

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 16, 2018

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

Tax Collector/Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante met with the Board to discuss the following:

- Execution of Tax Liens for unpaid 2017 tax/utility bills as of May 15, 2018.
- Impending Tax Deeds for unpaid 2015 Tax Liens as of June 5, 2018.
- Extensive review of the Bennington/Greenfield town-line in partnership with the Town of Greenfield.

Rhubarb Festival Chair Molly Eppig met with the Selectmen to review the planned June 2nd festivities at Sawyer Park; Molly also asked that each Selectman notify her no later than May 22nd if they are not in a position to judge the Rhubarb baking contest at 10:15 a.m.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for May 10 and May 17, 2018.
- Discussed two hazardous buildings that need attention. Selectman Cleary volunteered to follow-up with the family of M3/L22; Administrator French will follow-up with the owners of M7/L33.
- Tabled a decision of adopting the Conservation Commission's recommendations that the Town retain ownership of the following lots:
 - Map 3; Lot 15
 - Map 12; Lots 3, 12, 13, 14, 43
 - Map 13: Lots 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 45
 - Map 17; Lot 29

The Conservation Commission feels that retaining ownership of these non-buildable lots will provide buffers, wildlife corridors and will help to protect the Town aquifers.

- The Selectmen agreed to look at the vacant land between the Catholic Cemetery and the Evergreen Cemetery with an eye towards a selective timber cut. Board members felt that they have adequate timber cutting knowledge and do not currently find the need to hire a forester as recommended by the Conservation Commission.
- The May 12th Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Hillsborough seemed to be beneficial for the Town's residents; 21 households participated in the disposal; Bennington contributed 17% of the overall collection of hazardous waste at an unknown cost at the time of this writing.
- Received confirmation that the Department of Environmental Services awarded an Asset Management grant to the Town of Bennington NH, in the amount of \$20,000 to improve public water system management, effective upon Commissioner's approval through May 31, 2019.
- Acknowledged receipt of the anticipated Eversource rebate incentive of \$3,800 for fixture upgrade from metal halide lights to LED street lights.
- Were disappointed to learn that an Onset Road property owner continues to dismantle the ditch/shoulders of the road abutting their property. Since this is a reoccurring violation and personal conversations have not been effective, the Selectmen signed a Cease and Desist Order for M12/L1;B-1.

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- Met with Ed Pelletier who expressed his appreciation to the Bennington Police Department for their diligence and success in recovering missing assets.
- Discussed with Ed Pelletier his frustration that state and local regulations allow for burial of stumps generated from clearing land provided that the burial site is at least 75 feet from any drinking water supply.
- Voted to post community activities that are being held at/on Town property on the Town's website.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Administrator