

Bennington Board of Selectmen

Monday, April 29, 2024

Meeting Agenda – 6:00 pm

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

Staff: Deb Davidson, Town Administrator, Water Commissioners, Tyler Howe, Dennis McKenney & Melissa Clark

Public: Melissa Clark, Bethany Craig, Harley Miller, John Charlonne, Sherry Miller

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

Appointments:

6:15 – Water Dept., Matt Miller –

Water Shed - Matt Miller was before the Board to discuss the gate at the Water Shed on Bible Hill Rd. The Water Commissioners were also present in support of this discussion. Discussion followed, as were options for the gate. The Water Commissioners will send the owner of the right of way a letter. Based on a letter from NHDES the gate will be locked at all times.

Concerned Resident - Selectmen discussed a concern from a resident regarding HM & Son property. The resident expressed concerns about the soil, which could contaminate the water due to the number of vehicles on the property. Selectmen discussed this with Mr. Miller, John Kendall was present who indicated he has been to the site many times, and can assure everyone there is nothing leaking into the ground. It was discussed some of the vehicles are for parts and once stripped, the vehicles are removed. Mr. Kendall will continue to monitor the property. The resident who expressed concerns will be notified of the decisions by the Code Officer.

Matt Miller – Selectmen reviewed a complaint from Mr. Miller regarding a property on Bible Hill Rd. where the Town had taken gravel. The history of the removal of the gravel was discussed. Selectmen all agreed, Road Agent, Matt Blanchard will be addressing this area, and installing loam and seed to rectify any drainage concerns.

In accordance with RSA 91A:3 II (c) Chairman Cleary motioned to enter into a non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed (3-0)

6:35 pm – Motion by Chairman Cleary to enter out of the non-public session. Seconded by Selectmen Parisi & James. Motion passed (3-0)

Decision: To abate the timber tax in the amount of \$2,313.73 on Map 10 Lot 72. This was a unanimous vote of 3-0.

6:30 – Code Officer, John Kendall –

H.M. Miller & Son – Code Officer, John Kendall was before the Board to discuss the update on H.M. Miller & Son property, further identified as Map 18 Lot 3. John discussed the situation from the beginning, the Planning Board did not ask for an engineered site plan, therefore there is nothing to specifically follow. However, John understood that the Selectboard withdrew their letter to the NHDES and agreed that John would oversee the project. In doing so, Mr. Kendall expressed that Mr. Miller has been very cooperative and the property is easily controlled. It is a flat parking lot, little run off and Mr. Miller has regraded and stones have been placed in one area, with an additional silt fence, installed 300' of silt sock, installed an embedded barrier, will be coving the hill with bark mulch to retain any run off. Eventually a 6-8" stockade privacy fence will be installed. Mr. Kendall stated that Mr. Miller has done a very good job in complying with requirements and Kendall does not anticipate any problems. Photos of work that has been completed were provided and will be placed in the property file. JCL was hired to do the work, JCL has many years of experience with this type of property and has done an excellent job. John did not notify the Selectboard in writing of the plan, going forward the Board will be kept up to date. John reiterated the town has some culpability where the Planning Board did not require any engineered plans, from Mr. Kendall's perspective any problems have been addressed, working towards a good resolution and will continue to be monitored,

Map 16-2 – Code Officer, John Kendall asked Selectmen to consider a refund of 50% of the building permit fee for Map 16-2, this would only apply only if it sells as a private home lot. The current owner of the property paid a \$14,000.00 fee for the building permit and if it is not sold as a commercial lot asks that a refund be considered.

Selectmen discussed this, if the lot is sold as a private home lot, a refund of 50% will be considered.

With nothing further, Mr. Kendall thanked Selectmen for their time.

Minutes: Selectmen accepted the April 22, 2024 minutes as written.

Financial: Payroll Manifest for the week of April 28 was signed.

Other:

- **Sawyer Field DRAFT Parking Policy** – Selectmen reviewed and discussed a DRAFT parking policy for Sawyer field. It was decided it is important to have a parking policy for Sawyer Field, motion by Selectman Parisi to accept the Sawyer Field Parking Policy and to further attach it to the park rental agreement. Seconded by Chairman Cleary and Selectman James. Motion passed 3-0
- **BOS email accounts** – Selectmen were all provided a document to set up a gmail account for themselves. This alleviates using their personal accounts for Town business. If any assistance is needed, Town Administrator offered to help.
- **Hydrant Flushing on Thursday, May 9, 2024** – This is a reminder post for the Board.
- **Update on School Feasibility Committee - Chairman Cleary** – Chairman Cleary said the committee will be meeting twice a month in May and June. Cleary asked for Bethany Craig's thoughts on the meeting. Bethany stated that the Education Advisory Committee would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen after the next feasibility meeting and have some directive from the Selectboard. (i.e. what direction does Bennington want to go in, costs associated, what does a feasibility study actually mean etc.) Selectman James stated with regard to the Prismatic report, what was actually broken? He saw nothing. Melissa Clark discussed what she thought the real reason for Article 10 was intended, removing the necessity for 2/3 vote. Ms. Craig mentioned Dublin is holding a meeting tomorrow at 6:00 pm and the public is welcomed to attend.

- **Cemetery Trustee Meeting** - Selectmen accepted the resignation of Kelly St. Pierre and further accepted the recommendation of Robert Christian as the appointed replacement for Ms. St. Pierre. Selectmen further discussed meeting with the Cemetery Trustees to look at some trees that need cutting at Evergreen Cemetery and all agreed to attend. The meeting with Cemetery Trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.
- **Abatements** – 3 abatements were signed
- **Zachos** – Chairman Cleary read an announcement stating there will be a full military burial for Mr. Zachos, on Saturday, May 25th, 11:00 am at Evergreen Cemetery. There will be a gathering after the burial at the American Legion, Post 11, in Jaffrey, NH. All are welcomed to attend.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, motion by Chairman Cleary to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm. 2nd by Selectman James. Motion passed (3-0). The next Selectmen’s meeting will be Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator