

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the meeting - September 17, 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 6:02 p.m.

Part-time Highway Department employee Matt Blanchard met with the Selectmen to review his progress on obtaining his CDL license. Matt reported he will be taking the written test within the next week which will then allow him to start testing on the driving portion.

Onset Road resident Cindy Eskelinen met with the Board to discuss her observations and concerns about roadwork completed on Onset Road. Ms. Eskelinen reported that the Highway Department recently installed a safety mechanism in her culvert to prevent a child from getting stuck in the culvert and asked if the Town could install a screen on the end to restrict access to the culvert. The Selectmen reported that the installation of a gate or screen on the culvert would impede the natural flow of water and would likely cause the culvert to back up and flood other property. The Selectmen did agree to send the Highway Department to her property to discuss her concern about erosion once pavement is complete.

The Selectmen discussed an Antrim Road business owner's approval of shutting down Antrim Road for the Monadnock Paper Mill to celebrate their 200th year in operation in October. The Selectmen inquired if the Town has received a formal request and if all Town Departments are aware. Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante reported she has not received a request and will follow up with Police Chief Bret Sullivan to ensure proper procedures are followed.

Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante presented the Board with multiple Building Permit applications submitted by members of the Curtis Family for their property at 458 North Bennington Road (Map 21, Lot 6). Each Permit requests permission to remove the camper from the site and enclose a lean-to and create a cabin structure. The Selectmen voted to deny the Building Permits because they feel it is an expansion of a non-conforming use and that the property is currently grandfathered as a campground for family members; the erection of cabins closely mirrors the Guest Cottages provisions within the Zoning Ordinance. The Town Administrator will communicate with the Building Inspector.

In other business, the Selectmen took action on the following items:

- Reviewed and approved the September 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the September 12 and September 19, 2019 Payroll Registers and the September 19, 2019 Accounts Payable Register.
- Heard a report that Advanced Paving proposed grinding and paving Onset Road at a cost \$6,440 less than All States Asphalt; the work will be completed this season.
- Heard a report that the Town Clerk was unable to attend the meeting to discuss an August 30, 2019 communication she sent the Selectmen; she will hopefully be able to attend next week.
- Discuss the removal of trees in the Contoocook River near Alberto's Restaurant. In August the Selectmen reached out to the Milford-Bennington Railroad to request permission to run equipment on the tracks to reach the trees located in the Bruce Edes Forest. To date the Selectmen have not received a response to that request.

- Reviewed the Highway Department work schedule for September as established by Chris Davies.
- Agreed to pay Patrick Greene \$15/hour effective immediately.
- Reviewed and approved the 2018 Post-Closure Report for the Tri-Town Landfill.
- Reviewed and approved a Building Permit application for Map 1, Lot 2.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie LaPlante
Town Administrator