

**TOWN OF WALPOLE
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
AUGUST 13, 2020**

Selectboard Present: Peggy Pschirrer (Chair); Cheryl Mayberry; Steven Dalessio

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Pschirrer called this meeting of the Selectboard to order at 6:30 PM in the Walpole Town Hall. This meeting is being recorded. Also attending this meeting is Mrs. Sarah Downing, Manager of Administration, and Ms. Regina Borden, Recording Secretary. Mrs. Alicia Flammia, Chair of the Walpole Conservation Commission is expected to attend.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Accounts Payable Check Register in the total amount of \$47,213.44 for checks issued August 14, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Accounts Payable Check Register in the total amount of \$928,050.00 for a check issued on August 14, 2020. This check is made payable to Consolidated Communications for the Broadband Project. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

PUBLIC BUSINESS:

CAMPING ON TOWN PROPERTIES and WALKER ROAD PROPERTY: Mrs. Alicia Flammia, Chair of the Walpole Conservation Commission (WCC), came into the meeting. Mrs. Pschirrer reported that the Selectboard has been reading minutes from the WCC meetings. The Selectboard has received comments from various people in the community about the lack of access on Walker Road to the Connecticut River and no camping. People cannot get their kayaks and canoes down to the river since there is a gate.

Mrs. Flammia explained the WCC does not feel camping should be allowed because of three issues: 1) fire; 2) human waste, and 3) trash (what you take in, you should take out). Over the years another issue has been illegal use of the properties by the homeless, etc. The WCC members are aware of comments made and the article in the Clarion. The WCC is open to the idea of camping. Right now they are thinking about developing a permit system. There would be control over sensitive town-owned properties like, the Reservoir. At one time there was evidence of someone setting up a campsite on the berm at the Reservoir; there was evidence of a fire. There should not be any camping on the dam. Mrs. Pschirrer received a note from Mr. Lew Shelley that the Society for the Protection of NH Forests does not allow camping on any of their properties. They should post their properties and put it on their kiosk. Mr. Dalessio thinks whatever their decision is about camping, it should go before Town Meeting for a vote. Mrs. Pschirrer, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Flammia agreed. There was discussion relative to allowing camping in past years and if there is a fire permit requirement in place. Mrs. Flammia pointed out the problem is no one is getting a fire permit. This used to be done responsibly. Mr. Dalessio advised the Walpole Forest Fire Warden is Mr. Dick Hurlburt. The Selectboard Office cannot issue a fire permit. There needs to be enforcement. Mrs. Pschirrer summarized the WCC would have to create an ordinance that would go to Town Meeting. It would require campers on public properties to get a fire permit. Mrs. Flammia feels there should be a limit on the number of days a fire permit would be legal. Mrs. Pschirrer stated the ordinance would have to include an appeal process if someone was denied a permit, enforcement, etc. It would be a lengthy document. Two public hearings would be required before Town Meeting. Mrs. Pschirrer would like the WCC to approach camping as an education issue.

The WCCC could educate people on how to camp on Town-owned properties. Mrs. Flammia feels an education program would have to be in writing. They could start with Clarion articles. Mrs. Pschirrer suggested having a public meeting; discuss safety, have handouts, maps and trails. This could appeal to many people. Mrs. Flammia feels this is a great approach. The Selectboard expressed their willingness to help the WCC on this project.

Mrs. Pschirrer reported that Walker Road complaints came from people who made donations but now feel they do not have access to the Connecticut River. Mrs. Flammia understands this. However, the deed states the property is for conservation, agriculture and recreational purposes. There are to be no motorized vehicles. The road down to the river is not in good condition. Vehicles will get stuck. Their intent was never to open that road to vehicles to drop off boats, kayaks or canoes. Vehicles would park and people would then walk to the river. Last year NH Fish and Game had to close off an area by the CT River because of illegal activities. Another reason for the gate. Mr. Gowdy had problems with people driving their vehicles all over fields that he works hard to maintain. He asked about a gate. Mr. Dalessio noted when fundraising was being done, recreation was important; a gate was not mentioned. He heard five people state they will not donate again. Mrs. Flammia stated it is unfortunate that people feel betrayed. The responsibilities of the WCC have changed with stewardship of this property. It is doing what is best for the land. Mrs. Pschirrer said communication is important. Residents want to be kept informed on developments. Mr. Dalessio mentioned having an unlocked gate but have a sign that states “Enter at Your Own Risk”. Mrs. Flammia thought they could try this but if there are problems, they could lock it again. Mrs. Pschirrer asked about the expiration date on the Gowdy agreement. Mrs. Flammia will check on this. Mrs. Pschirrer thanked Mrs. Flammia for attending this meeting. They are grateful for having the opportunity to discuss camping and the Walker Road property.

PAYROLL:

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Payroll Check Register for the week ending August 8, 2020, in the amount of \$29,425.42 for checks dated August 14, 2020, and the 941 Payroll Tax Transfer of \$5,659.84. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES:

SELECTBOARD MINUTES – August 6, 2020: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting of August 6, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION - August 6, 2020: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard Session of August 6, 2020, as submitted. These Minutes will remain sealed. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of the following Committee reports:

- Walpole Fire District Meeting – June 10, 2020;
- Walpole Fire District Meeting – July 8, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

MAP and LOT #020-052-000 re: Building Permit: Mr. Dalessio moved to approve and sign the letter to the owner of Map and Lot #020-052-000 regarding the lack of a Building Permit. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

MUNICIPAL LIGHTING AGREEMENT WITH NHDOT: The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of the letter dated August 11, 2020, from Mr. Jason Tremblay, P.E., NH Department of Transportation, regarding the Municipal Lighting Agreement.

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Municipal Lighting Agreement between the NH Department of Transportation and the Town of Walpole regarding lights on the Arch Bridge. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Recreation Area Parking Lot: Lot Line Adjustment and Deed with Letter: Mrs. Pschirrer had attended the Planning Board meeting last Tuesday. They approved the Lot Line Adjustment for the Recreation Area Parking Lot. The Town will have the deed and survey recorded. Mrs. Pschirrer will send the letter to Ms. Mary Henry, Clerk of the Fall Mountain Regional School Board, confirming that the school will have use of the parking area as long as the school is in existence.

Pending Further Actions:

The following Agenda items will remain on this pending list as there is no new information available at this time:

- Houghton Brook Fish Ladder;
- Huntington Realty, Karlson Realty and Chamberlain Machine Sewer Easement Agreement;
- Mill Pond Beaver Activity. Ms. Mayberry will ask Mr. Rau for an update on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lawn Signs: Mrs. Pschirrer reported that new signs have been appearing around Town. The Selectboard has had positive and negative comments. These signs do not reflect the opinion of the entire Town as there has not been a meeting on this issue. The complaints received deal mostly to the first line “In This Town We Believe” because there has been no general Town discussion. The signs are temporary and are on private properties. The Selectboard has not made nor will they take a stand on this one way or the other. This has been their custom over the years. Ms. Mayberry said the signs imply the Town issued the signs. Someone contacted her and wanted to buy one. Mr. Dalessio reported that private citizens are funding the signs.

Reserved Parking Signs at Town Hall: Mrs. Pschirrer advised that there has been a problem recently with parking vehicles at the Town Hall. The Selectboard approved having signs put up that state “Reserved for Town Hall Business – Monday through Friday – 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM”.

Walpole Street Lighting: Mrs. Pschirrer acknowledged receipt of an email from Steve Grenier who has worked with Liberty Utilities on LED lighting upgrade projects. He inquired about programs that might be available to the Town to upgrade its street lighting. There are rebates and incentives available. Mr. Grenier is willing to pursue this with Liberty Utilities and Franklin Energy. The Selectboard agreed this is a great idea. Mr. Dalessio suggested that funds be taken from the Highway Block Grant. The estimate for the project is about \$10,500.

Mr. Dalessio moved to allow Mr. Steve Grenier to pursue upgrading the Town streetlights to LED and funds will be taken from the Highway Block Grant. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Pschirrer will email Mr. Grenier tomorrow to tell him the Selectboard is delighted with his suggestion and would like him to proceed.

Department Managers Meeting: Mrs. Pschirrer suggested that a Dept. Manager's meeting be scheduled next Thursday, August 20th, at 5:00 PM. An agenda item will be the 2021 Budget. There was a consensus to have preliminary budgets due on September 10th. The Selectboard and Mr. Rich Kreissle will have their first review on Monday, September 14th, starting at 9:00 AM. in the Walpole Town Hall.

Monadnock Sustainable Hub: The Selectboard had received copies of an email from Ms. Dori Drachman, Monadnock Sustainable Hub. This is part of the organizing group for a statewide effort called Community Power New Hampshire. The Selectboard discussed a need to finalize other issues first. Mrs. Pschirrer will listen in on the multi-town Zoom meeting on August 25th when there will be discussion on the basics of Community Power and will report back at their next meeting.

Recycling Center: Mr. Dalessio encouraged people to look at the new Reuse Building at the Recycling Center. It is starting to look very nice.

RECESS SELECTBOARD MEETING:

Mr. Dalessio moved to recess this Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard will enter into a meeting as the Hooper Trustees. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved at 7:35 PM.

The regular Selectboard meeting resumed at 7:38 PM.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION:

Ms. Mayberry moved to enter into a Non-Public Selectboard Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss (a) Personnel and (c) Reputations. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a roll call vote with Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved at 7:38 PM.

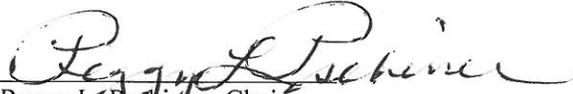
The regular Selectboard meeting resumed at 8:13 PM.

Ms. Mayberry moved that the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard Session of August 13, 2020, be sealed. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

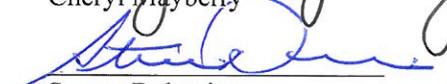
ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mayberry moved to adjourn this Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. With Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Borden, Recording Secretary


Peggy L. Pschirrer, Chair


Cheryl Mayberry


Steven Dalessio

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections will be found in the Minutes of the August 20, 2020, Selectboard meeting.)

