

Minutes
Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, May 31, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
With Zoom Capability

Present for the Selectboard: Phil Kantor, Chair, Bob Armstrong; Absent: Erica Goleman

Others Present: Lisa Hayden, Administrative Agent, Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership; Beth Girshman, Planning Board; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Meeting Called to Order At 6:00 p.m. Phill called the meeting to order.

Minutes **On a motion from Phil to approve the minutes of May 23, 2022, Bob seconded, both said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants None

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members None

Public Comments None

Unfinished Business
Juneteenth discussion and vote on paid vs. unpaid holiday
Bob noted that the Selectboard had voted last year on the holiday but were hoping to get some direction from the State. Phil said that if we are going to add another paid holiday we need to take into consideration how the school is handling it. Assuming the schools have not completed their 180-day attendance by the time of Juneteenth, if we pay the school for it, it would cost around \$30K for the Grammar school and the cost for Frontier would be the same. It's an unfunded mandate from Boston. Veronique said that Town Counsel told her the holiday is not required by law to be paid. **On a motion from Phil to observe Juneteenth as a paid holiday on Monday this year, but to leave the status of Juneteenth with respect to paying employees for it in the future as undecided and to be voted on at next town meeting, Bob seconded, both said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

New Business
Beth Girshman to speak on ten-year update of Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership organization.
Beth yielded the floor to Lisa Hayden, Administrative Agent, Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, who gave the ten-year update. She reminded the board that the mission of the partnership plan is forest conservation, rural economic development, promoting sustainable management of resources, and supporting the municipalities in financial sustainability. The key to the success of the partnership is long-term funding. Conway's recent projects include the Forest Carbon Credit Assessment Program and the Town Forest Stewardship Plans. She also mentioned the tree planting that took place on the South Meadow recently. The Municipal Committee pilot program - payment in lieu of taxes needs to be revised to improve support to rural towns. The Forest Conservation Committee recently wrote letters of support to get the partnership region eligible for Forest Legacy, a U.S. Forest Service program which funds the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners. Heretofore the partnership has not been included in that program. A question was raised as to whether the Partnership has taken a stand on two bills being brought up to the State legislature regarding biomass – whether the State should be rewarding burning of wood to make electricity. Beth said they will see if the executive committee will consider this. Beth said that there needs to be a budget – a plan without action is nothing.

Town Administrator update

- The transfer station attendants have now done all their OSHA training. There will be another training on June 28th for how the super site hazardous materials intake works. I have purchased a 4 x 7' vinyl shed for the Conway Mall to hold donations, so that the Mall itself stays in order, and Mall volunteers may take items in as they choose. The compost and cooking oil programs seem to be well-received. I am also working on finding a contractor to repair the leaks in the Conway Mall, the steps to the bottles & cans rolloff, and the attendant's shed.
- The Public Buildings committee met to discuss future steps, which will include developing a Notice of Intent for the Conservation Commission as well as having a structural engineer walk through the old highway garage to give a report on its condition. The committee also plans to have a survey of the property lines. The septic location has been tentatively marked with 100' setback from the new well and 50' off the building.

Select Board member comments/concerns

None

Mail

None

Announcements

In one day, Ron had that mile on Shelburne Falls Road blacktopped and was finishing the edges of the road today.

Next Meeting

Monday, June 6, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road

Adjourn

At 7:10 p.m. on a motion from Phil to adjourn, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.