

# Bennington Board of Selectmen

Monday, September 9, 2024

Meeting Minutes– 6:00 pm

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

**Staff:** Deb Davidson, Town Administrator; Catherine McGillicuddy, Administrative Assistant

**Public:** Melissa Clark

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. After opening the meeting Chairman Cleary stated the ice cream social held at the Gazebo was a huge success, there were over 120 people. Selectman James mentioned he has been approached to have music next year at the Gazebo, possibly 2 x per month. Discussion followed, Selectmen support this venture. Selectman Parisi stated he would like to see a police presence, it would be good for the community and for monitoring traffic.

## Appointments:

**6:15 – Fire Chief, Zack Andersen** – Zack was before the board to update how the first month has gone.

- Chairman Cleary gave Andersen the new gas cards.
- 2025 Budget was discussed. If any help is needed, the office is willing to help.
- New Truck will arrive in 2025. Andersen provided photos for the board. There are some items to be looked into as a result of a change order done on May 5, 2024. Change was provided to the Board. Selectmen, unanimously agreed Andersen can look into these items and take appropriate action if necessary.
- Twin Bridge has been helping with IT matters.
- Meetings are going well
- Training has been good
- Melissa Clark asked to get together in the near future to discuss the holiday parade.
- Calls have been minimal.

Selectmen thanked Andersen for the update.

**6:30 – Elaine Flanagan & Scott Littlefield** - Discussion regarding signage for trestle followed.

- **Signage** - Ms. Flanagan mentioned there is a problem with the sign at Alberto's which directs trucks up Starrett Road. Ms. Flanagan feels signage for the Papermill is inadequate. She provided several videos she has of trucks turning and/or going up Starrett Road.
- **Barriers** - Ms. Flanagan further commented she has a problem with the barriers at Alberto's. It is stopping trucks from turning around in the parking lot.
- **Snow Plowing** – Ms. Flanagan also discussed the snow plowing from Alberto's impeding the width of the bottom of Starrett Road in the winter.

Chairman Cleary stated that the signage and trucks getting stuck by the trestle has been ongoing for years. The Town continues to contact the State DOT and work toward a resolve. Town Administrator, Deb Davidson has spoken with Josh Prescott from NHDOT and Mr. Prescott indicated the State believes they have taken adequate steps to deter trucks from going to the trestle. He will be contacted again about possibly changing the signage to be more obvious to which way the trucks should turn so not to go down Antrim Rd. Cleary further stated he will contact Jordan Cuddemi about the snow and signage.

- **Pine Tree Removal** - One last item Ms. Flanagan wanted to discuss was between 12 Bible & the pump house there is a need to have some trees removed. Flanagan believes this will be a safety issue in the winter. Flanagan believes that Monadnock Papermill owns the property the trees are located on.

Chairman Cleary stated that it would be Monadnock Paper Mill's responsibility to remove the trees, not the Town, though there is no liability to MPM.

Selectmen all thanked Ms. Flanagan for bringing her concerns to their attention.

**6:45 Melissa Clark** – Melissa Clark advised that the recreation committee's discussion of Trunk or Treat, and the tour of the Transfer Station this past weekend, were both successful. Ms. Clark will contact Scott Liljeberg regarding Trunk or Treat. More information will be available in the future.

**Minutes:** Selectmen unanimously accepted the minutes of August 26, 2024.

**Financial:** A/P & Payroll Manifests were signed

**Other:**

**Budget Season Schedule** -Selectmen reviewed the budget season schedule. The schedule was approved with some minor date changes.

**Voting** – Town Administrator, Deb Davidson reminded Selectmen that one Selectman needs to be present at voting tomorrow, September 10, 2024. Selectman James will be available in the morning, Selectman Parisi in the afternoon, after 4:00 pm., All three Selectmen will be available during counting of the ballots.

**VFW Rentals** – Selectmen signed rental agreements

- **Conservation Commission** to hold “Public Talks” – September 17, October 9, November 7, time 6:00 – 7:30 pm.
- **Bennington Democrats** – VFW Rental Agreement – September 11, 2024, time 6 – 7:30 pm.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further Chairman Cleary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Seconded by Selectmen James & Parisi.

The next Selectmen’s Meeting will be September 23, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator