

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, June 7, 2021

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting wearing of masks is encouraged

Selectmen present: Jim Weagle, Chairman, Keith Bronson, Bill Caron via phone

Others present: Laurence Boudle, Glenn Cassady, Reginald Charron, Norm Cotter, Robin Irving, Ann Corthell, Min Kennett, Pete Marshall, Kathy Frechette, Alan Rossetto, Ryan Shannon, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Michael Humphrey, Peter Pelletier, Jodi Paradis, Steve Collier

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Asking for a motion to accept minutes.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Bill Caron asks for a correction from meeting minutes of filed building permit only. Keith makes motion to accept with changes, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

- a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer

Glenn Cassady – We are starting the summer schedule. Worked on the pool for a week to make it ready to open. Line paint has come in. Got a quote from Central Paving for RR from DNK to Church Street stop sign. Going to start on Reggie's projects of the sewer line on Maple Street, installing hydrants. The new guys are covering small projects to free up time, they are working out very well.

Keith brings up the parking signs on Cumberland Street. A discussion ensues regarding placement of signs, should they be on opposite side of the road. Fines will be issued to violations. As far as placement on other side of street will have to get property owner's permission.

Peter Pelletier questions the Board and Glenn regarding the town rights of way and where they are located. Glenn replies that they fluctuate, not sure. Peter relays the Department's position and not wanting to ticket people wrongly. However if there is a parking in the street complaint or people sitting in the street with beverages this will be disorderly conduct.

Kathy Freshette likes the reflective tape on the dumpster, makes it easier to see.

There is a question of whether there is a time frame to remove the dumpster. There has been effort to speak with them but there seems to be no activity at most times, some of the weekend. Robin says there has been some correspondence sent to the owner and he can be reached by email. Keith says that he has the container owner's phone number and the contractor's email. Robin will forward contact information to the Board.

Reggie reports that it has been very busy, the new guys have been helping to free up time for other bigger projects. There are some trouble spots, private laterals, problems with contractors. Homeowners doing the work but we are only helping with locating and camering. We cannot do the work because of liability. We bill owners for the parts. Old trees are being removed, they are causing damage to the infrastructure. Wipes are still creating problems, this will have to be looked into further. Meter reading will start soon, appreciate the favorable reactions by people and letting us in to read.

b. Joshua Phillips – LUCT Warrant

Surprised by the tax bill, did not take the property out of current use. Why taxed on both properties? There is no drive or building. Al explains that it is out of current use because of the gazebo being permanently attached. Joshua says he will pay for 1 property but not the other. Al does not know why he was billed for both lots. Keith suggests filing an abatement. Robin lets Joshua know he can file the abatement on line or in person. Joshua agrees that one lot should be charged but not the other, he will pay for one lot. Discussion ensues on confusion of lots, campers, suggested that payment for the first taxes be paid.

c. Renewal of Horizons engineering testing agreements

Reggie agrees that this should be renewed. Motion by Jim to sign, seconded by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Discussion of face mask protocol moving forward

Keith makes motion to get rid of mask mandate in town office. Bill agrees but would rather have it amended to say recommended masks. Jim makes motion to accept with new amendment, Bill 2nds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Resident matter(s) follow up – Old Village Road

Anne Corthell speaks that only 3 vehicles have moved and that Paul at the transfer station has offered his services to the Board. It has been 1500 days since this has been brought up. Jim says there is something in the works but it is not public information. Anne asks why there are rules if no one follows them. Further discussion on following RSA's, getting something done about this, hoping for a big change. Anne informs the Board that there are large fines if there are leaks and the Board knows about them and does nothing. Keith tells Anne that Paul is only an employee at the Transfer Station and that he is not a garbage removal service unless you personally hire him for such. This may be a zoning issue, things move slowly. Some discussion on dumpsters and permits. Ryan Shannon says that is a small measure of improvement, standards too low and should be raised. Further discussion on gathering proof, call people, is this an OSHA violation because there are no facilities? There is hopes for a big improvement by the end of the summer. Norm Cotter is confused as to why no one is enforcing the rules. Jim says it is delicate and taking to court may end up in a dissatisfactory judgement. Tried to get permission to go onto property and take an inventory but was denied. Discussion of property being on a right of way, right of way may be invalid because of being no longer used. Peter Marshall brings up that he is a licensed junk yard and has to follow the rules or else his permit would get pulled.

Further discussion on it being a civil matter or maybe an environmental issue and people have sold their homes and moved away because of it.

f. Revisit parking time limit around high school

Keith asks Peter about the parking for the High School students. Kathy Freschette believes there is no need for the 4-hour parking. Discussion on covering the signs during the spring, summer and fall. Peter has no problem with the 4-hour parking going away, but wishes he knew of the problem before the end of the school year came. Discussion on how the signs came to be, the residents wanted them. Robin brings up that Stan Emery's old house has 2 lots, 1 is land and would possibly sell to Town or School for parking. A .25-acre lot, would help with parking on Eames St. The rule is that students should only be parking across from the ball field which is Town owned. The school does not own any parking in town. There needs to be better communications between School and Town, there are a lot more cars. Keith makes a motion to get rid of the signs, Bill says he agrees but the residents wanted the signs and so the residents should approach the Town if they want them removed. Will have to contact the residents. Covering them for now? Keith makes motion to cover the signs for the summer, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

g. Discussion regarding septage dumping from Riverside camping at treatment-plant

There was a request by a septic hauler for Riverside Speedway to be able to dump at the Town's lagoon system instead of going to Berlin. Reggie leads discussion on how this would be overloading the current system and with dry season especially bad. This is an old system and the need for a new one is approaching with new businesses coming to town. Robin mentions too that the chemicals in camping waste are different from the lagoons and it is not known what the effect would be. Questions and concerns that the septic that is dumped is from outside the area as well. Jim assures that DES cross references the trucks and has a system. Some discussion that Riverside may need to get their own septic system. The need to protect the current Town system which is over taxed. Keith makes motion to refuse dumping at the Town, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Norm Cotter adds that this is not letting any new businesses into Town. Essentially correct, a new system may have to be built with new regulations coming down the road.

h. Discussion re Covered Bridge Moose Plate-Grant match requirement

Robin opens the discussion with the need to accept the \$10,000 grant and then the Town has to match. Covid kept this from proceeding last year but now need volunteers to help paint the interior of the bridge. Have to get labor, etc., to make up the match. There is another grant for \$3 million for the outside and would include cedar shake roof as it was originally, a river walk, footbridge, etc. Right now need \$1,000 and help. This can be found. Keith makes motion to accept the match and get moving on this, Bill seconds saying that we need to support the bridge, all in favor, 3-0. Pressure washing cannot be done because it would be a hazard for the river.

i. Follow up Brookview Park matter

No written agreement found, just notes that it happened. What to do next? Herb says he does not want to pursue the sewer issue. Robin would like a public hearing and has started getting a grant for the sewer. There has to be 3 public hearings, the first on the 21st. Jim says Herb wants to work with us, they have gotten the unit back into automatic and there is a new pump needed.

- j. Follow up General Assistance Admin. Hiring
Will be covered in non-public.
- k. Follow up discussion/action on car parked in municipal parking lot
Car is gone.
- l. Robin is drafting for a special town meeting and would like signs if ok. Bill says he is ok with this. This petition draft would ask the court to allow a special town meeting on the hill project which was passed over at Town Meeting. There are now grants to help with this, the extra added is Guildhall meter pit for flood mitigation. Perras road gets flooded. Robin is still working on rate studies with DES and University of North Carolina, it is a very slow job, Becky is working on the tax district. Jim asks for a motion to sign, Bill makes motion to sign, Keith 2nds, all in favor, 3-0. A certified copy will be sent to DRA.
- m. Disclosure of lobbying activities. Robin just needs a signature.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Dog Warrant
For unlicensed dogs. Unlicensed dogs will be seized and forfeited. Bill makes motion to sign, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- b. Building Permit Application(s) 514 Lost Nation Rd – Dennis and Jean Barowsky – a cease and desist was issued on May 15 for no building permit per the SB. The Barowsky's were told they did not need a permit by the RV company. Town does not concur. All fees paid except for late fee of \$250, it was waived. Al brings up that late penalties for everyone should be refunded if this is waived. Keith and Bill agree that this should have come before the SB to be voted on, need to be consistent for everyone. The Barowsky's should have come to the Town, although new property owners there is a welcome packet that Robin sends out explaining the town and its rules and workings. Jim to contact the Barowskis and explain that he erred and that they are in deed liable for the full fees. To be postponed until later.

80 State St – Roaring Brook LLC, paid fee, Al has not yet signed. Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

46 Second St – Underhill, fees paid, Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- c. Abatement (s)
Water and Sewer
809 Lancaster Rd – Al Beland \$30 for change of use
7 West St – Chris Paquette

\$60 – Suzi and Brian Batchelder

12 Goulet St - Boman

Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Lost Nation Rd Substation – PSNH \$4,648.50. Agreement with BTLA to settle, this is 4th of 6 payments.

Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

d. “Housekeeping” Abatements – Stratford Rd

Stratford Rd. \$338 abatement for first tax issue. Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

\$227 Fisher tax refund, Bill makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Katey Savage - \$126 lot merger tax refund

Bill makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Shawn and Emily Swallow - \$367 lot merger tax refund.

Bill makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0

e. Land Use Change Tax Bill – Cloutier – Molly Brook Dr

Cloutier land use change. Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

f. Surviving spouse Veteran’s tax credit – 85 Old Village Rd Bill makes motion to approve, Keith 2nds, all in favor, 3-0.

g. Sign Permit Application – 611 Lancaster Rd Irving Oil gas price sign – Keith makes motion to approve, Bill 2nds, all in favor, 3-0.

Meeting Room Use Request – June 24th, Noon to 4pm – Northern Human Services for a job fair. Non-profit so no fee. Keith makes a motion to approve, Bill 2nds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

Mike Humphrey – Riverside Speedway. Looking to open up roads, Brown and Craggy to get ATVs to Speedway. Al says if there is no trail won’t accept on State. Town Roads to have a public meeting for access. Much discussion between Board, Pete Marshall and others. Possibility of using snowmobile trails, get with Moms. Go thru ATV club after investigating possibilities.

Bill makes motion to go into Non-Pub at 8:02pm, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Motion to come out of Non-Pub by Jim, seconded by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

Items covered: Police matters, Min with tax payer issue, Employee legal matters

Vote to hire, motion by Bill, seconded by Keith, 2 weeks of training, Liz will resume job when Judy retires. Decision to hire Liz Ball as new General Assistance Administrator.

6. Adjournment: Bill makes motion to adjourn, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, June 21, 2021
Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Chairman of Northumberland Select Board

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member

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

Motion to come out of non-pub by Jim, seconded by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

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