

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 2, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
Beaver pond on Cobb Hill Road, Alstead, NH 03602

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Matt Saxton and Gordon Kemp

STAFF PRESENT: In person - None. **Google Meet** – None.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: In person - Mark Danahy and Thomas Hancock. **Google Meet** – None.

Mr. Kemp called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

The group discussed the history of beavers in this location. All present agreed that having too much water impounded at this beaver pond represents a hazard to the public road and Mr. Hancock’s private infrastructure downstream during flood events like the ones we experienced in 2021 and 2023. Mr. Kemp has contacted Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers International who has agreed to come take a look at the situation when his schedule allows.

Mr. Kemp noted that eradicating the beavers and removing the dam is an expensive, unsustainable, and ultimately futile plan. Mr. Danahy emphasized that he as the landowner would not approve of that plan in any case.

All agreed that the beavers represent a positive asset to the local environment as long as the potential hazard of their water impoundment can be mitigated.

It was noted that the beavers had not rebuilt their dam in the same location or to the same height as it was before.

Mr. Hancock described some of the damage done to his property during the last storm. Mr. Saxton suggested the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as a potential source of help for Mr. Hancock’s damage.

The group agreed on the following action items:

1. Mr. Danahy will install a steel stake near the edge of the pond to monitor the water level.
2. Mr. Kemp will keep in contact with Skip Lisle and arrange a site visit as soon as possible.
3. Mr. Kemp will contact State Fish and Game to inquire about grants.
4. Mr. Kemp will see to it that this issue is added to the regular Selectmen’s agenda so that it is not forgotten.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

INFORMATIONAL:

Next regular Select Board meeting:	Tuesday, November 21 st , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, Town Hall, 9 Main St.
FM School Board meeting:	Monday, December 11 th , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
FM Budget Committee meeting:	Wednesday, October 18 th , 2023 @ 6:00 PM, High School.
Next 5-Town Select Board meeting:	TBD, reschedule in progress.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon E. Kemp, Selectman