

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 9, 2019

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

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Board to provide a status update on Town projects. At the end of this week all but two culverts will have been replaced on Onset Road. However, due to the prescheduled rental of a man lift to coincide with a Water Department project, the Highway Department will take a break from culvert work and will trim brush on Onset Road next week. As a result, the excavator will be returned to Southworth Milton this Thursday. When the schedule permits, the Road Agent plans to rent an excavator for one week to replace the remaining culverts on Onset Road as well as a culvert on Mountain Road.

Gary reported that on Friday, July 5th he was disposing of beach trash and found the hopper at the Transfer Station full of trash and recyclable materials. Gary's primary concerns were that recyclables were not sorted and if DES were to conduct a site visit, the Town could receive a violation for not properly disposing of all trash (even though the accumulated trash appears to have happened when the Transfer Station was closed). This led to a larger discussion about the use of the facility by Town employees and several complaints recently received about Antrim residents using the facility. The Selectmen instructed Gary to speak with the Transfer Station employees and remind them to remain vigilant of out of town users. The Selectmen also reported that they have no issue with Town employees using the Transfer Station during closed hours as long as they follow the rules for separating recyclables and they empty the hopper when they are done.

The Road Agent and Selectmen also discussed the following:

- Due to absences, the Road Agent has been using the assistance of Transfer Station employees Matt Blanchard and Patrick Greene to help on Onset Road.
- The Selectmen reminded the Road Agent that he is to direct the work of his employees.
- Pugmill is scheduled to be mixed starting on July 22nd.
- The Highway Department has been working to clean up the shop and address safety issues discussed on July 2nd. Specifically, the Road Agent reported that Clean Harbors is testing the oil in drums outside of the Highway Garage to make sure there are no contaminants before they take the used oil, Clean Harbors will take old anti-freeze, there is now a fire proof container for rags, new chains with safety mechanisms are now in service and are stored in milk crates (rather than hanging on the wall), and the water is being sampled to see if meets the standards for eye washing stations. The Road Agent plans to replace the tires on the 1988 KME with used tires from dump trucks rather than replace with new tires.
- The Road Agent will be replacing the storm drain cover and frame of a damaged unit on Acre Street.
- When the schedule permits, "Children at Play" and speed posting signage will be installed on Old Greenfield Road.

Bible Hill Road residents Kimball Buccherri and Maryanne Langdenberg met with the Selectmen and Road Agent to discuss safety concerns about speed and the location of their driveway. Gary will research distance requirements for "Blind Drive" signage and will install signage accordingly. Mr. Buccherri and Ms. Langdeberg also requested the Town's intervention in repairing a deteriorating retaining wall within the Town's right of way that is causing water damage to their property. Gary will complete a site visit when the Highway Department schedule permits.

In other news on their Agenda, the Board:

- Heard a report that the Fire Department responded to a report of oil leaking in the Contoocook River on July 6. Upon investigation they located a leaking residential oil tank in the basement of a home on Acre Street. Two sump pumps in the basement were discharging the oil into a stream and on to the ground, sending oil in to the Town's storm drains and out to the River. NH DES and Clean Harbors are actively working to remediate the oil from the home, ground, and Town storm drains. Clean Harbors did not identify any lingering contamination in the River.
- Received notice of Right to Know Law training in Keene on July 23rd.
- Approved a request from the Town Administrator to attend a Solar Energy Conference on July 23rd to learn about funding opportunities and administrative requirements.
- Heard a report from the Town Clerk that the Selectmen should appoint Karen Belcher the Deputy Town Clerk so that she can sign in the Town Clerk's absence. The Selectmen declined to appoint the position.
- Heard a report that a guest at an Airbnb rental tried to use that residence to register their vehicle. The Selectmen asked the Town Administrator to look in to Airbnb rentals to determine if they are in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.
- Heard a report that seven residents took advantage of the Household Hazardous Waste program this year. The Selectmen will further discuss the program during the 2020 budget development process.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's July 2, 2019 meeting.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante