

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 20, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Old Stagecoach Road Cynthia Stocker met with the Selectmen and Road Agent Gary Russell to discuss the following:

- Concerns for the integrity of her stonewall foundation; the Highway Department recently excavated in front of the wall.
- The culvert opening of the structure in need of repair is situated inside the stone wall.
- The Road Agent reported that the culvert work is supposed to drain waters across the road to the pond. Mrs. Stocker wondered if the culvert was effective since the level of the pond is unchanged.
- The Road Agent continues to address alternatives for improving the Town's drainage without compromising the stone wall.
- The property between the residence and Evergreen Cemetery has ongoing washouts which will be repaired. The Road Agent will monitor the vicinity for future washouts.
- Road Agent Gary Russell reported that all Old Stagecoach Road maintenance and improvements should be completed by the end of October.
- Mrs. Stocker requested improved communications from the Road Agent so she can address her questions and concerns directly with Gary rather than searching for answers through other Town employees.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Improved security access to the Highway Department computer.
- Declined to post a Blind Driveway sign for the benefit of M10/L59. He reported that visibility would be improved by trimming trees. Also, it is not lawful to back out into a right-of-way; the driver would be much safer if they were to drive forward onto Bible Hill Road.
- Agreed that a Blind Driveway sign is appropriate for M19/L20.
- Selectman Rose volunteered to speak with the owners of M10/L57 about their concern that the Town is responsible for cleaning up the reclaimed area at the Antrim Road/Bible Hill/Eaton Avenue intersection. The Selectmen wonder if this Town roadside area could be enhanced from volunteers installing a garden.
- The \$5,000 cost of a roller rental for twenty-three hours of metered use. A used roller would cost approximately \$20,000.
- An anticipated quote from Beltronics for replacement of security equipment.
- Implementation of a requirement that a plot plan be made a part of the Driveway Permit application process. The plot plan would ensure that the Driveway Permit would be in compliance with the Driveway Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance.
- Sawyer Park access; is the Park served by a right-of-way or the Old Route 202 Highway? The Administrator will research the issue ahead of Town Meeting.

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- Legalities as to whether the Town of Bennington is obligated to file a MS4 federal permit for a storm-water program.
- Selectmen instructed Gary to install “No Trucks Antrim Road” sign and a directional arrow for trucks to take Route 202; as well as a “No Truck” sign at the Acre Street/School Street intersection.
- Conceptual interest in installing a solar powered flashing light at the cross walks near the Monandock Paper Mills.
- The continued need for implementation of a prepaid credit card for Highway Department expenditures.
- Unanimous agreement to sell the GMC pickup truck, as is, by sealed bid.
- Fall projects:
 - Pug mill the patch on Old Greenfield Road.
 - Advance Paving to do Old Stagecoach Road, Balch Farm and Dodge Road.
 - Sand seal Ross Road, Knightland Road, North Bennington Road to Pine Meadows and Pine Meadows Circle.
 - Rebuild Dodge Hill Road shoulders.
 - Stone-line the North Bennington Road ditch created by TDS a few years ago.
 - Dig across Eaton Avenue this fall ahead of planned 2018 paving.
 - Repair the cemetery water line leak.
- The Highway Department will return to a five day work schedule as of October 1st.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board’s September 13, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the September 21, 2017 Payroll Register.
- Unanimously voted to pay the Treasurer \$20 an hour rather than a fixed \$2,000 annual stipend.
- Approved and signed a letter to NHDOT requesting elimination of the Route 47 passing zones.
- Reviewed August 2015 communications with the Bureau of Trails regarding the locked gates at each end of the Antrim Road railroad trestle and agreed that a follow-up letter is in order.
- Received notice from the Department of Transportation that they are planning to correct structural deficiencies of the bridge structure and safety deficiencies associated with the State owned South Bennington Road bridge over Russell Brook. The Selectmen will provide comments relative to the project’s potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, or cultural resources after receiving input from the Planning Board, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Road Agent, Conservation Commission, Emergency Management Director and Historical Society.
- Heard a report that Rick Reed has resigned his Zoning Board of Adjustment position. Selectman Mackesy volunteered to speak with the ZBA Chair about the possible need for them to recruit new members.
- Agreed to a trial membership with the Society for Human Resource Management at a discounted price of \$179.
- Received a report of a September 21 Conval Strategic Plan meeting where two options addressing school buildings and curriculum will be discussed.
- Reviewed and approved Building Permits for M8/I10 and M15/L5.

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From 7:43 p.m. until 7:57 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session. Selectman Mackesy made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c); Selectmen Rose seconded the motion; the Board unanimously voted to enter the Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Administrator Denise French. The Selectmen discussed employee wage and travel compensation as well as employee safety. Selectman Mackesy made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session; Selectman Cleary seconded the motion; the Board unanimously voted to reconvene the public session at 7:57 p.m.

As a result of the Nonpublic Session the Selectmen voted to develop two policies: 1) all mileage reimbursements will begin and end at the employee's place of employment using the most direct route as determined by computer search. 2) All funds for deposit will remain at the employee's place of employment until the funds are deposited.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Town Administrator