

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Grafton, New Hampshire
Minutes of June 2, 2020*

Present: Steve Darrow, Chair; Jennie Joyce, Cindy Kudlik, and Sandi Pierson (recorder).

Others: Tom McGinty, Linda Lees, Daniel Lees, Rick Jackson, Phyllis Averine, John Babiarz, John Bautel, and Stacey Glazier.

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes:

- Jennie motioned to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020 as written. Cindy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- Jennie motioned to approve the nonpublic minutes of May 19, 2020 as written. Cindy seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- Cindy motioned to approve the minutes of May 27, 2020 as written. Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.
- Cindy motioned to approve the nonpublic minutes of May 27, 2020 as written. Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Select Board announcements:

Steve stated that a Kinsman Road resident was unhappy with the town's road ditching work at his property. Road Agent Bob Bassett followed up with the resident and the situation was resolved. Steve thanked the road agent for his prompt response and considerate resolution.

Ex-officio reports:

Steve reported that Angus Gorman has been re-elected as Chair to the Planning Board. Gary Whitney has assumed the position of Secretary.

Public comment:

Phyllis Averine expressed concern of the safety factor of pontoon boats approaching the shores of Huff Beach. She recommended changing the swim boundary lines to prevent them from entering the area. She said at this point there are no swim lines in the water. This led to a discussion whether a State permit is required for the swim line; Phyllis thought there was. Steve said he had never seen a permit from the State but will have Sue Smith follow up upon her return. Phyllis also expressed concern about the repeated vandalism including Huff Beach items being thrown in the water. She stated she has been trying to keep the beach clean and in order. The Selectmen will refer the pontoon boat issue to the police chief.

Public hearing on the proposal to increase the cost of tire disposal at the transfer station:

At 6:15 p.m. Steve opened the public hearing. He recapped the proposed cost increases for the different size tires. (See minutes of May 19, 2020). Comments included:

- Rick Jackson said he is following up with the options of various companies that will take tires.
- Daniel Lees said that he and his wife have been cleaning the roadsides and bringing tires to the dump at their own cost. He said if the cost of tire disposal increases, especially for a set of four 19"-inch tires going from \$24.00 to \$50.00, many more will be dumped on the roadside. He recommended putting the cost of tire disposal into the municipal budget instead of disposal being by fees.
- Rick stated that the tire fee collection goes into the Revolving Account and tire disposal is paid from that account. Rick suggested rounding off the disposal fees to the nearest dollar so the transfer station will not need to make change.
- Steve suggested the idea of having a couple of "free tire disposal days." It was also suggested that each resident have the opportunity to dispose of four tires per year at no charge for each vehicle registration. Steve did not think the transfer station employees should get involved with the documentation of that.
- Linda Lees asked if the residents will be notified of the increase, and if there is money in the budget should the Board decide to have the municipal budget absorb the disposal cost. Steve said the public will be notified and that money was not allocated in the transfer station budget for tire disposal. He added that the Board is able to shift money out of other categories as long as they don't over-expend the town budget as a whole.

There being no further comments, Steve closed the public hearing. Further deliberation by the Board was tabled.

Public comment:

John Bautel discussed with the Board the traffic hazard at the corner of Williams Hill and Riddle Hill roads. There is presently a Yield sign the Williams Hill end; John would like that replaced with a Stop sign. He said with the summer traffic from Half Moon Pond and the anticipated opening of Ruggles Mine, they can expect the traffic to increase. He said at this time the owners of Ruggles Mine are handling a major vandalism situation at their site. John said that he has spoken to Chief Poitras about the traffic hazard concern and the police are going to use a monitor device to get an idea on the flow of traffic. After discussion it was agreed the Select Board will put the matter on the next meeting agenda and get input from Chief Poitras.

East Grafton Town Hall:

The Board reviewed plans submitted by Steve Kuligoski for the replacement of the side steps of the town hall. After discussion the Board concurred the design should be changed to allow for larger steps and an appropriate roof over them. They will ask Steve Kuligoski to resubmit a proposal. Cindy said that perhaps Bob Bassett could assume the task of removing the present staircase when Steve Kuligoski is ready to replace them.

This led to discussion about other maintenance at the town hall. Steve said there was suggestion to remove the suspended ceiling to expose the original ceiling. John Babiarz said he believed the original ceiling is wainscoting. Cindy suggested a committee be formed specifically for town hall repairs and improvements. The Board noted the nice interior painting job done by volunteers earlier.

Other business/correspondence:

- The Board will draft a letter to the Library Trustees notify them that no new construction should take place this year nor should any building materials be stored on town property. Cindy said that Assistant State Librarian Laurie Fisher (NH State Library) felt there should be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of the Grafton Library and the Grafton Library Trustees. Librarian Stacey Glazier said she took notes at the meeting with Laurie Fisher, at which time Ms. Fisher clarified the roles of the different organizations and boards involved with the library.
- A number of letters were sent out to property owners regarding the violation of the junk ordinance. No one has responded. They will get input from the Health Officer. Cindy said she called a Johnson Lane resident to ask him to meet with the Board regarding the junk ordinance but he did not respond.
- An agenda was received for the Mascoma School District Finance and Facility Committee meeting.
- A letter was received from a Paula Webster, a property owner on Kinsman Road, asking about a subdivision plan. The Board was unsure what she was referring to and will have Administrative Assistant Sue Smith follow up.
- More inventory forms have been received.
- Steve attended the ceremony on Memorial Day. It was well-attended and very nice.

Public comment:

- Tom McGinty said the high cost of tire disposal is probably the result of the distance of travel from Grafton to a facility. He suggested it might be worthwhile for Grafton to consider trucking the tires themselves. Jennie suggested a using a facility that grinds tires for alternative use; they might take them at no cost.
- Tom McGinty asked if Slab City Motorsports was holding races. John Babiarz said they were just practicing at this time. Steve said an event is planned for June 12 but at this time it is not certain it will happen.
- Fire Chief John Babiarz felt the town should charge a property owner \$1,400.00 for the cost of a fire call which was caused by carelessness and which the fire breached an abutting property. The Board concurred and will consult with the town's attorney to get a clarification on the billing procedure, including if it can be with a lien. John will submit the bill to the town office.
- Stacey Glazier said ATVs have created ruts in the berm at the end of the maintained section of French Hill Road which has created water run-offs and road wash-outs. This will be referred to the road agent.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson
Clerk pro tem