

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 12, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Elaine Flanagan and Scott Littlefield met with the Selectmen, Transfer Station Manager William O'Connor and Sergeant Jason LePine. Ms. Flanagan continues to dispute the Selectmen's assessment of a \$10 Transfer Station disposal fee and their associated May 11, 2016 vote to bar her from using the Transfer Station until the \$10 is paid. After spirited discussion amongst all parties the Selectmen informed Ms. Flanagan that their May 18th order barring her from using the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility until her financial obligation is satisfied stands; there will be no further discussion on the matter.

Cemetery Trustees Karen Bartlett, Melissa Clark and Joshua Segal met with the Board and discussed the following:

- The complexity of removing a dead tree at an elevated height at Sunnyside Cemetery. Selectman Cleary is checking resources and will report his findings to Trustee Bartlett.
- Conceptual options for rehabilitating the iron fence around Sunnyside Cemetery; the Bible Hill Road fence section appears to need the most care.
- A 2017 Warrant Article will likely be put forth requesting funds for cemetery stone repair which is estimated to be \$4,000 +/-.
- The Trustees delivered the fully executed *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Deeds Signed by Cemetery Trustees*. This document between the Board of Selectmen and Cemetery Trustees jointly acknowledges flawed Cemetery Deeds that will be honored and considered valid transfers.
- Conceptual ideas to honor former Cemetery Trustee Jill Young for her nineteen years of service.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's June 28, 2016 Minutes. The Board also reviewed courtesy copies of the July 6 Energy Committee Minutes and the June 28, 2016 Planning Board Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for July 5 and July 12, 2016 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for July 1, 5, 6, 8 and July 11, 2016.
- Whittemore Beach conversations evolved around the following notables:
 - The Permit by Notification Form, which would have provided the Town an opportunity to deposit a load of sand at Whittemore Beach, was returned by DES for additional information. The Selectmen decided that since the recent rototill of the Beach resulted in significant improvements the PBN will be tabled.
 - Discards found on the beach.
 - Beach attendant responsibilities.
 - Beach maintenance.
- Finalized specifications for the Fire Department Roof RFP.

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- Heard a report that the Administrator failed to submit January grant paperwork for financial assistance to offset costs associated with the City of Keene's Household Hazardous Waste Collection which provides twenty-four hazardous waste disposal opportunities throughout the year. The net loss is approximately \$360. The Selectmen voted to continue providing the program at an estimated cost of \$2,097.
- Heard a report that the Bennington Historical Society is reviving the awarding of the Boston Post Cane. At the Town's suggestion, they are forming a Committee to establish eligibility criteria and ultimately identify the oldest Bennington resident.
- Agreed that the foliage surrounding the Civil War Monument needs to be trimmed back enough to provide room for a person to walk around the monument and read inscriptions on all four sides.
- Tabled purchase of a used wood chipper until the Road Agent is available to participate in the selection process.
- Approved a Veteran's Tax Credit for M23/L13, a Notice of Intent to Cut for M2/L3-8 and signed the Primex Membership Agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator

