

Bennington Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, June 28, 2022 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Foster, Thomas James

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Appointments: 6:15 – Cary Holter – Mr. Holter came before the board notifying him that the 5-acre lot is going to be put on the market. He was looking for information that could be used as marketing such as, could the lot be subdivided. Chairman Cleary explained the frontage requirements and directed Mr. Holter to the Planning Board.

6:30 – Conservation Commission, Joe MacGregor – Mr. MacGregor was here to discuss the property located at 91 N. Bennington Road. MacGregor was looking to see if the town would be receptive to the Conservation Commission doing some improvements to the small, 1.8-acre lot. The property has a grassy front and marshland in the back. The Conservation Commission would like to use the land to create a pollinator garden and a boardwalk to view the marsh. Should they go forward, a more formal plan will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen to keep on file. It is hoping this project will entice butterflies, birds and bees. Selectmen discussed notifying the abutters of this project before moving forward on it.

Discussion followed. Selectmen supported this project going forward.

Further discussion followed regarding a forestry harvest at the cemetery. No decisions regarding harvesting at this time was made. Further discussion regarding cemetery properties followed. The question was discussed as to what happens when a property is in probate, when it is in limbo and there are no heirs, what happens? Also discussed was regarding the cemetery land, the pathway between the cemeteries, who actually owns it? Both these questions will be looked into by the office staff. No decisions were made.

Selectmen thanked Joe MacGregor for his representation of this project.

Minutes: Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of 06/14/22 as written, seconded by Selectmen James & Foster.

Financial: Selectmen signed and accepted the following payroll & payable registers.
Payroll Registers – Fire Dept 6/24/22; 6/23/22
Accounts Payables – 6/23/22; 6/16/22

Selectmen would like to have all departments try to conserve spending until this energy crisis calms down. All departments are to be notified. Projects may have to be put on hold was discussed, Selectmen are concerned about the rising cost of gas and electricity.

Old Business:

- **Sawyer Park – Social Media** – selectmen read and discussed a social media dialogue that was recently posted on Facebook. Discussion followed regarding the importance of having a social media use policy, and that employees and volunteers need to remember they always represent the Town first.

Other Sawyer Park –

Road direction – Discussion regarding implementing a one-way road took place, no decisions were made at this time, this will be looked into and possibly implemented next year.

Playground - As recommended by Primex, a 6' galvanized, chain link fence will be put on the warrant to be installed in 2023.

Trees – Chairman Cleary discussed the trees at Sawyer Park is more involved than just taking down a few trees, but he has been talking to people he knows that could take the project on maybe.

Music – Selectman James mentioned that White Mountain Founders will be playing music Friday, July 1, 2022 between 6-8 pm. He hopes everyone can attend.

New Business:

- **Audit update** – The audit is complete, Plodzick and Sanderson were very good to work with. They have a few recommendations; however, the final report is not available at this time.
- **Employee Reviews** – Deb will do Cathy's, Selectmen need to do one for Road Agent, Matt Blanchard; Town Administrator, Deb Davidson; Chief of Police, Jason LePine.
- **Vendor Permits** – a couple of people have come in asking for vendor/hawker permits. They were not able to be located in the office. Discussion followed, the permits are located in the PD and are issued by the Chief of Police.
- **Fire Truck** – Selectman Foster talked about the need for a new fire truck. He has a quote of \$631,989.00, valid for 30 days. The price goes up 10% each year. It is 500 days for

delivery. Options are if we sign the contract - there is no money now, we could do a municipal lease or utilize CRF and do a lease.

Foster discussed the sale of the old truck, which he believes would bring in \$100,000-\$125,000 for the two trucks.

Further discussion followed. No decisions were made at this time. Town Administrator will speak with the DRA to answer some questions regarding payment options.

- **Bridges-** Selectmen discussed the S. Bennington Rd. bridge. The representative of NHDOT indicated the work will start towards the end of July, should be finished by August 28, 2022.

School St. bridge – Town Administrator was instructed to contact the State, notifying them of the deficiencies that have been reported about the bridge.

Discussion about the red listed bridge down by Alberto's was discussed. Town Administrator is to see when this bridge will be addressed.

- **Vacation** – Due to vacation time, Cathy McGillicuddy will be taking minutes at the next meeting.

Items for signature:

- **Building Permit** – L. Blanchard
- **Cemetery Plot** – Trow
- **Dog Civil Forfeitures** –
- **DRA - PA-28 Form discontinuance 2023**

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm. Seconded by Selectmen James and Foster.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator