

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2016

PRESENT: George Lawrence, Chairman, Becky Doyle, David Lage, Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Minutes: Selectman Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016 meeting. Selectman Lawrence seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Selectman Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DOT Letter on Interim Inspection of Bridges: A letter was received from NH DOT regarding an interim inspection of municipally owned bridges. The bridge on Taylor Road over the West Bank of the Souhegan River is a Red List bridge. The DOT bridge inspectors have indicated the bridge is in compliance with the DOT's recommendations and no action needs to be taken by the Town.

Selectman Lawrence noted the State was to put the blinking light back at the intersection of Highbridge and Turnpike Road once the bridge work was done. That has not been done yet. It will be put on the "to do" list to check on at a later time.

Monadnock Community Hospital: An invitation to attend the 2016 Legislative Breakfast at Monadnock Community Hospital on February 19 at 7:30 a.m. was received by the Board. All Selectmen plan to attend.

Parks and Recreation: Director Buxton sent an email to the Board requesting the basketball courts be closed for the winter. They are now a sheet of ice and could be a liability to the Town. She also was concerned that someone might salt them. The Selectmen agreed to the closing of the courts and the lights being turned off at 5:00 p.m.

Petition warrant article: Selectman Lawrence received a petitioned warrant article on January 13 around 4:30 p.m. from Brian Belliveau. The petition was to rescind Article 21 of the 2014 warrant. The deadline for submitting petitioned warrant articles was January 12. No action was taken by the Selectmen.

Declaration of candidacy: The time to file to run for open positions on the 2016 warrant is January 20 through January 29.

Pipeline Task Force: Wendy reported that Lori Summer, Wetland Mitigation Coordinator from DES and one of the managers of the ARM fund, attended the Municipal Coalition meeting today. Kinder Morgan is putting together an application and it is unclear how it is all going to work with the FERC and SEC process running in parallel. Typically before they would agree to a mitigation amount, an applicant would have to do an on the ground wetland delineation. A FERC decision is made, i.e. a certification of necessity is granted, which gives them eminent domain authority and the right to go on the properties.

They would delineate the wetlands, identify the functions and values, and present plans for mitigation. The towns should plan to submit their mitigation projects in 2017 because FERC will most likely not make a decision until late 2016. If the certificate is granted, they would be able to do the delineation, determine the value of the mitigation and what the offsetting local projects would be. The Town would have time after FERC's decision to make sure the projects get in. The applicant needs to include the projects in their application, and in this case where most of the land is private, Ms. Summer was not sure how this would be handled.

The priorities for what constitutes a good mitigation project include protection of uplands, putting a parcel into conservation adjacent to another parcel already in conservation, and wetland and stream restoration. DES received an EPA grant to review culverts in the Merrimack watershed or coastal watershed and to inventory failed culverts. There are eight watershed districts for the ARM fund and there is money in every one available to apply for, if there is a project that can meet their criteria. There is a yearly process for applying for ARM funds. There are three watersheds in New Ipswich. By April 29 a two page pre-proposal needs to be submitted and by August 31 the final application would need to be submitted. In September they do a site selection committee review, in November it goes to the Army Corps and wetland council for review, and in December the awards are announced.

Also discussed at the meeting were mitigation projects other than wetlands such as mitigation of conservation land. There are three areas in New Ipswich that would have to come out of conservation easement, Timbertop Road, Hollyview Drive and Green Farm Road. The Coalition will be contacting the Attorney General's office to get more information on this process.

Ms. Summer will provide a copy of her power point presentation. There have been pre-application meetings between DES and Kinder Morgan and minutes have been taken and she will try to get a copy of those sent to the Coalition. She will also find out if the meetings are open to the public.

Virginia Notter reported she had talked to Pat Martin today. Eversource brought material into the power lines when building their roads. Before that was done the Rindge Conservation Commission had gone through and documented all the vernal pools. Ms. Notter questioned what was brought in and filled in and what permits were approved in New Ipswich. Wendy noted there is little information on the Eversource corridor. Ms. Notter questioned if there was good information on vernal pools. Wendy responded there was not but one of the things they want to do in the spring is to have a volunteer group walk the pipeline route and document the vernal pools.

Virginia reported on a bill in Concord to put tax on ratepayers but it appears that is unlikely to go far. Attendance on House Bill 1101 was standing room only and testimony was limited. With those that testified, there were nine in favor of the bill and one opposed. It was continued to a couple of weeks and a bigger room.

Wendy announced there is a Pipeline Task Force meeting tomorrow evening. There are new landowners being affected by the pipeline and being noticed by Kinder Morgan. Their properties are being identified as landing areas for equipment and materials, or an access road may be cut through

their property. It would be a temporary use of the property. If anyone has questions, they can attend the Pipeline Task Force meetings for answers.

There are four bills coming up Thursday. Representative Parison is on the Science, Technology and Energy Committee and he will be voting on the bills.

Conservation Commission: Selectman Lage reported he had attended the Conservation Commission meeting last week. They have no liaison from the Selectmen. There was a discussion on vacancies. Bob would like to vet potential candidates to serve on the Commission. Selectman Lage stated the Selectmen expect the Commission to do their due process but do it expeditiously and not wait until November. If there are vacant positions and people interested in serving, they should be considered now. Selectman Lage also mentioned to the Commission that there are not different tiers of membership, members are either alternates or members. Bob explained Associate memberships are usually held by those who want to focus on a specific project or are honorary members.

Pipeline signs: George spoke to a homeowner on Temple Road who is very concerned about some of the pipeline signs and feel they are detrimental to the Town and should not be there. Some of the signs are not in conformance with the sign ordinance. The homeowner also complained about rubbish on a nearby property and Selectman Lawrence will inspect tomorrow.

Deputy Treasurer: Treasurer Vaillancourt submitted a letter to the Selectmen in November requesting her Deputy's salary be raised from \$12.00 to \$13.00 and asking for back pay to May. The Selectmen stated they could not make any adjustments because of Article 21. However, an increase to \$13.00 has been put in the proposed 2016 budget.

Telephone system quote: Peter submitted a quote for a new telephone system. The Board noted three quotes are needed and a RFP sent out.

Building Inspector: Wendy noted there have been a couple of building permits issued before special exceptions or variances have been approved. In one case, the driveway and home were built before the homeowner came to the Zoning Board and there were wetland impacts. She was concerned the Building Inspector was not aware of the process. Selectman Doyle will speak to the Inspector.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

Approved by:

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George H. Lawrence, Chairman

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David S. Lage

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Rebecca M. Doyle

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David S. Lage