



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of the Select Board

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SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015 APPROVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

I. BARN PRESERVATION EASEMENT VISIT

Select Board members Ken Traum, Sara Persechino, and Steve Lux, Jr., met at 5:15 p.m. at 410 Stumpfield Road, (Map/Lot: 231-003-000) to view the barn which is due for a Barn Preservation Easement Renewal. The barn was viewed and the group proceeded to the Town Hall. No discussion took place.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Select Board Chair Jim O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2015, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Mr. O'Brien introduced the members of the Board and Mrs. Strickford led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Jim O'Brien, Chair, Ken Traum, Vice Chair, Sara Persechino, Sue B. Strickford, and Steve Lux, Jr.

Staff Present: Neal Cass, Town Administrator

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENT

Hopkinton State Fair Directors

Deb Curtis, President of the Hopkinton State Fair met with the Select Board to discuss the upcoming Fair. This meeting is part of the agreement to assure that communications between the Fair and the Town is kept open. Mr. Curtis informed the Board of the following:

- "Town Night" will happen on Thursday night. Vendors have the option to open and a portion of the Hopkinton Town Band is playing. The Sestercentennial Committee will have a tent. A large hay maze has been set up by the tent which will help draw people to the area.
- Things are finalized with both the Police Chief and Fire Chief for coverage during the Fair.
- There have been discussions about safety in light of the tent collapse in Lancaster. The Fair is being proactive.

Chair O'Brien thanked the Directors for attending. Ms. Curtis said that there are still open positions for jobs during the fair. The Directors will send a list of the requirements to be a Director to the Select Board and this will be discussed further at the joint meeting after the Fair. The Fair Annual Meeting is in November so now is the time to discuss this issue. It was noted that Directors spend time year round working on the Fair and each Director is responsible for a specific part of the operation.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE

Board members reviewed documents for signature and approved unanimously (5-0) the Consent Agenda taking the following action on motion made by Mrs. Persechino and seconded by Mr. Lux:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Comment</u>
BUILDING PERMITS			
537 Crowell Road - 250-039-000	8/24/2015	Approved	Deck/Patio
Gould Hill Farm	8/24/2015	Approved	Temporary Sign Permit
PAYROLL			
Payroll Check Register	8/27/2015	Approved	Direct Deposit-\$54,680.44 Checks 31180-31203-\$12,143.47
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			
Accounts Payable Check Register	8/17/2015	Approved	\$ 72,082.24 - Checks 53885 to 53913
Accounts Payable Check Register	8/24/2015	Approved	\$,317,605.85 Check 53914 to 53964 (\$1,208,428 School Paymnt)
FUND TRANSFERS			
Sewer Account to General Fund	8/24/2015	Approved	\$11,725.31 Reimbursement for funds expended - July
Recreation Revolving to General Fun	8/24/2015	Approved	\$26,056.31 Reimbursement for funds expended June & July
CURRENT USE - LUCT WARRANT			
Map/Lot 265-012-003	8/24/2015	Approved	\$840.00 -
Map/Lot 265-012-004	8/24/2015	Approved	\$6,690.00 -
Map/Lot 265-012-005	8/24/2015	Approved	\$6,410.00 -
YIELD TAX LEVY - WARRANT			
670 Schoodac Road 222-042-000	8/31/2015	Approved	Operation 15-227-09 \$ 1,196.17
BARN EASEMENTS			
43 Maple Steet 102-049-000	8/24/2015	Confirm/Sign	\$9,478 Preservation Easement - Renewal
199 Maple Street 102-090-000	8/24/2015	Confirm/Sign	\$6,432 Preservation Easement - Renewal
575 Maple Street 227-041-000	8/24/2015	Confirm/Sign	\$23,156 Preservation Easement - Renewal
2464 Hopkinton Road 240-007-000	8/24/2015	Confirm/Sign	\$3,069 Preservation Easement
112 Old Henniker Road 105-018-000	8/24/2015	Confirm/Sign	\$11,112 Preservation Easement
OTHER ITEMS			
MS-1 Extension	8/24/2015	Approved	Extension until 9/11/2015 for Barn Easements
Raffle Permit	8/24/2015	Approved	Town Line Trail Duster Snowmobile - Car Raffle at Fair
2016 Planning Map Maint. Agreemen	8/24/2015	Approved	CAI Technologies \$550.00

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the public meeting minutes of August 10, 2015. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Persechino to approve the minutes of the Public Select Board Meeting held on August 10, 2015. There being no discussion, Chair O'Brien called for the vote.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, Strickford, and Lux voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Persechino to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Select Board Meeting held on August 10, 2015. There being no discussion, Chair O'Brien called for the vote.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, and Strickford, voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; Lux abstaining. MOTION APPROVED 4-0-1.

V. BUSINESS

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Mr. Cass updated the Board on the status of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects. There are not enough funds available for all three projects. It can be requested that fund be transferred from on project to the other. Any funds received from NHDOT for an abandoned project would have to be reimbursed. The Board wants the Town Administrator to gather more input from the previous committee that was involved in presenting the initial proposals.

Block Grant

Mr. Cass highlighted the recent letter received from NH DOT concerning the highway funds being allocated to the Town through “Block Grant”. We will receive the amount budgeted in 2015, but the 2016 is dropping by an estimated \$74,000. The allocation method has changed with a larger share of the funds being allocated to 19 small towns recognizing the economics of maintaining Class V highway mileage when considered in relationship to their equalized valuation tax base.

The Select Board meeting was recessed for a Public Hearing.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED OHRV ORDINANCE (Appendix 1)

Chair O’Brien called the Public Hearing on the proposed OHRV Ordinance to order at 6:00 p.m. He explained the process of how the ordinance arrived at Public Hearing. The floor was opened to the public and several questions were asked for clarification. Other comments included:

- Bikes and pedestrians have priority over OHRVs.
- Bound Tree ATV Club President Bill Simpson recommended the following changes:
 - The section of Bound Tree Road that is used should be added.
 - The speed limit should be changed to 20 MPH.
 - The 3rd offense penalty should be clarified as decals will not issues
- The ATV club will purchase and put up the signs with a review by the Select Board.
- Police Chief Stephen Pecora offered the following information:
 - The ATV club does a terrific job keeping the trails cleaning and maintaining them.
 - According to the Henniker Police and NH Fish & Game, a speed limit of 20 MPH is too fast because riders actually go 25+ MPH.
 - Pine Street use has increased with the Burnham Intervale Road businesses, the library, the senior center and the fields, and this will add another element to the mix.
 - The snowmobile club meets with the Select Board yearly to obtain permission to travel on town roads.
 - Many out of town people will use the trails.
 - 10% of all the accidents in town happen at the intersection by the fire station.
 - Under the ordinance as written now, a 14 year old could be driving down the street,
 - The snowmobile club does its own policing of their trails. We do not have staff to be able to increase patrols in this Pine Street area.
 - The crossing of Route 103 in front of the fire station is a concern.
- Could the ordinance be temporary to see how it works?
- The ATV club would like to know if problems develop so that they can be dealt with by the club.
- Martin Marklin questioned the noise as he owns several properties in the area and is working to develop the area for artists.
- The ATV club would place a large warning sign in the woods for riders to be made aware of the busy area.

Chair O’Brien closed the public testimony portion of the hearing. The Board discussed how to proceed with options that the ordinance should move forward now, should be worked on but not rushed, and should go to committee to work out the details. Mr. O’Brien outlined six issues to be resolved:

1. Speed limit
2. Parking of the ATVs
3. Signage
4. 3rd offense penalty
5. Duration of the ordinance
6. Age of the drivers

After further discussion, the Board decided to meet and invite anyone who wishes to attend, to a meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting will be posted.

VII. PUBLIC APPOINTMENT

Naming of the Contoocook Fire Station

Longtime firefighter Dick Lord presented a plan complete with a drawing to name the Contoocook Fire Station after Fire Chief Richard J. Schaefer. The proposal included lettering on the front of the building and the addition of a clock in the peak. Mr. Lord said that Chief Schaefer was instrumental in the renovation of the station.

Mrs. Strickford said that she was very fond of Chief Schaefer, but not in favor of naming the station after anyone. She suggested that there were also other chiefs involved and would like to see all honored, not just one person. Mrs. Persechino echoed Mrs. Strickford and likes the idea of a memorial.

Janet Krzyzaniak stated that Chief Schaefer was the only one who died in the line of duty and that she supports naming the station after him.

Mr. O'Brien requested that Mr. Lord consider ways to honor all chiefs.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Merle Dustin reported that the stairs and risers at the bandstand are starting to deteriorate.

Ken Wilkins questioned whether the sign ordinance was being enforced and said that it is possible that all the lost dog signs on the telephone poles are a hoax.

Mr. Lux said that there are people parking on the lawn at the bandstand when they are unloading kayaks. A discussion ensued as to whether the Farmer's Market should be using the green space around the bandstand. There was no resolution to this question.

IX. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Cass reported that the replacement of the Turnberry Lane culvert is progressing without issue.

Mr. Lux has shared his interest in purchasing from the Town a piece of property at the corner of Clement Hill Road and Bailey Road. The property was the location of a school and owned by the School District who sold it to a private club. After the building burned the club sold it to the Town. Mr. Cass said that selling of Town property, other than tax deeded property, requires Town Meeting vote. On his recommendation the Board agreed to review all town property to see if there are properties that could be sold.

The Board accepted the resignation of Richard Steele from the Capital Improvement Program Committee.

X. OTHER ITEMS

The Board reviewed the rating of the barn located at 410 Stumpfield Road, (Map/Lot: 231-003-000). After discussion the Board accepted a 46% exemption on the barn.

Mrs. Persechino suggested the Board have a team for the Contoocook Carry. She and Mr. O'Brien are the only ones available that day.

Mr. Traum updated the Board on the work of the Budget Working Group which is comprised of two members from the Select Board, School Board, and Budget Committee. The group attended the School Superintendent and Town Administrator's yearly meeting with local real estate agents. The take-a ways

from the meeting are that the tax rate is at the max it can be without hurting real estate sales, and that it will be near impossible to attract large businesses to town, but there is a need for senior housing.

Mr. Lux left the meeting.

XI. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Nonpublic Session – RSA 91-A II (a) – Personnel

Mrs. Persechino moved to go into a non-public session regarding a personnel issue under Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (a). Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, and Strickford voted in favor, none opposed and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4–0).

The Board, Firefighter/Paramedic Nate Martel, and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 7:52 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 9:35 p.m.

Vote to seal nonpublic minutes:

Mrs. Persechino moved to seal the minutes of the just completed nonpublic session permanently. Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, and Strickford voted in favor, none opposed and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4–0).

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VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, and Strickford voted in favor, none opposed and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4–0).

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 9:35 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 9:40 p.m.

Vote to seal nonpublic minutes:

Mrs. Persechino moved to seal the minutes of the just completed nonpublic session permanently. Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, and Strickford voted in favor, none opposed and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4–0).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Strickford move that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Traum seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chair O'Brien called for the vote.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, and Strickford voted in favor, none opposed and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4–0).

Chair O'Brien declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal A. Cass, Town Administrator