

Bennington Board of Selectmen

June 5, 2023 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Town Administrator, Debra Davidson, Tax Collector, Cathy McGillicuddy, Residents, Bethany Craig, Haley Tramosch & Jessie Crews.

Chairman Cleary opened the meeting at 6:02 pm., 2nd by Selectman James.

Rhubarb Festival: Chairman Cleary began by discussing the Rhubarb Festival had a great turn out, especially considering the weather.

Eaton Ave. & Acre St.: Chairman Cleary stated he has been receiving many calls regarding the speeding on Acre St. & Eaton Ave. Selectmen discussed reducing the speed limit on the roads to 15 MPH and increasing the patrol by the police on those roads. Discussion followed.

Motion by Chairman Cleary to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph and increase patrols on Eaton Ave. and Acre St. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

Decision: Signage reduced to 15 mph on both ends of the roads and increase patrols.

Paving: Chairman Cleary reported the three paving projects are complete and the roads look great.

Appointments:

6:15 – Marion Langenberg & Kimball Buccheri – Ms. Langenberg & Mr. Buccheri were before the Selectmen to discuss their retaining wall and the drain that they indicated does not work which is located near their home. The extreme water has destroyed their retaining wall, causing it to collapse. Ms. Langenberg discussed the history of the problems with this drain and the many times they have been before the Board of Selectmen with this same problem. Ms. Langenberg felt there was no resolve over the years, walls in her home need replacing, she believes this water is putting their home in jeopardy.

Chairman Cleary stated the road agent has discussed this situation and they are looking into a different type of catch basin which could possibly replace the current one. Cleary did state this last storm was unusual and it didn't matter what type of catch basin was there, it would not have handled the water. Again, a different catch basin will be looked into.

Ms. Langenberg would like her retaining wall replaced, drains at her house replaced and/or repaired. She asked how long until she receives an answer.

Chairman Cleary stated that the road agent is already working on a solution, it would likely be done this summer, depending on the price. Selectmen thanked Ms. Langenberg & Mr. Buccheri and will be in touch.

6:35 – Chairman Cleary asked Bethany, Haleigh & Jessie if they wanted to discuss anything or were they here to listen? Jessie Crews said she would like to say something about the Rhubarb Festival. She started by saying she was offended by the Selectmen undermining her decision how to park cars at the Rhubarb Festival. A heated conversation followed between Chairman Cleary and Jessie Crews. At one point Jessie got up and left the meeting, indicating she was resigning from volunteering for the recreation department.

Bethany Craig asked why the vehicles were moved? She thought the redirected parking looked unsafe, it is better to have safe parking than worry about the field.

Selectman James and Chairman Cleary disagreed, they feel the parking was safe. Chairman Cleary said he stayed until 1:00 and parking was done well, and it appeared at that time there was inadequate help. That is why he stayed. It is important not to damage the field when at all possible.

Bethany Craig commented that maybe a rain date could be discussed, when there is no rain it is fine, but there was a lot of rain over the weekend, further suggesting a discussion once debriefing and future events could discuss a rain date. Further commenting maybe adding funds to the budget for field clean-up in the future.

Hailey Tramosch commented there was not a lot of guidance, the volunteers that were there really had no idea what needed to be done and did the best they could on their own.

David Glynn Estate – E-mail from Sean Fitzpatrick, Final accounting of estate is coming to an end. The Town of Bennington will be receiving their final portion of the estate within a few months.

Display Board – Jerome Varnum has built a display board for art, posters etc., he is nearly complete with his first board and will bring it to the town to see how it works. They will remain in the gym area when not in use.

Map 13 Lot 19 – Eric Walker called the office and is interested in the lot for sale on Birch Drive. He wanted to know if he would need a variance or is it a buildable lot? Selectmen discussed this further, the lot would need to get approval from the State for a driveway, the lot is not accessible from Birch Drive, as Birch Drive is a private drive. The town would most likely deny any building permit requests.

Map 12 Lot 12 – The deed from the Town of Bennington to Baska-Mathews was signed and will be sent to the town attorney for recording.

Driveway Permit – Harley Miller – Map 18-3-3, approved waiting for the Road Agent to sign off. David Hardwick submitted a driveway permit for Map 19 Lot 21-A1. Selectmen are waiting for the Road Agent to sign off on this as well.

Building Permit – David Hardwick submitted a building permit for Map 19 Lot 21-B1, Selectmen signed this with Building Inspector's verbal approval. John Kendall will sign it this week. A copy will be sent to Mr. Hardwick after all signatures are executed.

Policies – Selectmen signed the following policies

- Internal Controls Policy
- Uncashed Check Policy
- Cash Receipts

Letter –

- NHDES – has received and is investigating the concern on 77 S Bennington Rd., Map 7 Lot 50 regarding filling in wetlands without the proper permitting.

Bats – JP Pest is scheduled to do the bat inspection on June 20th. The Bats are on the endangered list so removal of them is very specific. The State of NH, Fish & Game has been contacted twice, Town Administrator is waiting for a call back.

Taxes – Another resident has applied for the NH Housing Tax Relief program, it is likely this resident will be accepted for the grant. Discussion as to forgiving the interest followed. Selectmen unanimously voted to forgive the interest if this resident follows through. A forbearance agreement will need to be established for this resident going forward.

Pools – The Board of Selectmen discussed allowing residents to fill a truck from hydrants for a pool fill. Not using the Fire Department, this would need water commissions approval as well. Brief discussion followed, no decision was made.

Washout – A brief discussion followed regarding the washout in the back of the Town Hall. Town Administrator will ask the Road Agent to take care of this as soon as possible.

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next scheduled Selectmen’s Meeting will be on Monday, June 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator