

Minutes  
CONWAY SELECTBOARD  
Town Office, 32 Main Street  
March 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

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Select Board members present: John O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant to the TA; Chris Collins, FCAT; Domenic Poli, The Recorder; Michelle Turre, Ellen Lomastra, Open Space Committee; Laurie Sanders, consultant.

*John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.*

*Minutes*

February 22, 2016 - Tabled.  
February 29, 2016 - Tabled.

*Warrants*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the vendor warrant for \$62,434.84, the payroll warrant for \$90,191.77, and the payroll deduction warrant for \$23,542.52, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members* None.

*Citizens' Concerns* None.

*Old Business*

Town Meeting warrant: items so far -Tabled.

*New Business*

- *Housing Committee: report on progress on senior housing project*  
-Tabled due to lack of quorum at scheduled start of meeting.

- *Open Space Committee: proposal for a botanical inventory and natural resource options for the Rose Field*  
Laurie Sanders and Michelle Turre presented their proposal for the former to conduct the botanical inventory, noting that Laurie Sanders is an internationally renowned naturalist whose expertise Conway is fortunate to have.

Michelle Turre remarked on the overlapping interests of, and collaboration between, the OSC and the Planning and Conservation Commissions (South River Restoration Project), the Town Park Ad-Hoc and Housing Committees, and other Town groups; further, she indicated that conducting the survey is in keeping with the 5-year plan that OSC developed in conjunction with FRCOG. Michelle Turre noted that the results of the survey will be useful to the Town regardless of which use of the Rose property it ultimately pursues.

She reported that the survey would be completed by September and paid for with \$2650 in grant money already in hand. Laurie Sanders described her goal of delivering a readable and useful report which would include the natural and cultural history of the property and those around it, and referenced a similar project, covering many city parks, that she completed for Northampton. She indicated that she has reviewed the initial plans of the various Town committees, and is taking into consideration the mapping of areas proposed for construction of housing, parking, a community garden, and a septic system, among other possibilities. Her report will document such things as microhabitats, invasive species, the view shed, and threatened areas of riverbank. John O'Rourke expressed his support of the proposal, then indicated that he would make a motion for the Select Board to sign the proposal at its next meeting when Jim Moore, who is likely to be particularly interested in the project, will be present.

- *Letter of support for FRCOG grant: Healthy Watersheds Consortium (Deerfield River watershed toolkit)*

- **On a motion to sign and send the letter in support of the Healthy Watershed Consortium to be supported by the FRCOG, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*      None.

*Town Administrator Update*

Tom Hutcheson handed out the following update. He noted that the Finance Committee has recommended items 114 - 294 on Article 2 of the proposed Annual Town Meeting Warrant, and summarized, to the general agreement of those present, the content of his letter to Weston and Sampson.

- *Committees:* The Personnel Committee as a whole will not be able to attend next week's meeting, but a representative from the Committee, Bob Stone, will come in.
- *Departments:*
  - I am working with the Highway Superintendent Ron to expand the web site to be as clear as possible about standard operating procedures, to facilitate realistic expectations among Town residents.
  - A well-informed town resident who regularly walks Delabarre Avenue suggested that the Town get a quote for engineering services for a permanent fix for the erosion occurring on and under the road. It is conceivable that such a fix would be too expensive for the Town to consider, in which case we would be looking at discontinuing the road at some point.
  - The MMA Legislative Breakfast Friday covered a number of important topics: the Governor's "municipal modernization" bill; public records law reform; and energy legislation that would raise the net metering cap on solar projects.
  - I have been asked to make a presentation at a community sustainability conference in April in Northampton, at which I plan to talk about the work of the Energy Committee and the progress of Conway's GIS system in integrating Highway, wastewater, and agricultural information on a single platform, and the potential for modeling downtown development and town-wide issues.
  - The FRCOG FY16 wage and salary update is in; please let me know if you'd like to see it.
  - Our migration to the server system is progressing. We have had some trouble with our e-mail system and will be considering options next week, the most comprehensive being likely to be also the more expensive (say, \$3,000 per year, for all workstations, to subscribe to Microsoft Exchange on Windows 365). We hope to be able to propose less expensive options, but security and interoperability do come at a certain cost.
- *Projects*
  - After conferring with the Highway Superintendent, I have sent a note to the project manager at Weston and Sampson (Bill Storti) stating that I do not believe the final punch list of the ball field project is complete, as I do not believe the basketball court was shimmed, to eliminate pooling. It was repainted, but not levelled, which was an earlier requirement of the Town. I have not yet received a response; I anticipate I will, as there is \$50,000 to be returned to Weston and Sampson upon completion.
  - It is time to start thinking about the next MassWorks grant application. There are already at least two possible projects—a bridge replacement and a downtown septic system.

*Concerns of the Selectmen*      None.

*Mail*      None.

*Announcements*      None.

- Joint Meeting with Ashfield Select Board and others regarding South River Fluvial Erosion Hazard Plan: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, Ashfield Town Hall

*Executive Session*      Not Held.

*Next Meeting*

- *Scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Conway Town Office, 32 Main Street.*
- *On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Robert Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

John O'Rourke