

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 6, 2012

Selectmen Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

By invitation, Lisa Martin and James Bouchard from Quantum Construction and Cold Springs Land Trustee Scott Liljeberg were present to discuss the Bible Hill Road culvert replacement project and its affect on Map 17, Lot 33. Also attending the meeting was Road Agent Gary Russell when the following was discussed:

- Scott Liljeberg's frustration that no one has communicated with him about the project's impact on his property at M17/L33.
- An allegation that the FEMA Public Hearing where the culvert replacement project was discussed was inadequate due to noise and confusion since it was scheduled fifteen minutes prior to the SB-2 First Session.
- The fact that the Wetlands Permit Application, which includes Cold Springs Land Trust property, has been filed without any communication with the property owner.
- Reviewed the Easement Plan map which includes three Easements:
  - Permanent Culvert Easement
  - Permanent Drainage Easement
  - Temporary Slope Easement
- Concern for loss of road frontage and its impact on future subdivision.
- Concern for three driveway permits that have been mutually put on-hold for the Town's benefit.
- Alternatives to the proposed easements.
- Quantum Construction agreed to produce a draft Easement Deed by June 8th.
- The Administrator will review the project with Southwest Regional Planning Commission and its affect on Map 17, Lot 33.

From 6:12 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(d). Present were Selectmen Osienski and Cuddemi, Administrator French, Road Agent Russell and Scott Liljeberg. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen and the Road Agent discussed roadside maintenance issues at the following locations:

- Balch Farm Road – The Road Agent reported his decision to improve an unsafe condition along a corner of Balch Farm Road. An abutting owner inquired about installing a culvert in the ditch to allow him access to the back of his property. The Road Agent determined it was in the Town's best interest to fill in the offending ditch to improve vehicular safety at this location. This decision resulted in a secondary benefit which was improved access for M17/L11. The Town did not build a driveway at this location as had been rumored.
- Pine Meadows Circle – The Road Agent circulated photos of roadside erosion near M23/L2 which seems to have been created by poor drainage from a neighboring property. A trail of sand is visible from the neighboring property across the street to an area where the erosion starts and continues to M23/L2. Due to the recent heavy rain event and resulting roadside erosion the Selectmen authorized the Road Agent to repair the damage near M23/L2.

By invitation, Lisa Maki (and Michael Caisse) met with the Selectmen to discuss the Town's concerns about what appears to be a seasonal yard sale business at her Route 202 property. Ms. Maki informed the Board that the former tenants who operated the yard sales had moved and there would not be any future yard sales at M7/L118.

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Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen and informed them of an impending fall resignation of a 12-year veteran part-time officer. Also discussed was the need to wrap up the installation of the Town Hall security/alarm system.

Energy Committee members Peter Eppig, Molly Eppig, Peter Martel and David McKenzie met with the Board and presented a power-point session on Energy Efficiency Opportunities for the Town Hall, Fire Station, Library and VFW as undertaken by Peregrine Energy Group (funded by an ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant). It was agreed that the Town would obtain estimates for heating the Administrative Offices with an alternative furnace and for the installation of a direct air intake for the Fire Department's boiler. Additionally, serious consideration will be given to the concept of closing the VFW during the winter months.

Starrett Road resident Vicky Turner met with the Selectmen to address her displeasure about the lack of communication informing her of the Town's decision to widen Starrett Road in the vicinity of her home, the concern that the widened road will encourage speeding and the eye-sore left behind at the conclusion of the Highway Department's project. The Selectmen assured Ms. Turner that the offending site would be dressed up.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the May 23, 2012 Selectmen Minutes.
- Reviewed courtesy copies of the May 2nd and May 30th Energy Committee Minutes as well as the April 17th and May 17th Recreation Committee Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for May 29th and June 5th.
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable Registers for May 24th, May 30th and June 6th.
- Tabled review of Expenditures for the period January through May until the full Board is present.
- As requested by Fire Chief Michael Roina, the Board approved the amended Fire Department Payroll Policy which will now allow compensation for participation in other duties/responsibilities as directed by the Fire Chief or his designee.
- Were pleased to receive notice from Conval High School of their selection of Toni Brown and Michael Farrell as the 2012 recipients of the (two) Edward French Memorial Scholarship.
- Selectman Cuddemi volunteered to speak to a Main Street business owner about complaints received of them parking in front of the Library.
- May Police Statistics were reviewed.
- Heard a report from Peter Martel of a group-purchase opportunity of solar panels to community residents.
- The following documents were signed:
  - Intent to Excavate – M3/L1
  - Property Tax Warrants (two)
  - Employee Time-Off Requests (two)
  - Building Permit – M3/L13

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Town Administrator