

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joseph Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matthew Saxton.

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Stephen Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Ben Howard, Gordon Kemp (first half of the meeting), Rich Nalevanko, Marge Noonan, Barb Viegener, Judith Willis, and two members of the Lake Warren Association. **Google Meet:** Gordon Kemp (2nd half of the meeting).

GUESTS: Lisa Murphy and Matt Lundstedt from Southwest Regional Planning Commission to present on the Lake Warren Best Management Practices (BMP) project.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: The Board Chair called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and introduced the guest attendees.

PRESENTATION: Lisa Murphy began with an overview of projects that the planning commission has helped the town obtain grants to achieve, concluding with the latest Best Management Practices project, which identifies sites around the lake that are contributing most significantly to the decline of the water body, which is considered an impaired lake. NH DES Grants available through the US EPA for the BMP project offer full coverage of materials with a 40% in-kind match from the town (e.g. labor). Then she introduced Matt Lundstedt, who explained the various options that have been considered for addressing the most significant effort of the project, which is the portion of Pine Cliff Road near the dam. This portion of road contributes a large amount of silt to the lake during high runoff events. There was extensive discussion of the most popular option, which is to narrow the road to 22 feet wide, keep it dirt, install ditching with silt dams to limit silt deposit, and build a pedestrian walkway. There was discussion about when to hold a public hearing, a description of what the grant process looks like, and how best to proceed – for example, public hearing late July early August; make decision about which option to use; put a warrant article on the March ballot and then if approved, proceed with the grant process. There is reluctance to start the grant pre-application process before we have a town-wide commitment to the project. There was further discussion of other components of the BMP project, which also includes remediation efforts on Arbor Way and Eel Rock Road. The board expressed its appreciation of Ms. Murphy's knowledge and efforts on the Planning Commission and thanked her and Mr. Lundstedt for their presentation. Mr. Lundstedt offered his board graphic to the Lake Association for their meeting, and the guests and lake association members departed.

ACTION ITEMS: Sign a PO for the sign trailers. Sign the NPS minutes from June 7 in the right place. Sign the payroll liabilities and payables manifests from the week ending 6/18.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of June 14, 2022; Minutes of 2 June 14, 2022 non-public sessions. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, **the Board voted to approve the public minutes as written. The motion passed with two in favor and one abstention.** On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, **the Board voted to approve the two non-public sets of minutes as written. The motion passed with two in favor and 1 abstention.** Joe abstained from those votes because he was absent from the 6/14 meeting.

VILAS POOL: Gordon reported that the summer events program has launched, is going strong, and is proving very successful.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Steve reported with evident relief that our full-time officer has returned to active duty and we have hired a part time officer who will begin on Monday 6/21. The new officer is certified and trained and ready to roll with a short on-boarding/orientation process. In addition, he reported that the new sign trailers were delivered today; he hopes to bring one to a meeting to demo it for the board. He noted that school is out and reminded us all to be careful because the kids are out and about. Gordon Kemp asked what cruiser the new officer will use since we only have two, and he wanted to know if we might use one of the signs to advertise the summer program at Vilas Pool. Joel wondered what sort of data those signs collect and what is done with it. The Chief replied that the new officer will either ride along or use an available cruiser when not in use and, regarding the data, he indicated that once he has studied the materials provided with the devices, he will be better able to answer that question. Joe reminded us that the same grant that we applied for to pay for the signs is also paying for repeater

equipment for both fire stations. Jesse indicated that those are 4-5 weeks out. The vendor is willing to provide information for our web site with pertinent information for amateur radio operators. Steve reported that last year at this time the PD had responded to 210 service calls; this year we are at 400 calls, many of which occurred while the department was short-handed.

AMBULANCE: The ambulance crew has responded to 86 calls this year. Most have been transports so money is incoming to the town for those but the ambulance budget is nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ consumed, and we haven't hit the busy part of the year yet. In a typical year we budget for 80 calls, and it is past that point already. He urged people to see their primary care doctor proactively so that an emergency situation is not required. Joel reminded us that the incoming money doesn't get assigned to the ambulance budget and Jesse is not allowed to exceed the budget that was passed in March. We have to pay for it when we miss a call and someone else has to cover so they are working hard to avoid that circumstance. The Board acknowledged its role in seeing to it that the ambulance team has what it needs.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Alstead will host the next Five-Town Select Board meeting on Friday August 5th, 2022 at 4:30 PM in the Town Hall at 9 Main Street.

BOARD: Joel reported that the property next door continues to collapse. The owner has received an asbestos remediation quote that he is pursuing and an exorbitant demolition quote. Joel reported continuing progress on resolving the offending trailer on Gilsum Mine Road by working with the Well Hill Coop. The Community Loan Fund has agreed to pay the bill for pouring the pad, on a reimbursement basis. Efforts to see that process through will continue. Joe reported that he attended two US Treasury webinars last week about how to spend our ARPA money and learned that most projects that benefit the low-income sector would be approved. He noted that we should be receiving the second half of our ARPA money soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rich Nalevanko submitted a Right-to-Know request for information associated with the senior housing project. The Board marked his copy of the request with the date and time and provided the town's copy to the Administrator for appropriate handling. Rich also noted that the power companies are raising their rates – the NH Public Utilities Commission approved a 100 percent increase. Jesse reminded us to be on the lookout for people doing unwise things with woodstoves to counteract the higher power expenses because this is when house fires and CO exposure happens. Joel summarized the way that utility prices get determined in NH and there was more discussion about that. Joe reported that the Broadband Committee has learned that Comcast has indicated that it plans to extend its internet coverage to the rest of the town.

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – y; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:35 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A3, II(e) – consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation.***

Before exiting the non-public session, the Board reviewed the minutes of the session and signed them.

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted by roll call (Joe – absent; Joel– y; Matt – y) to enter non-public session at 6:52 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless that person requests an open hearing.***

Before exiting the non-public session, the Board reviewed the minutes of the session and signed them.

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 7:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of both non-public sessions as written. The motion passed unanimously.***

Before adjourning the Board agreed by consensus to move a late-breaking agenda item about a request from the Library Trustees for annual gutter cleaning and roof inspection to the agenda for the next meeting on June 28th.

On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 7:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator