVRRD will get a call from someone that's asking about types of waste. It's the Towns decision to do what they need to do. B. Normandeau sits on the Governor's Waste Task Force, he is also, an advisor for the State of VT. His problem children are being weeded out.

"Sharon's quote is I'll take 100% of the trash from any Town that's recycling.

Wheelock said Paul Perras is doing his job very well. Normandeau said he was part of the team that put the regulations together, it's time to get control of the issues. Wheelock said we also have commercial haulers that are doing it correctly. A lot of the customers that Normandeau has are hauling a portion of their waste themselves.

Wheelock said in an attempt to mitigate, we decided not to accept any compactor trucks, but they are more than welcome to bring in their waste loose. B. Normandeau said Paul Perras is the first one that is trying to follow the rules. Wheelock said there are a lot of these situations, Paul has been reporting these issues for approx. 8 months. Normandeau said the letter doesn't address what they are attempting to do. M. Phillips said if Barry has any suggestions, he can come to a Transfer Station meeting and help us; we are open to writing a better letter.

Normandeau said Groveton hasn't been known as a compliant Town; sometimes he needs to look up the rules for himself, it's been a problem almost since day 1. N. Merrow asked Normandeau if your employees that load the compactor, are aware of what can be loaded or not. Normandeau said yes and no. Merrow said the customers he hauls for also need to know the rules; the problem children have been notified that we will no longer haul their waste. N. Merrow said the person at the lowest level needs to know what they are doing. As long as the haulers are following the rules of DES. DES requires that every load be inspected/approved before going to the land fill. It's a cradle to grave responsibility.

C. Wheelock said we might have more than one stream that's an issue. J. Morse asked how many other commercial haulers are there that come in. Wheelock said that we only have the contractor that does the residential waste. Normandeau further discussed the compacting.

J. Kennett asked about commercial compacted waste, doesn't that go to AVRRD. Wheelock said the locals dump here. Normandeau handles approx. 5% of the commercial trash in Town. We have 4 haulers in Town.

e. Primex "CAP" Assurance Program CY 2020-CY 2022

This is our property insurance, they put a cap on what the not to exceed amount is over the next 3 years. 2020 - \$30,800+; 2021 - \$33,900+; 2022 - \$37,300+. Historically, in 2017 it was \$26,000; 2018 - \$27,000; 2019 - \$28,000 - due to a credit it was brought down to \$15,000.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

f. Notice of Intent to File SEARCH grant application - R. Irving discussed, there was a publication in the Colebrook Chronicle re: the Towns intend to file an application. It's for W/S replacement on the eastern slope of the hill. This is a formality when we put in for USDA funds. We had \$20,000 encumbered that wasn't used last year, \$30,000 will come out of the fund balance for a total of \$50,000 for engineering. This is basically so that the other half of the hill can be done. The projected total cost is approx. \$4,000,000. J. Kennett asked why we are doing another engineering study when one was done in 2006, Irving explained. Proven and Lorber went out of business, they were sold to North Point. It was better for us to do another one. Robin tried to get the study from Horizons, they wouldn't provide it either.

g. Discussion of scope of Underwood RBDG proposal/agreements - R. Irving received from Rob Saunders. The scope of services is basic; he was going to investigate funding alternatives; this is for the lagoon project. J. Weagle said if he remembers correctly it has to be there because it's something the Fed's require. Re: the professional services agreement; Underwood wanted it structured this way. It doesn't bind the Town in a manner where the Town has to use Underwood.

RDBG is the grant a USDA funded project for w/s design for the lagoon parcel to accommodate a potential business, which was supposed to be a dry wall manufacturer. With the flooding, they've had some issues regarding how to build up the land and what are we going to do with the railroad. They want egress on Route 3, Irving further discussed the options. It could be 80 jobs, which doesn't include the trucking. C. Wheelock said it's a feasibility study. Discussion ensued regarding the project.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

h. DOT--TAP agreement & CMA Sole Sourcing Memo - R. Irving received an email from DOT, they sent out the wrong agreement and will send a new one. Shawn Tanquay doesn't have a problem with it.

Motion to sign the TAP agreement when it comes in by: J. Weagle
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

CMA Soul Sourcing - Irving sent the Board some info, she would like to do

what Colebrook did.

Motion to approve by : J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- i. Approval of second NCC Commissioner— The Planning Board approved - nominee Al Rossetto.

Motion to appoint Al Rossetto by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- j. Build Strong and RERC grant opportunities - Build Strong - grant opportunity from Trans Canada, based on the pipeline. It's up to \$5,000. J. Weagle asked if there are any restrictions, R. Irving said no. She would like to use it for new radios for the Ambulance and Police.

Motion to file the application by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

- k. RERC – it's about trails, she might be able to collaborate with the clubs. It might be an opportunity to alternative funding for them. M. Phillips said maybe it would help with the River Walk idea or cross-country ski trails. Irving read the description; it's using natural resources to get people to come in. C. Wheelock suggested that she reach out for more info before we decide to pursue.
- l. Other – disposal fees at the Transfer Station; a resident threw a cooler type refrigerator into the bin; that resident has refused to pick it up or pay the fee.

Yard cleanup – C. Wheelock sent Mario Audit an email about using the health officer. We want to look at as many options as we can. R. Irving reviewed 2 provisions in the statute. It's very specific to those type of items; Wheelock will meet with Irving to further discuss. A. Corthell said we did get some of the residents to clean up some stuff and took several loads to the transfer station and we paid to throw it out.

R. Irving commented about follow up on the Brownfields.

Clean up – C. Wheelock heard from Ed Mellet, there is some tension with the cut on the back side of river. There are tires that were dumped out there. Mellet would like the Town crew to pick up. Wheelock reviewed a letter sent that addresses the issue the Board doesn't feel the Town is responsible it's a criminal issue between the landowner and the police.

Roadside pick up on State Roads – Wheelock sent email to J. Boisselle about adopting a Town road for clean-up; maybe the ATV clubs or others would be interested in doing a clean-up on a Town road. A. Cothrell asked if the Board has considered an amnesty day where residents can bring in trash for nothing. Wheelock said we discussed a vehicle registration allowing for 4 tires. M. Phillips said he could bring it up at a Transfer Station meeting for some ideas.

Minutes – C. Wheelock said we may have a prospect for the minutes, we will be looking at it.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application

1. Robert J. Sullivan, Chelle Lane – has paid the fee.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

b. Building Permits (2)

1. Al & Terry Beland, Riverside Dr. Terry Bedell has signed

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

2. Bob Chapman – renewal for the mill site

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

c. Yield Tax Warrants (2)

1. Gary Dupuis – \$243.66 –

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

2. Joseph Keenan – \$977.29

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

d. RWP Abatements (5)

1. School Dist. - \$121.44

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

2. Fire Station – Precinct - \$37.37

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

3. Kim Hunter – \$4.37

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

4. Dennis Sequin - \$7.73

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

5. James & Harriet - \$6.26

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Housekeeping - elderly exemption approved at May 6 meeting. Goulet St.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Announcement: Memorial Day Holiday – The Town Office is closed on 5/27/19; will reopen on 5/28/19.

- b. J. Kennett asked A. Rossetto if he has been spoken to at AVR RD regarding our trash. Rossetto said no and further discussed. For Commercial waste, Kennett can have a dumpster and have Normandeau haul it to the transfer station? C. Wheelock said we can require a clean stream; we've found with the compactor trucks; we've found they can't control what goes into it. We've seen everything from hydraulic hoses to

sheetrock to yard waste, recyclables. We've found that the commercial compactor is the weak link. Kennett discussed a scenarios - as a commercial business I can pay him to come in and haul the waste from my business. Now as a taxpayer, I'm paying again to haul to AVR RD. That's correct. J. Morse said commercial haulers take it direct to the land fill, Wayno's takes all of his to the land fill; he doesn't bring anything into Groveton. Ann Corthell asked what the benefit is to the Town to allow them to bring in. C. Wheelock said probably not much that's why we are looking at it.

Jim Morse said there is a trailer parked on Bearce St. which is close to the road, during the heavy rain, he couldn't see it. Wheelock will have the PD look at it.

6. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3,II (a), (b), ©, (d), (e):

Motion to go into Non-Public by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor

Into Non-Public at 7:35 pm.

Non-Public adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Into Regular Session at 7:43 pm.

No further business was discussed.

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

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