

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

The Selectmen's meeting for Thursday, January 7, 2016 started at 7:00 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman O'Brien, Selectman Hatch, Chairman Clark, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil.

Chairman Clark opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING ON USING \$230,000 FROM THE CONSERVATION BOND

A portion of the meeting was a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission regarding the public hearing on using \$230,000 from the Conservation Bond towards the purchase by Southeast Land Trust of Stonehouse Forest. The public hearing opened at 7:02 p.m. There were introductions of the Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen. Chairman of the Conservation Commission, John Wallace spoke of the Conservation fund money. Duane Hyde from the Southeast Land Trust spoke about the organization. It is a regional land trust. Mr. Hyde gave a background of the Stonehouse Forest project. It is 1,500 acres that borders Swain Road, Merry Hill Road, and Route 9 & 202. The property is owned by one individual but it is in three corporate names. They convinced the owner to sell the property and the land will be put in conservation easement. The cost of the property is \$2.8 million dollars. The property abuts the Stonehouse Pond easement along with the Newhall property easement. It is also near the Barrington Town Forest. The property has tremendous resource value. It has high quality watersheds that drain into the Lamprey River and the Bellamy River. It will be open for the public to enjoy. There will be parking, kiosks, and will be available for hunting and fishing. They also want to work with the local snowmobile club to opening up some of the trails. The SELT will be the owner and manager of the property. Taxes will be paid at the current use rate. They will also pay timber taxes to the town when a cut is done. The overall project is \$3,300,000. They currently have 50% of the money raised. Some of the Grants are conditional that the town will contribute to the project. The Conservation Bond from the town would be \$230,000 along with \$220,000 from the Conservation Fund. They may need to come back to the town for additional money. They will be having a hike on Saturday, February 6th at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Clark opened the meeting up for public comment. There was a question about cutting timber. Phil Auger, a local forester, will be managing a cut that is necessary for wildlife generation. There will be a forest management plan created. Where will public access be? They haven't looked for a precise location - maybe off of Route 9 & 202 and Merry Hill Road. The development threat is real and developers want to get into this part of Barrington. Who will be responsible for trail maintenance? It will be the responsibility of the SELT. A geologist noted that the property is also a ground water reserve. This is a large tract of unbroken land. The Thompson's would like to donate towards this project. Chris Vachon feels that the town is out of financial balance. He would like to wait a year for this money. Pam Failing feels this is a great opportunity as opportunities like this don't come along very often. Mr. Vachon stated that the town currently has a lot going on with workforce house, elderly housing, and land development i.e. Fish and Game will hold that property open to the public in perpetuity. ATVs will be prohibited but snowmobiles will be allowed. The pros far outweigh the cons. Conservation Commission member, Ann Melvin moved to recommend to the Selectman to use the money from the Conservation Bond, seconded by Daniel Ayer. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative by the Conservation Commission. Conservation Commission member, Dan Ayer moved to also use money from the Conservation

Fund, seconded by Alison Webb. It was unanimously voted in affirmative by the Conservation Commission. Selectman O'Brien moved to utilize \$230,000 from the Conservation Bond for the project, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative. Selectman Bussiere moved to spend \$220,000 from the Conservation Fund for the project, seconded by Selectman Gaudiello. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Chestnut Forest Subdivision – Marcia Gasses updated the Board on the open space issue of this subdivision off of Tolend Road. The Conservation Commission would like to see the town own the open space. Members of the Con. Commission would like to walk the property before they make a formal recommendation. Selectman O'Brien noted that the access is limited and the town would be paying for monitoring. He stood corrected, if the town owned the property it wouldn't have to be monitored. The open space is made up of a prime wetland. Members of the Conservation Commission will walk the property and come up with more information. Selectman Hatch wanted to know if the town owns it what uses is allowed for town residents. SELT will also take a look at it to see if the open space is anything they are interested in. The public hearing closed at 8:22 p.m.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. The Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 20th at noon to sign the Warrant
2. Administrator Scruton noted that there are two vacancies on the Planning Board
3. Administrator Scruton stated the hourly rates for the town's attorney's Walter Mitchell - \$195 per hour, Jae Whitelaw - \$180 per hour and Steve Whitley - \$160 per hour.
4. At the previous meeting, Steve Jeffery claimed that the code enforcement officer went on his property without permission. Mr. Huckins did not go on the property. He viewed the property by driving by. He was following up on a written complaint.
5. There had been a request of a Highway Line breakdown. All of the expenditures were for roads except a portion from the ECLC school project, the expanded parking area by the food pantry and for paving at the highway garage.
6. Since 2008 Scott Lawson Group has been paid \$23,644 – more than half of the work was done before April, 2011.
7. David Witham from Primex visited the site of the demolition of the old town office and was basically satisfied with the steps we have taken for safety and liability. He suggested more tape and barricades around the two piles of asbestos containing debris along with signs identifying that they contained asbestos.
8. There hasn't been a final determination as to how to dispose of the asbestos at the old town office. There is a chance that it could be buried onsite with a certain depth of fill and then could be paved over for the parking lot. Administrator Scruton asked, at this point does the Board want to leave the foundation and fill it in or remove the foundation? Selectman Bussiere feels that the material should not be buried on site. Chairman Clark noted a discussion with DES. DES will look at the building plans and also talked with Scott Lawson Group. Does the Board want to bury the waste or have it removed from the property? It was decided to wait for more information. Paul Mausteller asked about finding the asbestos and why did S & R keep working. DES should be consulted. Chris Vachon feels if the land is scraped clean and we won't have to worry about it again. Steve Graves asked when the job was halted. Administrator Scruton stated that the company doing the construction work was certified in asbestos removal. Andy Knapp felt that this is the biggest gross management and mismanagement of a project. JoEllen Gallent noted that the RFP stated that there was no asbestos. David Marshall who owns several properties around the site felt that abutters

should have been notified. The dust was blowing in his direction. He feels there was poor communication. Dan Ayer stated that he has enough plastic to cover the job because the weather and offered to do the work. He feels the Board got set up by S & R Construction. Selectman Gaudiello felt that the material should be removed from the site. Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Bussiere and Selectman O'Brien would like to see the material removed from the site. Selectman Hatch and Chairman Clark would like to see how much to budget before making a decision. The Board will meet on Monday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. and discuss this matter further.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures on a corrective deed, abatement #1 and the appointment to office for Peter Royce and Linda Markiewicz.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.