

TOWN OF HEBRON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 17, 2020

PRESENT: Paul Hazelton, Patrick Moriarty, Richard James, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Martha Twombly (Conservation Commission, Co-Chair), Ben Hall (Highway Supervisor), Karl Braconier

7:00 P.M.      **OPENED MEETING:** Chair Hazelton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

7:00 P.M.      **REQUEST TO USE HEBRON COMMON:** Karl Braconier approached the Select Board to request use of the Hebron Common. Mr. Braconier informed the Board that he would like to use the Hebron Common as a starting point or stopping point for a car ~~show~~ club. Mr. Braconier explained that he had spoken with Chief Austin who ~~m~~ sent him to the Board to make the request. The Board discussed the details of the event with Mr. Braconier. Martha Twombly added that a Gathering Permit may be required based on the number of attendees. Chair Hazelton noted that parking on the grass of the common should be avoided as there was enough parking on pavement available. It was noted that the Hebron Village Store should be informed of the event. Selectman James suggested to Mr. Braconier preparing a write up for the town newsletter. The Board noted that a Gathering Permit would not be required if less than 50 individuals attended.

7:10 P.M.      **PROPOSED DONATION OF LAND TO HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Vice-Chair Moriarty informed the Board that the Conservation Commission was approached by ~~a property owner that owns land~~ Dawn Lemieux and Parker Griffin about land on Spectacle Pond about donating the land to Hebron as it abuts the Hebron Town Forest. Ms. Twombly noted that the property with the cottage could be purchased ~~for \$75,000~~. Chair Hazelton commented that the town should support this proposed donation to conserve more land. Vice-Chair Moriarty relayed to Ms. Twombly that the Conservation Commission should communicate to the property owner that the town is open to the donation, but at this time there are no guarantees. Selectman James noted that purchasing the property would need to go before the voters through a warrant article at town meeting. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated that the property value was \$108,000 so the impact on loss of property taxes to the town was minimal. The Board encouraged Ms. Twombly to pursue the proposal.

7:18 P.M.      **CLEARING PILES OF DEBRIS FROM THE COCKERMOUTH RIVER:** Chair Hazelton informed Ben Hall that the Board had pursued in the past contacting property owners along the Cockermouth River looking for permission to remove debris from the river to prevent damage to the property. Mr. Hall asked the Board if machinery would be needed and what would happen to the trees that were being removed. Chair Hazelton felt that an excavator with an extended boom would work as the machinery cannot be in the water. The roots and stumps need to remain intact on the riverbank. Chair Hazelton and Mr. Hall agreed to walk the Cockermouth River to locate the worst of the debris piles, determine the best machinery for the project, and make a plan for removing the trees. Vice-Chair Moriarty informed Mr. Hall that funding for the project was limited and the sections with the most debris should be addressed first.

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY JULY 11 & 12, 2019 DISASTER UPDATE:** Chair Hazelton relayed to Ben Hall a conversation that he had with Chief Fischer (Emergency Management Director) regarding completing projects on Hobart Hill Road and at the entrance of the Hebron Town Forest as funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency had been granted. Chair Hazelton informed Mr. Hall the culvert needed to be replaced and repaved on Hobart Hill Road and the entrance of the Hebron Town Forest needed to have some fill added over the washout. The projects needed to be completed soon so the request for reimbursement could be filed.

NOTE: Any changes to the minutes will be reflected in the next Select Board Meeting minutes.

Mr. Hall informed the Board that the culvert had been replaced on Hobart Hill Road and would be paved at the same time as Indian Point Road.

7:32 P.M.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifest**.
- The Select Board reviewed the property valuation **Update Agreement for 2021 with Avitar Associates of New England, Inc.** Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that the agreement outlined the process for performing the update and covered the requirements of the NH Department of Revenue Administration. ~~Vice~~-Chair Hazelton moved to accept the Update Agreement as proposed and reviewed by Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator, seconded by Selectman James. The vote was unanimous.
- Selectman James moved to authorize Chair Hazelton to sign the **Power Up Generator Service Co. proposal** to repair the generator at the Highway Garage, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Sanborn noted that the work would be done at the time of the installation of the generator at the Town Office Building to reduce additional travel costs.

7:40 P.M.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- The Select Board reviewed the email from Doug McQuilkin (Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Chair) looking for the Select Board's position on the **requirement of a building permit application for driveway installation**. There were different opinions on the requirements at the ZBA meeting. Vice-Chair Moriarty agreed to review the concerns that arose at the meeting with the zoning ordinance for inconsistencies.
- The Board reviewed **the letter prepared by Corey and Justin Dockswell, Directors of Wicosuta regarding the decision to rent the camp out** to another organization in order to bring in income as Camp Wicosuta was unable to open for the 2020 season due to regulations set by NH Governor Sununu as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Dockswell would like the letter sent to Hebron residents and taxpayers to explain the unfortunate circumstances the camp faced. Selectman James moved to approve including the letter in the upcoming town newsletter, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Vice-Chair Moriarty asked Ms. Sanborn if a **response was received from the letter to Governor Sununu** addressing concerns of students testing positive for COVID-19 at colleges being placed into surrounding communities to quarantine without informing the town officials of the plans. Ms. Sanborn replied that nothing had been received. Selectman James moved to authorize the Town Administrator to follow-up with the Governor's Office looking for a reply, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that she had not heard back from Conneston Construction, Inc. regarding the **leak in the roof on the porch of the addition to the Academy Building**. The Board reviewed the letter to Bryant Lehr (Vice-President of Conneston Construction, Inc.) requesting that the matter be addressed. The Board signed the letter.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that a letter was received from an anonymous individual stating concerns with a **driveway that was installed on George Road not to current town specifications**. The individual was concerned with someone pulling out onto George Road without being able to stop on a slippery winter day due to the excessive slope of the driveway. Ms. Sanborn stated that the letter would be filed in the property file where the driveway was installed and addressed by the Highway Supervisor and Planning Board Chair at the time an application for a building permit was filed. The driveway would need to be repaired to the current specifications before the building permit could be issued.

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- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that Terry Murphy (Select Board Chair, Town of Bridgewater), contacted the office concerned with **changes to the State Education Funding formula** and the possibility of the return of donor towns. Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board Mr. Murphy's concerns with the Commission on Education Funding review of the current funding formula for education and where the commission is leaning towards addressing formula inconsistencies. Mr. Murphy encouraged the Board to follow the postings from Jane Farrini (Assistant City Attorney, City of Portsmouth) regarding the latest commission report that was prepared by American Institute for Research which leans towards bringing back donor towns. Mr. Murphy expressed interest in hiring a lobbyist to fight for the cause against reestablishing donor towns. Vice-Chair Moriarty and Chair Hazelton discussed the issue with using property taxes to fund education. The town can only control the town portion of property taxes and the school and county taxes continually increase without taxpayer control resulting in property taxes that individuals are unable to pay. A discussion was held ~~about a payroll tax~~ that would ~~beraise funds~~ based on a percentage of earnable income. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated this discussion was brought up at one of the community forums held by the Commission on Education Funding. Vice-Chair Moriarty noted that the commission was leaning towards the State Wide Education Property Tax (S.W.E.P.T) formula. Chair Hazelton discussed with the Board hiring a lobbyist to discourage bringing back donor towns in the future and reviewed the impact to the Town of Hebron financially.

8:05 P.M.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter from Newfound Area Nursing Association** – noting that the merger with Pemi-Baker Community Health did not go through as both organizations did not envision the same path moving forward.

8:06 P.M.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The Select Board reviewed the **Protocols for Using the Upstairs Meeting Room** by the boards/commissions/committees and the public. The Board asked Ms. Sanborn to distribute the protocols to the boards/commissions/committees as they are interested in meeting in person again.

8:08 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of September 5, 2020 and made the following correction: page 1, second bullet under *Discussion*, fifth sentence – replace “the hours worked she is alone in the building” with “she would be alone in the building and”, top of page 2, second sentence – remove “down”, - remove “or the room is reserved” and replace with “”is planned for the room the next day”, page 2, under *Update on violations at 385 North Shore Road*, third sentence, - add “there were” in front of “wetland issues” at the end of the sentence, and page three, fourth bullet, first sentence – change “temperature” to “temp” and change “plug” to “install”. Selectman James moved to accept the Select Board Meeting minutes of September 5, 2020 as amended, seconded by Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

8:15 P.M.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Chair Hazelton moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91A-3, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. Paul Hazelton - yes Pat Moriarty - yes Richard James - yes

8:20 P.M.

**OUT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Selectman James moved to come out of non-public session, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. Paul Hazelton - yes Pat Moriarty - yes Richard James - yes Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to seal the non-public session

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minutes for five years, seconded by Selectman James. Paul Hazelton - yes Pat Moriarty - yes Richard James - yes

8:22 P.M.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Selectman James updated the Board on the **meeting with Katie Lavelle (Certified Computer Solutions, Inc.)** regarding possible solutions to the town's information technology needs and reducing the cost for services that are not necessary. Selectman James reported that Ms. Lavelle will meet with the Board once a proposal had been prepared to discuss how to proceed.
- Selectman James discussed with the Board an **email received from a resident** on Indian Point Road regarding the lack of proper notice for upcoming road work. Vice-Chair Moriarty questioned the process for notifying property owners. Ms. Sanborn noted that if a road is going to be closed for any period of time that a seven day advanced notice is sent to the property owners on the road where the work is to be done. Selectman James noted that the individual was not able to receive email notices ~~s-either-which-an-email-notice-~~ that had been sent on Friday, September 11 before the work was -to be done on Monday, September 14. Ms. Sanborn stated that if an individual unsubscribes from any town email notice or town newsletter, the individual needs to resubscribe on their own. They are limited to the number of times which they can resubscribe. Chair Hazelton agreed to discuss this with Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor.

8:30 P.M.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Selectman James moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M., seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn  
Town Administrator