

Selectmen's Meeting
June 26, 2023
6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman, James Cleary, Selectmen, Tom James and Tony Parisi

Others Present: Town Administrator, Deb Davidson

Selectman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:01pm.

Appointments: There were no appointments scheduled for this meeting.

Minutes: Chairman Cleary motioned to accept the minutes of June 20, 2023 as written. Seconded by Selectman James. No discussion. Minutes were accepted as written.

Financial: Selectmen signed the Payroll & Accounts Payable manifests for the week of June 22, 2023

Other Items:

TDS – Selectmen reviewed and discussed the proposal for a new phone system from TDS. The proposal was accepted.

Whittemore Beach –

- Use of the beach for private events: It was brought to the Selectmen's attention someone had mentioned holding a birthday party at Whittemore Beach. Discussion followed. The Selectmen did not support using Whittemore Beach as a party location.
- Flotation Devices – discussion followed regarding the use of flotation devices. It was brought to the Town Administrator's attention that unless flotation devices are Coast Guard approved it would be preferred not to have flotation devices allowed while the lifeguard is on duty. Discussion followed. It was decided to not allow flotation devices unless Coast Guard approved while the lifeguard is overseeing the beach.
- WSI – The lifeguard requested to take a Water Safety Instructor course, making swim lessons a possibility in the future. Discussion followed.

Selectmen approved the lifeguard taking a WSI class provided he can find a free class. The funds are not in the budget for this in 2023, if a free class through Red Cross or another resource is available, Selectmen support this for 2023 summer.

Bats – JP Pest was here on June 20th and reviewed the situation. There are a few brown bats at this time in the 3rd floor. They will leave on their own by September. The cupola will then be totally repaired and steps will be taken to prevent them from returning next year. JP Pest was not surprised they returned, in comparison there are very few bats as to what has been there in the past.

Elevator – all the prep work for the installation of the elevator is complete, we are waiting for the company to contact us with a delivery date.

Construction – Town Administrator discussed additional work to be done. Painting the hallway top to bottom was discussed, 2nd floor bathroom, handicapped ramp on the exterior of the building, removal of sawdust under the stage, repair of the cupola and possibly painting the office area was discussed. Town Administrator was instructed to mention to Matt Harwood the cupola must be done in August or September, once the bats have vacated. Sawdust removal is also vital as it could pose a fire hazard.

Bible Hill Catch Basin – Town Administrator mentioned Marion Langenberg called and was asking what the status of the replacement of the catch basin is. Discussion followed. Town Administrator will contact Matt Blanchard and discuss what the status is.

Sawyer Field – Selectmen discussed the property at Sawyer Field and just exactly what the Town of Bennington owns. Parking, relocating the swingset and other options for the field were discussed. Selectmen will schedule a time to review the boundaries of the town owned property in the near future.

Discussion followed regarding the use of the field. It has been noted that several dates for the 4-H and croquet have been cancelled. Realizing some of these days were due to weather it does not appear that either event is well attended when weather is not a variable. After discussion, it was noted that Bethany Craig will be notified that Selectmen may rescind the request to use the field if attendance

does not pick up. Since the resignation of Jessie Crews, Bethany will be notified of the same for the croquet program. Lack of attendance

In the event anyone cancels the use of their events, it will be requested the town office be called and notified of the cancellations.

Selectman James did ask to see a roster for the softball leagues. Selectman Parisi will get one to the board.

Policy changes will be reviewed at the next Selectmen's Meeting.

Anonymous Donation: Chairman Cleary made the motion to accept the anonymous donation of \$2,500.00. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi and James. A brief discussion followed regarding the purpose of this donation. The funds will be used to purchase two trees for the Town Hall and two trees and some flowers will be purchased for Newhall field.

Tax Payments: A resident was approved for the State of NH tax payment program. The Town received \$40,000 of a tax payment on behalf of the resident. Selectmen voted to forgive the interest.

Newsletter: Selectman James reported that a resident has come forward and would like to possibly take over the newsletter. Discussion followed. Selectmen are supportive of this offer. Though no decision was made at this time, Selectman James will notify the resident to contact the Town Administrator and discuss this further.

Volunteerism was briefly discussed as was the future of the Rhubarb Festival. No decisions were made at this time.

Misc. Letters –

- Selectmen read a letter from Lynn Holter to which she was inquiring if Selectmen would approve a driveway on her property Lot 3 aka 187 onset road. Selectmen instructed Town Administrator to notify Mrs. Holter and let her know she needs to go before the ZBA for this matter.
- Standard Power Agreement – Chairman Cleary motioned to allow the town to enter into an agreement and work with Standard Power and Robert Hayden. Seconded by Selectmen James and Parisi. Discussion followed

regarding the Standard Power Agreement, options for a solar array within the town, the BEST Committee and how Standard Power and Robert Hayden will benefit the Town of Bennington. Selectmen signed the agreement which will be forwarded to Standard Power and Robert Hayden tomorrow.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm. The next Selectmen's Meeting will be Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator