



BARRINGTON, NH SELECT BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, August 12th, 2019

The Select Board meeting for Monday, August 12th, 2019 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chairperson Knapp, Selectperson Ayer, Selectperson Bailey, Selectperson Hatch, Administrator MacIver, and Municipal Office Administrator Tiffany Caudle. Selectperson Hardekopf was not in attendance.

Chairperson Knapp welcomed all in attendance, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and requested all silence their cell phones.

Recognitions

A welcome was given to Road Agent Marc Moreau, who has been appointed effective 8/12/19. Congratulations to Town Administrator MacIver as well for reaching his first anniversary with the Town of Barrington!

Appointments

Each board, committee, and commission was invited to participate in the meeting to share information about current and upcoming projects in the Town of Barrington.

Select Board and Town Administrator-

Present: Chairperson Andrew Knapp, Selectperson Dawn Hatch, Selectperson George Bailey, Selectperson Daniel Ayer, Town Administrator Conner MacIver

Absent: Selectperson Tracy Hardekopf

Chairperson Knapp spoke to recent Town successes, including achieving voter approval for a new Town Hall building, technology and file storage improvements, various construction projects throughout the Town, and the ongoing Compensation Study. Administrator MacIver presented information about the current status of the Town budget, specific expenses, reasons for variances, revenue, a comparison to 2018, and expectations through the end of the fiscal year.

Public Comment

Robert Drew of 10 Stagecoach Road questioned the Meals and Rooms tax and why the difference in Miscellaneous revenue. Administrator MacIver explained the State sends the Town a check for Meals and Rooms tax once per year, typically in October, and it has not been received yet. The Miscellaneous line variation is attributed to the Mallego Bridge project, which is also paid by the state in portioned payments. The final payment will be credited to that line when it is received by the Town after project completion.

Conservation Commission and Trails Committee-

Conservation Committee Present: Anne Melvin, Marika Wilde (alt), John Wallace (alt), Glenn Gould (alt)

Absent: Ken Grossman (chair), Pam Failing, Doug Bogen, Charlie Briggs

Trails Committee Present: Anne Melvin, John Wallace, Marika Wilde, Jack Gale

Absent: Charlie Tatham (chair), Denis Beaulieu, Doug Winter

The presentation shared the responsibilities of the committees, recent and historical successes including growth of conservation lands in Barrington and trail development, and upcoming projects and goals, including the acquisition of properties to double the Goodwill Conservation Area and improve the parking area, re-blaze the trails in the Town Forest, and create a trail to the ledges from the Goodwill Trail.

Public Comment

Patricia Gingrich of Peabody Way asked for explanation of a "Change Fee." Administrator MacIver discussed the Land Use Change Tax, how 75% of that tax is credited to the Conservation Commission as a result of a Town vote. Mrs. Gingrich questioned whether the Conservation Commission is involved in any environmental testing. Environmental testing is not part of the Conservation Commission's charge. There is an upcoming environmental assessment to some lands in Town.

Roger Gingrich of Peabody Way questioned testing of fish in the Town's lakes. The Barrington Conservation Commission does not complete testing of lakes and wildlife in Town.

Steve Diamond asked if any trails are wheelchair accessible in the Town, both for wheelchairs and emergency services. Part of Goodwill Trail is considered wheelchair accessible, and possibly part of the Town Forest. The majority of trails

are near a road which would be able to accommodate a vehicle, reducing response time.

Technology Committee

Present: Administrator MacIver, Chairperson Knapp, Police Chief Robert Williams

Absent: Dave Hallback, Will Lenharth

Technology improvements include implementation of Office 365, utilization of Rockport Technologies in order to oversee IT services through Town. The committee recently met with the Police Department to discuss the use of body cameras in the future. There will be a new phone system implemented in November, which will save the Town a significant amount of money, and improve the Town's Information Technology security.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Town Hall Building Committee

Present: Administrator MacIver, Chairperson Knapp, Selectperson Bailey, Inspector Huckins, Brian Lenzi, Casey O'Brien (chair), Bob Tessier

Absent: Paul Sanders

The committee has reviewed plans for designs and similar requests from another community in order to create a Request for Qualifications for potential builders. The RFQ will be presented to the Board on August 26th, with the hopes of advertising and selecting a builder in time to begin the building process in the Spring of 2020.

Public Comment

Patricia Gingrich stepped forward to ask why there are no women on the Committee. The committee shared that while all residents are welcome, there have been no women volunteers. Meetings are every other Wednesday at 7:30am at the Town Hall.

John Wallace of Merry Hill Road asked if the Town Hall will have meeting space, as is also planned in the proposed Library. Administrator MacIver confirmed there will be meeting space at the Town Hall, as was approved by Town vote. The new Town Hall will also serve as the primary emergency operations center, which is currently located at the Public Safety Complex. The building will be energy efficient and the design will maintain the rural character of the Town of Barrington.

Library Trustees

Present: Lindsey Maziarz (chair), Leigh Elliot, Robert Drew, Susan Frankel, Melissa Huetten (Director)
Absent: Lydia Cupp, Traci Bisson, Karolina Bodner

The Library has had a successful year and highlighted multiple programs that have occurred or are ongoing, such as a Teen STEM event, Reading with TeeTonka, the Summer Reading Program, and Touch-A-Truck. They also shared some upcoming or newly implemented programs, including Chair Yoga, Technology workshops, and informational presentations for Medicare and Alzheimer's. The Library has recently hired a new Technology and Circulation Library Assistant, Adam Shlager. The Library is researching installation of automatic door openers to accommodate patrons with physical limitations. There will be a warrant article on the 2020 ballot for a new Barrington Public Library & Community Center, with more information to be shared at the Select Board meeting on September 9th.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Compensation Study Task Force

Present: Lynne Murphy, Steve Saunders, Administrator MacIver, Chairperson Knapp
Absent: Selectperson Hardekopf

This group is tasked with reviewing compensation for Town employees and comparing it with both public and private comparable positions and employers. They have been meeting since winter of 2019 and have recently completed and sent out an RFP. After the study is completed, the Task Force will review and make appropriate recommendations to the Select Board.

Public Comment

Patricia Gingrich asked for information about part-time Town employee retirement, if there will be any change. Administrator MacIver explained the New Hampshire Retirement System requirement that employees must have a minimum of 35 hours to be eligible. Part of the focus of the study is to ensure the Town is competitively compensating both part and full time employees, with compensation not being limited to wages.

Town Lands Committee

Present: Selectperson Ayer (Ex-Officio), Brian Lenzi (Chair), AJ Dupere, Anne Melvin
Absent: Charles Tatham, David Kay, Jon Janelle, Phil Boodey, Tim Puls

This Committee, which works closely with the Conservation Commission, assists in overseeing Town-owned Lands. Those lands include the three largest conservation parcels, Tamposi, Calef, and Goodwill, totaling approximately 3,000

acres. The Committee is working to oversee development of 54 Acre “Eco-Park” on Town-owned property on Route 125, and recently worked with the Select Board and Berry River/Long Shores owners association to sell Town-owned properties on those roads.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Planning Board

Present: Jamey Jennison (Chair), Steven Diamond, Rondi Boyer, Ron Allard, Chairperson Knapp

Absent: Marcia Gasses (Town Planner), Barbara Irvine (Land Use Admin. Assist) Donna Masuchi, Robert Pimpis, Jeff Brann

The Planning Board is tasked to prepare and amend the Town’s Master Plan and are currently reviewing the “Facilities and Utilities” chapter. They also perform site plan reviews and subdivision approvals, recommend and review ordinances, and are currently drafting a solar ordinance with plans to present it to voters in the 2020 vote. A 55 lot conservation subdivision with five commercial lots, to include a potential site for new Town Hall was recently approved, as well as an eight lot subdivision on Meetinghouse Road, which will require an upgrade of the road by the developer. The Planning Board is also implementing the Capital Improvements Program to budget for large-scale projects for the future.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Recreation Commission

Present: Lisa Allis (Chair), Tara Barker (Recreation Director), Jim Noble, Dale Sylvia, Doug Langdon

Absent: Stephen Graves, Dennis Haug

The Recreation Department is wrapping up a successful summer program. The morning and after school care programs are full, with a new program offering additional childcare opportunities for Barrington families. Acquisition of new staff has been a challenge, with some success recently in the hiring of a weekend/evening supervisor. All site supervisors for these programs were hired internally.

Public Comment

Patricia Gingrich spoke to the need for childcare programs in Barrington, her appreciation for the program, and the hope that the Town will raise pay to attract additional staff. Administrator MacIver explained that the Recreation Department programs are fee-funded, and only partially subsidized by the Town.

Marika Wylde stated recent emails sent to Recreation by the Trails Committee have bounced back. Administrator MacIver shared that this is due to the recent technology upgrades; outdated email accounts have been and will be decommissioned, starting with the Recreation Department. Updated email addresses were provided.

Anne Melvin shared that there are rarely children on the Weekend Walkabouts run by the Trails Committee. The Trails Committee would like to work with the Recreation Department to encourage children to use the trails. A Recreation Department employee will be attending the Trails Committee meeting in September.

Tricentennial Steering Committee

Present: Chief Rick Walker (Chair), Dale Sylvia

Absent: (additional eight, not listed)

Barrington will be celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2022. The Committee has received \$5000 by warrant article in 2019 for the celebration, and has plans to request an additional \$5000 in the next Town vote. The Committee has only recently started planning and is currently looking at options for how to celebrate. They would also like to create a 300th anniversary logo. A Town-wide effort with great community involvement would be preferred. Anyone interested in participating can reach out directly to Chief Walker at the fire station. The committee is planning to set up a non-profit account to accept donations with the assistance of the Town Treasurer.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Cemetery Trustees

Present: Chief Rick Walker

Absent: Jere Calef, Brian Lenzi

The Trustees are charged with overseeing the Town Cemetery and private burial grounds in the Town. Chief Walker shared that any private burial ground in the state belongs to the heirs of those buried on that land. Landowners of surrounding or abutting property are required to provide access. There are approximately 100 private burial grounds in Barrington. By state law taxpayer funds cannot be used to maintain private cemetery; if a Town/community

declares a burial ground abandoned, the Town is responsible for that property thereafter.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Final Public Comments

Steven Diamond spoke to Federal Guidelines regarding accessibility and road grading standards. He asked the Board to consider requiring all new Town roads to have a 5% maximum grade, and to also add periodic resting points along roadways. Building Inspector John Huckins shared that road standards were previously set at 10% maximum grade, and current standard of 7% in Barrington is challenging to attain due to the topography of the town. Selectperson Bailey suggested Mr. Diamond present this request to the Planning Board for consideration of a warrant article.

Casey O'Brien stepped forward to clarify that the funds received by the Conservation Commission from the Land Use Change Tax would, if not received by the Conservation Commission, be added to tax funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Opened at 8:54pm

2019 Winter Sand Bid

Samples were requested for consideration of the winter 2019-2020 sand bid. Three were brought to the meeting for review by the Board, after having been examined by the Highway Department, acting Road Agent Rick Walker, and incoming Road Agent Marc Moreau. All agreed and recommend the bid submitted by R. Pepin of \$56,000 as they believe the sand from this supplier would result in the Town using less sand and saving money over the course of the winter due to improved quality over the low bidder.

Selectperson Bailey motioned to accept the bid as presented by R. Pepin for \$56,000. Motion was seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Roll call vote: Ayer – Aye; Bailey – Aye; Hatch – Aye; Knapp – Aye. The motion passed.

Wildcat Road Turnaround

Administrator MacIver requested this item be tabled in order to allow for additional information to be gathered. Selectperson Bailey moved to table this bid, Chairperson Knapp seconded the motion. Ayer – Aye; Bailey – Aye; Hatch – Aye; Knapp – Aye. The motion passed.

Selectperson's Report and Concerns

Selectperson Ayer was unable to attend the recent Conservation Commission meeting. The contract for the Goodwill Parking area was awarded to Brown Industrial at the meeting.

Selectperson Bailey shared the Library Trustee's meeting was cancelled.

Selectperson Hatch shared there are three variance hearings scheduled for the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on the 21st.

Chairperson Knapp was unable to attend the Town Hall Building Committee, Technology Committee, Planning Committee, and Compensation Study Task Force meetings.

There were no Public Comments or Questions.

Non-Public Session and Adjournment

Selectperson Ayer moved to enter non-public session at 9pm., per RSA 91-A:3 II for personnel and reputation, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Roll call vote: Ayer – aye, Bailey – Nay, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye. The motion passed.

Chairperson Knapp motioned to exit non-public session at 9:28p.m., seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Chairperson Knapp asked for a roll call vote, Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye. The motion passed.

Chairperson Knapp moved to seal non-public minutes indefinitely to avoid adversely affecting the reputation of those discussed. Selectperson Bailey seconded. Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye. The motion passed.

Selectperson Ayer moved to adjourn at 9:29pm, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Ayer – aye, Bailey – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye. The motion passed.