

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
Date: Monday, May 3rd, 2021
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting "social distancing" will be practiced and wearing of masks is strongly encouraged

Chairmen present: James Weagle, Chair, Keith Bronson, William Caron via phone

Others present: Kathy Frechette, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Glenn Cassady, Scott Whitaker, Melinda Kennett, Ann Corthell, Joseph Kennett, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron.

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Jim asks for motion to accept minutes.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Keith makes motion to accept minutes, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

- a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer (follow up Whitaker matter)

Glenn Cassady for Highway reports activities.

Waiting for the street sweeper then will stripe streets. More potholes to patch, 2 ½ day cemetery cleanup, finishing painting the winter gear. Pool prep to be finished by June 7. Grader to start soon on dirt roads, starting on Page Hill, hopefully done next week, weather permitting. Had 2 water leaks. New guys working out very well and will start going over mowing with them.

Reggie Charron for Water/Sewer reports activities.

Starting hydrant and sewer projects. Not enough good weather to start sidewalks but State has OK'd the hiring of an engineer for sidewalk project.

Jim asks Glenn if he received a message from Becky on the trailer park sheds.

Glenn acknowledges message but some confusion on why the sheds. Discussion by Reggie, Glenn, Jim and others on the cleaning of the trailer park sites. Why is the Town cleaning it up. These trailers were taken for back taxes and the Town has 45 days to remove and cleanup. After 45 days the Town will be charged lot rent.

Further discussion on the quality of the air when removing these structures. Older and may contain hazardous items that affect air quality.

Discussion of High Street tenant still present to be discussed in non-pub.

Stone's Pizza taken but water has been off for a long time.

Maple Street – would like to put cans on the site to clean up lot. Silt fence to be put up to protect the brook.

Pete Marshall suggests using car loader or some tilt body to remove the structure in whole to bring back to be taken apart at leisure. No time frame.

Glenn mentions the materials and man hours are a lot to do these things and don't always feel comfortable doing it.

b. CDBG grant for Brookview

Reggie speaks about the Brookview Dump Station. Brings up that someday the Town may take it over. Working to try and bring it up to snuff. Found a few breaks, changed lateral at curb and found that some old lines were still charged, crimped off and leaking.

Reggie proclaims that the Town is at an historical low with water usage. 155,000 gallons per day was great, but now down to 145,000 gallons per day. Wants to thank all involved who helped get things done, this has saved about \$10,000 in electricity costs as well.

Sewer pump on Brooklyn Street had another problem with toys clogging the system. Keith went down and fixed, made it look easy, and he can't be thanked enough.

Mowing at the leach field is almost everyday and has to be kept up with.

Hemlock planks have been approved but no one is cutting those at this time, rough cut is very expensive, all building materials have gone up significantly.

For projects we have the 6" sewer line replacement.

Jim asks Reggie when that will begin.

Reggie replies probably next week. Just trying to band aid everything until able to do.

Would like to mention that the new guys are doing great.

Fish toxicity testing has to be done every year. The price has gone up \$600. All vendors are raising prices after the budget has been set. Not happy and let them know it.

Discussion of contracts and some seem outdated. Would like a head's up on price raising before budget is set.

Jim asks Reggie for an update on the Pleasant Street pump. Reggie says he is now in favor of the abatement. There is no way to tell where the "wipes" came from that caused the clog. Sure it was not the homeowner, it was another family who moved out right after that clog. Department needs to be notified quickly so the situation can be assessed.

Jim asks for motion to approve paying the bill, Keith makes motion, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Review/Discussion/Decision – Letters received from Joint Loss Management Committee

Discussion of the new stoop to protect the rear entry door from weather at 19 Main Street. Railing needs fixing as well. Possible code violation. The stairwell that goes to the second floor needs fixing as well. Maybe Covid funds to help.

A lengthy discussion of the hazards of not having a crossing guard at the pedestrian crossing at the high school. Children dart in and out of traffic. Vehicles travel quickly. Although children are old enough to know better they do not abide. Jim to bring up at next week's School Board Meeting.

**Town of Northumberland
Joint Loss Management Committee**
19 Main Street
Groveton, New Hampshire 03582
603-636-1450

April 23, 2021

To: Northumberland Board of Selectmen

Re: Door facing old mill site – 19 Main Street

The JLMC meet April 8th, 2021 to conduct business of the Committee and is submitting this request in writing to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

With the nice weather upon us and office operations at the Town office still operating under COVID protocol, it is being asked the Board considers obtaining quotes for a stoop to be built over the door entrance that faces the old mill site. The design would be much like the stoop that is currently over the entrance door that faces Main St.

This entrance is used for all of the business conducted with the public. The committee views this addition as a way of making it safer for those who may be waiting to enter the building, especially if it is raining. Plus, it will help preserve the structural integrity of the area surround the door, as it is now it is exposed to all weather conditions.

The JLMC would very much appreciate the Board of Selectmen giving this request consideration and move forward with a plan to address this situation. The JLMC looks forward to hearing from the Board of Selectmen on this matter.

Respectfully,







/rlc

****This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.****

**Town of Northumberland
Joint Loss Management Committee**
19 Main Street
Groveton, New Hampshire 03582
603-636-1450

April 23, 2021

To: Northumberland Board of Selectmen
Northumberland Police Department

Re: Pedestrian crossing in front of high school

The JLMC meet April 8th, 2021 to conduct business of the Committee and is submitting this request in writing to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

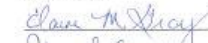
It has been brought to the committee's attention about a potential hazardous situation at the location referenced above. It has been observed by motorists that travel this area 5 days a week every morning of kids, some young, darting out into traffic without looking to cross. There are no adults accompanying these kids and some of them if they are coming from between pickup trucks or vans cannot be seen ahead of time until they are well into the crossing.

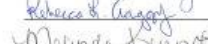
This situation has been presented to the school prior to this and the principal at the time personally went out and directed traffic in the morning and afternoon. The committee is not suggesting the current principal should have to do this, but the committee is hoping for a committed crossing person at this location.

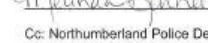
We are asking the Board in coordination with the Police Department to consider using the third crossing guard at this location, asking the school if they have staff that would volunteer, budget for this area for the 2021-2022 school year or use an on duty officer at this crossing.

The JLMC would very much appreciate the Board of Selectmen giving this request consideration and move forward with a plan to address this situation. The JLMC looks forward to hearing from the Board of Selectmen and/or Police Department on this matter.

Respectfully,







Cc: Northumberland Police Department

/rlc

****This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.****

Other updates:

Blue car in municipal parking lot – still there. Peter to run plate number to find owner. May tow and have owner pay for towing. A suggestion to call Caron towing and there would be no charge for the Town.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Yield Tax Warrants (4)

\$317.77 – motion by Keith, second by William, all in favor, 3-0.

77¢ - comment on amount, reason Biomass Chips. Motion by William, second by Keith, all in favor, 3-0

\$96.86 – motion by William, second by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

\$116.42 – motion by William, second by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

b. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permits (2)

Both renewals.

Cynthia Daly of Brockton MA. 2 cars 2 stickers – fees paid.

Eric & Cherish Kinsher of Berlin MA. 2 cars 2 stickers – fees paid.

Keith makes motion to renew, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Building Permit Applications (2)

Lynn Tober – permit signed, fee paid. Keith make motion to accept, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Abatements (4)

Michael Sullivan – reverse abatement, water off for years. Keith makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Al and Terry Beland – water abatement, residence change so vacant, domicile change. William makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Judith Gibson – tenant is Grandson who pays all utilities. William makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Steven and Ellen Colling – water and sewer were shut off in 2018, vacant for renovations, change back to residential. Keith makes motion to approve, Williams seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Norm Cotter brings up that informational letters should have gone out regarding the water change. Has a neighbor from out of state asking about the increase.

Jim says that the original letter had instructed people to call the Town Office if they had any questions.

Discussion ensues with Norm, Jim, Peter Marshall and Min. There should have been a second letter on what fits the criteria for the increase. Min says the original letter should have gone out in December before the water bills went out. Peter feels that this should never have happened in the first place.

More discussion on fees, rentals in the area and how it is being worked on to correct.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

a. Groveton Precinct Meeting Announcement – May 26 at 6pm. Min adds that the Select Board should come as it is regarding the Fire Dept.

b. Ann Corthell – Old Village Road Matters – very unhappy that a complaint she filed 1,469 days ago has not been resolved. There needs to be a road cleanup. It is not just one person and things are getting worse. This condition is hurting her rentals, children cannot play outside because of the danger. Men are urinating outside all the time, furniture on front lawns, want an update or will have DES step in next week.

Discussion of problems, urination in street, business being run without advertising as such. Disgusting and dangerous.

Keith inquires about the call to the State.

Jim mentions that it was about hazardous chemicals.

Continued discussion on liability, conditions getting worse. Need a porta-potty, bad furniture on the front lawn, need a new health officer. That is being worked on. Quality of streets reflects how much can be charged for rent.

Kathy Frishette – complains that her neighbor put in a concrete slab within 5 feet of her property without asking. They received a cease and desist. Now there is no longer a fence between properties and garbage and slab.

Jim explains that the Planning Board needs to have them put in a permit for a variance. The Select Board does not get involved in neighbor disputes, this would have to go to court.

More discussion on variance needed, 15 feet. Common complaint that people are doing what they want without following rules. Talk of need for Town Manager again.

c. Municipal Clerks Week Announcement

Jim reads: Oldest of the public service offices. Select Board recognizes Municipal Clerk

Week and Melinda Kennett, Elaine Gray and Courtney Maclain and all municipal clerks for their service.

Northumberland voter notice – Supervisor of the Checklist meeting Wednesday, June 2nd between 4 and 6pm.

Jim asks if there is any other public comment before board goes into nonpub.

Pete Marshall mentions that he was asked about the State Highway Crew’s quality. He did not recommend them.

Jim makes motion to go into non-pub at 7:29 pm

6. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3,II (c)):

a. Resident Matter

Jim asks for motion to come out of non-pub. Keith makes motion to come out of non-pub, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

7. Adjournment: Jim makes motion to adjourn at 7:55pm. Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, May 17, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

James Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

Bill Caron
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member

****The deadline for agenda items is noon on the Friday before the scheduled meeting. (Effective 7/11/05) by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen.***

*****The agenda is subject to change.***

******This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.******