

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of May 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Matt Saxton

STAFF PRESENT: In person: Steve Murrell, Police Chief; Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Admin; Prescott Trafton, Road Agent.
Google Meet: None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person: Gordon Kemp, Judith Willis. **Google Meet:** None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEMS: Sign one timber cut report.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of May 17, 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.*

GUEST: Julie Bacon, Tax Collector, is finalizing this year's Tax Deeding. She read the two versions of the Deed Waiver letters for those property owners who are being given a 3-month extension. There is one property that we are deeding. Joe expressed his appreciation of Julie's outstanding handling of these complex situations and the care and consideration with which she explains things to people with available assistance programs. Joel thanked her for her diligence and the quality she brings to the job. Additional discussion followed about some difficulties being encountered, their implications, and ways to deal with them. Julie departed with the Board's thanks.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE: Gordon Kemp reported the locations where new AEDs have been installed and noted that there are three old AEDs, two of which were found. He indicated that someone is interested in buying one of the old ones; the Board consensus is to have the old units evaluated first before any action is taken. Gordon gave the interested party the information about buying a new one at the town price and contacted an expert about evaluating the old ones. Gordon also noted that the Vilas Pool employees would also like to be included in the AED training.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Steve reported that the Memorial Day Parade will be Monday at noon. Ceremony will be on the bridge. They will not parade to the cemetery. He also reported that service calls continue to be steady and car crashes are up. He is keeping up but looks forward to the return of our part-time officer.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Prescott reported that they are trying to complete the mowing before the holiday. He obtained a new POW flag and a new American flag for the Historical Society. Regarding paving, Pike wants to start the Gilsum Mine Rd. project. Prescott is hesitating about whether to proceed since the prices are so high that the amount of road we can pave keeps reducing. Additional options were debated. He wants to consult Legal about his questions; Mary is tasked with submitting his questions to the free NHMA legal inquiry service. Joel thanked him for cutting down a tree at the fire pond on Pratt Road. Through a virtual FEMA meeting Prescott got additional information about a FEMA hazard mitigation grant (deadline 6/1) and a NH Department of Environmental Services ARPA fund grant (deadline 7/1) he can apply for; he will work with Joe on the latter one since the deadline of the former one is too close to meet. Asked by Joel about the status of the gravel crushing, Prescott indicated that they expect to be done with gravel by the end of this week and will start on sand next week. He expects an email from Fuzzy Brothers with more cost information. In addition, Prescott reported that he is checking on the electrical outlets on the Green in preparation for the Pow Wow coming up.

SELECT BOARD: Joe noted that the Library employees want the AED training since there is a unit there; he will contact Jesse about including them in the list. Joe reports that a constituent has issued a deadline of next week for receiving the requested information about the senior housing project, or he will file a right-to-know request. Joe further reported on the Lake Warren Instream Flow meeting held by Wayne Ives. The availability of more federal money means the state has included smaller rivers such as the Cold River in the study. The goal is to ensure survival of river habitats in drought situations by letting water out of dams. The state will monitor water levels at the dams and determine whether intermittent release of water from Crescent Lake and Lake Warren is appropriate. Joe informed Mr. Ives of the Lake

Warren/Chase's Mill agreement and provided him with a copy. Joe is talking with the baseball league folk, would like to improve the baselines and dugouts at the baseball field. They are willing to provide the labor and are asking if the Town would provide stone dust and paint. Joe note that Jude Willis removed most of the Christmas lights on the lower part of the Gazebo, tested them, and packed them up for storage in the Town Office basement. **Joel** reported that he will attend a Homeland Security Emergency Management meeting re: Vilas Dam on Thursday 5/26 at 5 PM at the Town Hall. Matt will also attend. Joel and Joe met with an angry constituent by accident and agreed to attend a Zoning Board hearing Monday June 6th at 7:45 PM; Matt agreed to attend that meeting. Joel observed that the Board must select an engineer to negotiate the permitting and specification of the MOBIL bridge projects. All of the submitted firms are approved by DOT; he asked Gordon to review the qualifications and make a recommendation. Joel further reported that he has met with the son of the property owner next door to Town Hall. Mr. Boucher indicates that he is now officially guardian of the owner and able to negotiate via probate going forward. Joel reiterated the town's interest in the property. Asbestos evaluation contractors are being contacted. **Mary** reported that the acting administrator from Charlestown stopped by the office and offered to provide the minutes of the 5-Town SelectBoard meeting.

VILAS POOL: Gordon reported that Prescott installed a commendable extension on the dry hydrant to make it easier for the fire department to attach their suction hoses. There is a plan to attach a sign to the extension to help control parking in that location, since parking is at a premium there. They are working on diplomatic wording of the sign to encourage judicious use of that space. There was additional discussion of addressing clogged intakes for the hydrants at Vilas Pool and Millot Green, both of which have gravel and rock blocking the intakes. A conversation with the Department of Environmental Services revealed that a Shoreland Permit by Notification (\$400) is required to use any sort of hydraulic equipment to address the problem; however, handwork can be done without a permit. Gordon communicated this to the Fire Department and observed that the ability to do handwork can be a problem when the water levels are not low. Finally, Gordon noted that the first opening of the park will be Sunday June 5 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will be a Kona Ice truck, and a Craft Session for kids from 2-3 p.m. Joel expressed the Board's appreciation to Gordon for all of his efforts at the Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

INFORMATIONAL: The next regular meeting of the Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall space at 9 Main Street.

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 6:31 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) (the hiring of any person as a public employee).***

On a motion made by Joel and seconded by Matt, ***the Board voted to leave non-public session and return to public session at 6:54 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

There being no further business, on a motion made by Joel and seconded by Joe ***the Board voted to adjourn the public meeting at 6:56 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schoppmeyer, Office Administrator