

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – June 3, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears, Bob MacLean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Charlie Stetson, Alain Peteroy, Will Anderson (FLT), Pam Shrimpton, Richard and Ilene Sears, Lark Thwing, Lloyd Crawford, Alice Parker, Richard Gould, Hussain Hamdan, Bob Taylor, Chris Tirone, Rick Kean

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm.

Hussain announced that he will be filming the meeting.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – minutes from May 20 were not ready yet.
3. Joint meeting with Conservation Commission and Franklin Land Trust to sign co-held Conservation Restrictions – John Sears recused himself from discussion and signing. Alain Peteroy explained the Restrictions. Five contracts have been approved by landowners, attorneys, the State, and town counsel. They are to be recorded on June 24, if the Selectmen and Conservation Commission approve them. Phil made a motion to accept the MOUs and five contracts. Bob seconded. Contracts approved by Phil and Bob (John had recused himself).
4. Act on Planning Board request for access to Town Counsel to draft letters for Green Communities consideration – Lloyd relayed that Jim Barry had been under the impression that we needed a solar bylaw in order to be considered for Green Communities, but our current bylaws actually apply, so we will need to get a letter from Town Counsel that they bylaws support Green Communities, and allows solar by right. Thus, the Planning Board was requesting access to Town Counsel. Phil moved to allow the Planning Board to contact Donna MacNicol at such time as it is necessary to move the Green Communities forward. John seconded; approved unanimously.
5. Discuss letter of support for Land and Water Conservation Fund in MA – John made a motion to sign the letter to Congress in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in MA. Phil seconded; latter signed unanimously.
6. Discuss status of Forge Hill Road – John explained that there had been a verbal approval by Dave Foulis, but we are waiting to hear confirmation. As long as it is ok, the Town will give Stantec permission to go ahead with the amended plans.
7. New business
 - a) Discussed need for signage on LaBelle Road as yet another truck has gotten stuck. Bob Taylor added the possibility of putting a “not a thru road” sign in Buckland.

- b) Treasurer/Collector/Accountant position descriptions – Lark explained that the Job Description Review Committee had come up with proposed position descriptions. A copy was given to Charlie for his review and input as well. Charlie noticed a reference to “town policies and procedures”, but the Finance Committee has not finished drafting such a document yet. Lark replied that they will try to set up a meeting for next week. The Board also discussed software options, and opted to wait for another year to see what Community Software Consortium comes up with, as they oversee the Assessors and Collectors programs already. John suggested asking the JDRC for salary proposals and various alternatives. Lark will take it back to the JDRC to come up with recommended salaries for Collector and Treasurer. Phil made a motion to accept the Position Descriptions contingent upon salary review by the Committee, and overview by Charlie. John seconded; accepted unanimously.
- c) Update on appointments; process for advertising – Virginia will contact other appointments and send an email of vacancies.
- d) Discuss possibilities for purchasing safe for Town Clerk – Pam needs a safe to secure ballots (and other papers) in. There is no money left in her budget for FY14, and the annual Town Clerk expense budget is only \$600. It was decided to put an article on the next Special Town Meeting warrant.
- e) Follow up on Sheriff’s Department work program – Phil will continue to try to get an application.
- f) UMASS Flood Mitigation Interview Request – Phil suggested that Virginia would be the best point of contact for this interview.
- g) “Preparing for Climate Effects at the Municipal Level” (Tuesday 7/15 in Dedham) – Does BOS want Virginia to attend? – the Board would like more information before making a decision. Will this really pertain to Hawley?
- h) Franklin County Selectmen’s Assoc. quarterly meeting – Thursday, June 12. John has a timing conflict. Phil and Bob are both interested in going. They will send in payment, and submit for reimbursement.
- i) Jeff Carantit sent an email stating that since he does not own the excess vehicles, he is not responsible for them. John responded that the fence is the main issue. Virginia asked whether the Board ever received evidence of his environmental permits. They have not.
- j) Highway Department truck – Bob explained that the truck is 20 years old and should have been replaced five years ago. Nevertheless, it is fairly reliable, but the engine is getting soft and parts are not readily available anymore. Also, the 1-ton will need to be replaced in a year or so. If we replace the 1-ton now, and rebuild the other motor when needed, we will save money in the long run. The Board was in favor of pursuing this. Bob and Ritchie will come up with specs for what they want. Phil asked the Finance Committee to make a recommendation on how to pay for the rebuild.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean