

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of May 10, 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:** Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Jesse Moore, Ambulance Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator. **Google Meet:** None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: **In person:** Bob Brown (guest), Glenn Elsesser, Ben Hoy, Gordon Kemp, Mark Mastrocinque, Rich Nalevanko, Joe Ruggiero (guest), Barb Viegener, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: Joe called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

GUEST: Bob Brown represented the Mill Hollow Heritage Association in requesting the Board's approval of two items:

1. A plan to make 2022 the trial year for release of water from Lake Warren in the event of drought conditions. Last year was supposed to be the trial year, but conditions did not require a release.
2. A plan to revive Little Lake Edith, a small body of water next to Prentiss Hill Road which was used by the mill for testing purposes but was filled in with debris during the 2005 flood, as described in the plan provided to the board. The plan presented, which involves the excavation of washed-in gravel within carefully stipulated limitations, was developed under the guidance of a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) engineer.

On a motion from Joel that was seconded by Matt, the board voted to approve item 1 and make 2022 the trial year for a release of water from Lake Warren in the event of drought conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 was discussed further. Mr. Brown proposed that the Board take more time to review the plan and agreed to return to a later meeting to answer questions, hear concerns, and vote on approval of the plan. The board expressed its confidence in the licensed engineer. Suggestions were made with regard to notifying the public using signage and the town website to relieve any public angst that might arise from the sudden appearance of excavation machinery next to a wetland area. The Board thanked Mr. Brown for his time and Mr. Brown departed.

GUEST: Joe Ruggiero notified the Board that it was necessary to increase the pricing for hauling transfer station materials. Some materials are at different pricing; the price will change to be the same for all kinds of materials at \$275 per haul to cover increased costs of fuel and other expenses. If our NRRRA contract has expired, we could negotiate a new contract with Ruggiero to transport it to Ruggiero's much closer Transfer Station (Walpole instead of Bradford NH). Mary is tasked with locating for the NRRRA contract to see when it expires so we can explore the possibilities. The Board thanked Mr. Ruggiero for his time and Mr. Ruggiero departed.

ACTION ITEMS: Signed two timber cut intents. Signed 911 Operations Liaison form; Signed retirement liability. Signed a Vilas Pool expenditure.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of May 3, 2022: No changes requested. On a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*** Minutes of Non-public Session on May 3, 2022 are already approved and signed by the board.

OLD BUSINESS: Cease & Desist order: Joe confirmed that the trailer parked at 210 Gilsum Mine Road in violation of town zoning ordinance is still there. Joel reminded those present that the Town served a Cease & Desist order to the owner of the trailer. The order stipulated a time frame within which the trailer could be removed without penalty; Joel observed that the time period has lapsed. On a motion from Joe that was seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to give the owner one more opportunity to return Joel's call and if there is no response, to proceed with the enforcement clause of the Cease & Desist order. The motion passed unanimously.***

Transfer station supervisor job description: Current Transfer Station consultant Ben Hoy was present. Matt reported that Ben has applied for the supervisor position. A copy of the job description for the position was examined by the Board and more discussion took place about ideas for the Transfer Station, the requirements of the position, equipment needs, cost increases, budgetary limitations, and grant opportunities. The Board agreed to set up and post a non-public session for Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the Walpole Transfer Station to negotiate employment terms.

VILAS POOL: Gordon Kemp reported that the town backhoe has been in use cleaning debris out of the area in front of Vilas Pool dam. Matt described the tools and process being used to capture and remove trapped material. Gordon observed that a trash rack would help prevent large pieces of debris from getting trapped against the gate and improve the process of cleaning out the dam each year.

AMBULANCE SQUAD: Chief Moore wondered if two solar-powered radio transmitters could be included in the grant being written for the two highway signs to bring the grant amount up to the full 50K. The transmitters could be installed to improve communications on a channel used by inexpensive commercially available walkie talkies. The channel would need to be publicized. The vision is a community service radio network that can be useful in times of emergency. An inexpensive FCC license covers the entire family. The Board asked Jesse to submit a proposal to Joe so that it can be included in the grant. Regarding call volume, the Chief reported that the numbers have dropped to normal warm-weather levels.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Murrell observed that the hoped-for signs can be used to help inform people about the Mill's excavation project. Regarding personnel shortfall associated with our part-time officer, the Chief explained that he has submitted a right-to-know request asking for information about when the officer can return to work. He further reported that he and two board members accompanied the Tax Collector as witnesses to visit a resident who is struggling to pay back taxes and in imminent danger of losing his home to the tax deeding process. The Board commended the level of care extended to this resident by all concerned.

SELECT BOARD REPORTS: Joel reported that the library doors have been removed and are being rehabilitated at the expense of an anonymous private donor. In addition, he noted that the submission deadline for qualifications to repair Alstead's two Bridge Aid projects is May 16th and soon it will be time to review the submissions and verify with the bridge division that all submitters are qualified, then start negotiating. Joel further reminded the group that we also need to keep our other bridge projects in mind as well, and someone from the group suggested that we might want to consider staggering them so that all the bridges don't wear out at the same time. Finally, Joel indicated that Cindy Warmington, our Governor's Council rep, called during the meeting and he would find out why and report back to the group. Matt reported that a temporary repair to the library roof made last winter needs to be made permanent, but the contractor is no longer available. The library trustees seek to learn what steps must be taken to make the temporary repair permanent and find someone to do the work (the money is in their budget for that work). Joe reported that the library is close to completing its letter of intent to apply for an LCHIP planning grant to pay for the assessment needed to determine what repairs to prioritize with an eye toward historic preservation. They are working on locating the document that certifies the library as a National Historic place. They are investigating alternatives to copper as a roofing material given the impact of copper mining on the environment, to determine whether other materials can be used without affecting the historic status. More discussion ensued about funding strategies. Joe added that he spoke with Lisa Murphy from the Southwest Regional Planning Commission and she provided 5 different options for funding the Pine Cliff Road drainage project. The grant they offer will pay for materials, including culverts. Joe agreed to connect Prescott with the SWPC engineer to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Glenn Elsesser asked about the status of the estimate that he provided for the fire truck repairs. Mary is tasked with following up. Glenn further asked about the driveway design requirements and the impending sale of the property currently known as 500 Walpole Valley Road. Matt answered that the design has been provided to the listing realtor so that it can be disclosed and provided to the buyer.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no other business to conduct, on a motion made by Matt and seconded by Joel, ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 6:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator (incoming)