

**Bennington Board of Selectmen**  
**April 10, 2023 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman, James Cleary, Tom James, Tony Parisi

**Others Present:** Bethany Craig, Jesse Crews, Joe McGregor & Mike Munhall

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**Appointments:**

**Onset Road** – Selectmen reviewed and discussed the posting for the property identified as Map 12 Lot 12. There has been inquiry about purchase of the property, steps are being taken to get the information needed for the sale of the property. Discussion followed regarding building on Class VI roads, and the inability to do so.

Joe McGregor asked about this particular lot, and building that has happened on the dirt portion of Onset Rd. McGregor understood that portion of the road would never be built on and preserved for wildlife.

Chairman Cleary replied that was true.

Chairman Cleary continued and read the legal opinion of the Sale of property owned by the Town, taken by taxes.

A brief discussion followed on the property by the river on 202, identified as Map 7 Lot 92. Joe McGregor discussed the property will need to go to NHDES and River Committee before building can begin.

**Minutes:** Motion by Chairman Cleary to accept the minutes of April 3, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting as written. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi.

**Financial:** Selectmen signed Payroll and A/P manifests for the week of 4/6/2023

## **New Business:**

**Appointments:** Selectmen signed appointments for members of the Bennington Energy Sustainability Team

**Impending Lien:** Selectmen discussed an impending lien on Map 12 Lot 16. This is for a pool filling that was done in 2022. Discussion continued. After speaking with Fire Chief Foster, Tax Collector had been notified the property that had the pool filled was located on Map 12 Lot 35. The lien for Map 12 Lot 16 will be abated and a new invoice issued for Map 12 Lot 35. After more discussion motion by Chairman Cleary to no longer fill pools or wells from Town resources. Seconded by Selectman James. Brief discussion. Motion passed.

**Bank Letter:** Chairman Cleary signed a letter updating signatures for Town accounts. Deb will get the letter to Bar Harbor Bank, who in turn will contact Mr. Parisi.

## **Old Business:**

**Policies (Work Session):** Sawyer Field Facility Use, Sawyer Field Policy, Personnel Policies. Selectmen took this time to work on the mentioned policies. Bethany Craig had thoughts about the use of Sawyer Field. Discussion followed. It was discussed what neighboring communities charge for the use of their facilities. Each field is very different, Selectmen discussed options. After lengthy thought and discussions Motion by Chairman Cleary to charge \$100.00/team for the season for the use of the field by ball teams as well as \$100.00/season for 4-H. Out of town people will be charge \$50.00/day for the use of Sawyer Field. Hours of the use of the field will be considered, usually functions end by dark. Buildings that are rented can be used until 10:00 pm with consideration given if a later time is requested. No alcohol signage will be installed at Sawyer Field. Special permission can be given, by the Board of Selectmen if requested in writing, and police coverage will be considered. After speaking with Chief LePine, Selectman James said the price to hire an officer will be \$75.00/hour. Insurance is required, \$1,000,000 coverage for all special events. Selectman Parisi asked about driving on the field, he asked that only parking on the outfield, if at all, be allowed.

Jessie Crews asked when will the date for reservations be? Selectmen discussed this briefly and decided they will make that determination in the future. Consideration of month to month will be discussed.

**Other:**

**Sawyer Field Usage Requests** – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson provided Selectmen with three requests for the field use that have been submitted to date and a decision needs to be made in order for the requests to get their insurance and paperwork in to the office. January 3, 2023 Tyler McClure (Men’s Softball) requested to use the Field M-Th with the understanding some accommodations for Town Functions will be necessary. Selectman Parisi reported that the Men’s Softball has revised their request to Monday, Wed., and Thursdays the hours would be 4:00 pm – 8:00-9:00 pm; Chad Bullard (Bennington 4-H) has requested to use Sawyer Field on Tuesdays, April 25, 2023 – September 26 between the hours of 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm for Family Fun Nights; Jessie Crews (Bennington Recreation Committee) would like to establish a Croquet Club. She originally requested Thursdays between the hours of 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm May 2023 – October 2023. Selectmen discussed these requests at length, asking Jessie if she could consider Tuesday evenings rather than Thursday. She said she could consider another evening or even a weekend evening.

At this time, Selectmen have approved the requests for the Men’s Softball Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays, May 1 – October 1, between 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm +/- . A seasonal fee of \$100.00/team for the season will be required, as well as the required application be filed and the certificate of insurance

4-H were granted Tuesdays, April 25, - September 26, between 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm +/- . Also, a seasonal fee of \$100.00, application is filed and the certificate of insurance is also on file.

Jessie Crews indicated that the Recreation Croquet Club will consider either Tuesdays or another evening, May – October, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm +/- . There is no fee as this is a town sponsored event. If Tuesdays are not an option, Jessie Crews will get back to the office with a revision to the original application.

**Recreation Revolving Account** – The Town Administrator discussed setting up a Recreation Revolving Account for the Rhubarb Festival or other events. It cannot be done in 2024, but we could put it on the warrant for 2024. A brief discussion followed. Selectmen support this as does Jessie Crews. It will be discussed with the Town Treasurer. A warrant article will be created for 2024.

**Recreation By-Laws** – Selectmen received a copy of the Recreation By-Laws, as prepared by the Recreation Committee. A copy will be sent to Scott Liljiberg, after Selectmen review the By-Laws they will be discussed at the next Selectmen’s Meeting.

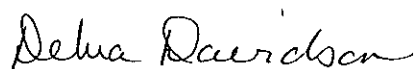
Justin Drew has indicated he has interest in the recreation committee and would like to volunteer. He would like to be directly involved with the beach. His contact information needs to be sent to the Town Administrator.

**Hooking into water & sewer** – Selectman Parisi asked how a resident could hook into the water and sewer. Selectmen discussed what is involved. All questions should be directed to Water Commission Chair, Tyler Howe.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi. The next meeting will be Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

**Sawyer field See/Saw** – The Board discussed the See Saw at Sawyer field and that it is not safe. Bethany Craig indicated she would be interested in purchasing them. No decision was made at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Davidson, Town Administrator