



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:00 am
Belmont Mill, Corner Meeting House Room

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude Patten, Jr., Selectman Travis O'Hara (late), Selectman Sharon Ciampi, TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Cashman, Town Planner Karen Santoro, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Fire Chief Deb Black, Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden, CEO Mark Ekberg, and Heritage Commission Members Vicki Donovan, Jack Donovan, Claire Bickford and Priscilla Annis.

Via Zoom were Land Use Administrative Assistant Susan Austin, Library Director Eileen Gilbert, Land Use Technician Rod Cameron and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jenn Thomas.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes – 10/04/2023 (Public & Non-Public) and 10/10/2023 (Budget Workshop):

Selectman Sonny Patten moved the minutes of the public meeting held on October 4, 2023 as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).

Selectman Pike moved the minutes of the non-public meeting held on October 4, 2023 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).

Selectman Pike moved the minutes of the Budget Workshop Meeting held on October 10, 2023 as written; seconded by Selectman Sharon Ciampi. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).

New Business:

Community Heritage Awards:

Vicki Donovan, Jack Donovan, Claire Bickford and Priscilla Annis represented the Heritage Commission to announce the 2023 Community Heritage Award winners to recognize individuals, organizations and businesses who have contributed to the Town's history and heritage.

The Heritage Commission selected Sara Mirski and Peter Spencer of the Dudley Gilman Homestead for the "Preservation of Traditions Award". They were honored by the US Secretary of the Interior and listed to the National Register of Historic Places earlier this year. Their hard work has preserved an outstanding example of a late eighteenth to early nineteenth century homestead farm. This brings special recognition to the Town for remembering its past and in preserving the Homestead towards its future.

Ms. Sara Mirski thanked the Heritage Commission and the Board of Selectman for the honor. The farm has been in her family since the 1780s and was active in providing wool for local area mills and provided blankets for the War of 1812. In the 1900s it was used as a sustenance farm. In 2018 the property became unaffordable to maintain and heat, but they used programs like historic tax credits and current use to help keep the taxes manageable. It was uninhabitable in 2018 but has now been restored.

The Preservation of Town History and Heritage Award was awarded posthumously to Diane Marden, who always had a hand in letting others know about the history of Belmont. She had a love for Town history and published a book about Belmont postcards. She was a member of the Historical Society, the Cemetery Trustees and an original member of the Heritage Commission. Her biggest challenge was her dedication to "Save the Gale School". This award was accepted by Ms. Barbara Binette and Mr. Ray Brake, Sr. to commemorate Diane's accomplishments for the Town of Belmont.

Conservation Commission Student Member Appointment:

Selectman Ciampi moved to appoint Emerson Decato as a Student Member of the Conservation Commission with a term expiring August 2025; seconded by Chairman Ruth Mooney. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).

Constellation (Electric Rate Contract):

This contract covers the supply portion of the electric rates for town buildings. The Board reviewed a packet with pricing for 1-5 years. The last contract was for 3 years. The old rate was 0.069 and the new rate is 0.107.

Selectman Patten moved to proceed with a three-year contract with Constellation for the electric supply portion of the Town's electric bill; seconded by Selectman Ciampi. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).

Other New Business:

Sprinkler Update:

Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden updated the Board on the recent sprinkler inspection of the Mill, Fire Department and DPW. The systems were last checked in 2014 but need to be done every year. The Fire Department and DPW will need to budget for an upgrade over the next 3-5 years. The Mill system is from 1997 and has some issues with corrosion on some of the heads, and Bonnette, Page & Stone's subcontractor painted 16 of 18 sprinkler heads on the 4th floor. Capital City Fire Protection will be sending a report and estimate for the repairs. It is in compliance but needs to be addressed.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Newly appointed Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Cashman thanked the Board for appointing her to the position. She is excited and looking towards the future. She hopes to bring stability to the office.

Old Business:

4 Leisure Lane:

Spears Brothers has completed the ACM survey and will give us a quote and schedule a date once they know if asbestos abatement is needed.

Other Old Business:

Lakes Region Casino Update:

Selectman Pike reported that he and Selectman O'Hara are still doing some research on this.

Lakes Region Planning Commission Housing Summary:

Land Use Technician Rod Cameron completed a summary of the lengthy LRPC report and copies were distributed to the Board.

2023 Property Assessments Informational Session:

This session will be held on Wednesday evening, November 1st at 6 pm at the Belmont High School Cafeteria, due a conflict with the meeting room at the Mill. Kevin Leen from KRT will be here, and Sam Greene and Bill Loranger from the NH Department of Revenue Administration. The meeting will be advertised to the newspaper, our website, the Park & Ride sign and to our newsletter group. TA Alicia Jipson will create a statement that individual assessments or properties will not be discussed and she will help moderate the event. The presenters will gear their presentation to the questions and concerns from the prior meeting.

Public Comment:

Discontinue Old Route 140:

Attorney Ethan Wood from Normandin, Cheney & O'Neill was present to ask the Board to consider discontinuing Old Route 140, which is contained entirely on his client's property. A warrant article would need to be voted on at the next Town meeting in March. NHDOT moved Route 140 and discontinued Old Route 140 many years ago. It became a Class V road. After 5 years with no maintenance, it became a Class VI road. It is not part of the snowmobile trail. It will create a better, safer entrance to the property. The Board will review the information provided by Attorney Wood, but seemed amenable to a warrant article.

Selectman Travis O'Hara entered the meeting at 10:33 am.

Non-Public:

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 10:34 am; seconded by Selectman Patten. Roll Call: J. Pike – aye, S. Patten – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

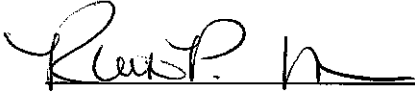
Those present and voting were Chairman Ruth Mooney and Selectmen Jon Pike, Claude Patten, Jr., Travis O'Hara and Sharon Ciampi. Also present were TA Alicia Jipson and Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman.

The Board discussed union and non-union wage proposals.

Selectman Patten moved to exit non-public session at 11:15 am; seconded by Selectman Pike. Roll Call: S. Ciampi – aye, J. Pike – aye, T. O’Hara – aye, S. Patten – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

Adjournment:

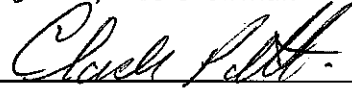
Selectman Pike moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 am; seconded by Selectman Ciampi. Motion passed unopposed (5-0).



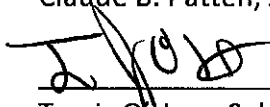
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman



Travis O'Hara, Selectman



Sharon Ciampi, Selectman