

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2012

Selectmen present: Susan Slack
Theresa Swanick
Henry Spencer

Minutes transcribed by: Claudia Lamphier

Meeting called to order: 6:30 pm

The Mail, Manifest and Signature folders were reviewed.

At 7:10, the Board entered into a non-public session to speak with a property owner who has delinquent taxes to the extent that the Tax Collector will be deeding the property to the Town before the end of June. The property owner negotiated a payment arrangement to satisfy the tax arrearage.

By unanimous vote, the public session resumed at the conclusion of non-public session at 7:25 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edith Sharp inquired about when the second phase of Town House Road reconstruction is expected to begin. The road contractor expects to start on culverts in July.

Michael Cahalane reported that at a recent trip to the transfer station he noticed that the caution sign for the speed bump is placed in a position after the location of the speed bump. He met with Carol Phister, a Library Trustee at the Library. Mike is currently a member of the Historic District Commission and was asked to give feedback about building maintenance/improvements/repairs from the standpoint of historic preservation. He stated that he felt that the Town Hall/Library building had many past improvements which sacrificed the historic authenticity of the building. He observed that the floor boards have gaps and he described the floor as appearing "rolling". He suggested the Board consider carpeting all areas of the building. He further suggested the removal of some lighting fixtures in front of the building and the replacement of a hollow core door. On another issue, he suggested that the Town reconsider using the services of well meaning contractors offering free contracting services to the Town, stating concern regarding liability in those instances.

Sheila Jones voiced concern about the book drop at the Library not being handicapped accessible. She also reported on improvements that have been made to the Lord's Hill Meeting House.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Selectman Swanick reported that Nate Perkins will be making zonal heating areas in the staff offices. She asked other Board members if they felt the insulation above the ceiling tiles should be removed to assist in that project. Other members of the Board thought that was too large a job to take on at this point in time. Selectman Swanick also solicited assistance in providing access to the Library building to an electrician who has been requested to offer a quote for electrical work requested by the Library Trustees. No one was going to be available during the hours requested by the electrician, so an alternate date will be arranged.

Selectman Swanick will be coordinating with transfer station attendants in scheduling a training session with them.

Selectman Spencer will soon be attending a workshop for cemetery trustees sponsored by the Attorney General's office and another workshop sponsored by LGC providing information on employment law.

Selectman Slack reported on the energy forum held on Friday. The forum was held to provide guidance in developing the Town's Master Plan. An LRPC representative presented information as did Gary Gagnon, the heating contractor working on the wood pellet boiler installation in the Municipal Office Building. Selectman Slack also noted that a mural has been painted on the wall of the auditorium/cafeteria at the Elementary School where the forum was held. The mural was part of a 6th grade project and she found it very impressive.

A meeting with Plan New Hampshire has been scheduled for Saturday, June 23rd at the Historical Society meeting building. The meeting is primarily meant to be a question and answer session.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

The Board approved the Minutes of June 5th as amended and the weekly Manifest.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman Swanick reported that the wood pellet silo is scheduled to be delivered on Wednesday. The concrete pad for the silo was recently completed.

Selectman Spencer asked for discussion on the status of a list of outstanding tasks. At the present time no progress has been made on the tasks mentioned. He reported that he has not had an opportunity to write a summary of what information he gleaned from his attendance at a recent NRRA sponsored conference on recycling.

The Board discussed holding an open house for the public to see the wood pellet boiler

when it is fully installed. They also discussed having the elementary school students come and view the boiler as part of a discussion on conservation.

Selectman Slack has been looking at records pertaining to any improvements that have been made to the Town Hall/Library building in the past several years. Her research included reviewing information provided by a restoration specialist that was contracted to oversee the restoration of the building, which was partially funded by an LCHIP grant. She found a report providing suggestions on future improvements to be considered when financially possible. Several years ago, a fund was established to provide funding for future improvements. There is significant expense to the listed improvements that are recommended. Selectman Spencer volunteered to look into grant funding to cover the expense of the major projects mentioned in the report. It was noted that many building issues recently presented the Board by the Library trustees will need to be resolved prior to the longer term projects noted in the architect's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Spencer initiated discussion on a letter of concern from a resident regarding a timber harvest on Hobbs Road which will be starting soon. A Town ordinance specifies restrictions applicable to removing timber from steep slopes. The resident feels the logger should be made to address the requirements set forth in the ordinance with the Planning Board. Selectmen will request an opinion from the Zoning Enforcement Officer of whether or not the ordinance is applicable to the timber harvest on this property.

Selectman Spencer asked that the road contractor be notified of a severe wash out on Old Pound Road caused by the recent deluge of rain.

PLANNED DISCUSSION

none

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Susan Slack, Selectman

Date

Theresa Swanick, Selectman

Henry Spencer, Selectman