

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2016

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, October 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey, Mark Lufkin, and Wendy Hersom.

Ron Beaulieu attended the meeting and said he knows that there is always unhappy people. He said he knows there are many unhappy people at this time with the recreation department. He said that he has tried to communicate with Kelly. He was going to ask the town if the sporting aspect of the recreation position could be split off in to different responsibilities. Ron said that he is more than willing to be part of this program. He has a passion for it. He played sports, and he runs his own construction business. He thinks it would be beneficial to have a person in this position. He thought he always had a working relationship with Kelly. He said he is not interested in the other aspects of the position, i.e. old home days, etc. He doesn't know if she can delegate the sporting activities within her jurisdiction. He said they have ended up texting but not actually talking. He wanted to come here tonight to find out.

Ron asked what jurisdiction does the recreation director have – can we say separate out this duty, and will this help? He thinks it would bring more people in and we would get more participation. He says people are bringing kids up to Lancaster because of the Col. Town programs. He knows Kelly is busy with other aspects of the position. He is interested in helping with the sports program.

Wendy said that the Recreation Program has run our sports program forever, and Kelly has been here for 10 years. We leave that up to Kelly and it is her responsibility. Kelly said after delegating the soccer and with the issues this past season, it is easier just to do it herself. Kelly said that the person she got to do the sports got done because of the parents and how they treated her, including Mr. Beaulieu. Kelly said she has personally had people come to her and offer to help. Mr. White is staying involved with the baseball because he is involved in the baseball at the state level. Kelly said after all the phone calls and issues this fall she has decided to just do it herself. Parents have asked to pick up and help up with stuff for Kelly. It is hard to delegate and know it is done. The soccer has been rough and Kelly is hoping it will get better. Tim is staying part of the baseball. Kelly said the baseball program is part of a league program with other towns. Kelly said in reality it comes back to her, and when she delegates it out she is in the dark on it. Then she spends time on it, a lot more than if she had just done it herself. Kelly said she will keep going. She does look for volunteers for coaches. Mr. Beaulieu is looking to help with the organization of finding the coaches, establishing a schedule of practices and games that is more beneficial to the children. He is trying to continue to make this an amicable situation. It is hard for him to see it will get better when it hasn't been getting better. He wants to help with the schedules, etc. The games are scarce compared to other towns. Lancaster put on their social media that they have been waiting for other towns to respond. Ron said he knows what happens. He knows it is tough. He grew up playing the sports and he has coached the sports. When she said she wants to do it herself because people have dropped the ball on her, he understands that. Kelly said she will take full ownership that soccer has been a nightmare. The schedules are late—games are a nightmare – Kelly took ownership and apologized.

Kelly said that Col. Town has a full-time recreation director and that is full-time job. Lancaster, Franconia, and Col. Town has full-time people. Whitefield doesn't have a full-time recreation director. She said she has apologized for the issues that have happened this fall.

Ron asked what would be required to let Kelly know that there are many people who don't feel the program has been going well—soccer, basketball, and baseball. Ron said he has the names of 15 people who are not happy. People are unwilling to say something because they feel if they do it will be taken out on their children. Would a signed petition saying something else needs to be better—would that make her or the town more aware?

Wendy said if people are not addressing their concerns to Kelly then how does Kelly know something is not going well. Wendy said there is a way to say things in a constructive manner. The people with concerns need to address their concerns with Kelly.

Wendy said if it is parents who are just talking amongst themselves and not saying anything to Kelly then it is hard for Kelly to know there are problems. Wendy said that Kelly would be willing to sit down and address issues with people if she knew there were issues. Wendy said we would encourage people to speak with Kelly. The Board is not going to address it with Kelly if people have not addressed the issues with Kelly. Wendy said Kelly has worked for us for 10 years and nobody is perfect. Kelly said it is difficult. We have to fight for gym time. We have one gym and multiple teams that have to share a gym. Col. Town has facilities that we don't have. Wendy said unless people come up with a huge pile of money, there is not much we can do facility-wise. Wendy said that she would encourage him and the parents to speak with Kelly in a constructive manner so they can address the issues.

Peter said he agrees, but also it is incumbent on Kelly to create an environment so people can come to her to address the issues. Kelly said people call her all the time. You can't make every parent happy. Kelly said she gets a lot of compliments. Peter said we need a healthy dialogue and have parents be able to share their thoughts. If they are not satisfied after meeting with Kelly, they can then come to the Board. We pay Kelly to manage the recreation department, and we are not going to tell her how to do it.

Richard Harris, Sr. and Richard Harris, Jr. were in attendance at the meeting to see what we found out about his water hook-ups in his park. Peter said based on the suggestion from Horizons Engineering it appears we can lift the moratorium on water hooks up on the Bray Hill system subject to approval by the water department. Mark made a motion that we lift the moratorium on water hook ups on the Bray Hill system subject to approval by the water department. Peter Corey seconded the motion. He would have to go to the Water Department on a case by case basis. A single family residence may not be an issue. Each case will be based on its own merits. He will have to go through the water department for approval. They are separate hook-ups and each unit should have an application. Peter said he recalls his approval was subject to approval of the water department for his hook-ups. Dick asked if once he gets approval does he have to pay for the hook-up, and the Board said they believed so. Judy said the letter from Horizons stated "In light of the recent improvements Horizons knows of no regulatory reason to continue the current moratorium on new connections to the Bray Hill system. Horizons recommends the Town now consider new connections on a case by case basis. Requests for connection should be evaluated by the Whitefield Water System Superintendent (or Town's engineer when merited) based on the proposed water usage and location to ensure that adequate flow and pressure are available, and that flow and pressure to existing users will not be negatively impacted."

Frank Lombardi said if he buys a water hook-up today but doesn't hook-up until five years how does that figure in. Mark said he feels he would have a time frame to hook it up. Peter said whoever is running the water department should keep track of who has hook-ups approved. Dick said it should be done, but has not been previously done. Under the planning board rules he has a time frame. Mark thinks we should do it one by one—they shouldn't buy ahead. There is a three-year limit on sub-divisions. Dick said he doesn't have to have someone living there to be hooked on. There should be an estimate number of what is being used. Peter says it is the same as if the house is vacant. Dick said he feels if they haven't paid for it, they don't own it. If the water line is in, they own it. Dick said he just wants to be clear. When you hook-up, you pay the hook-up fee just one time and then he pays for his water line. He has one meter and once he pays for it he pays for usage. The Board asked Judy to check with Fred or Horizons and see if the analysis by Horizons was based on actual or estimated number of hook-ups even if they are not actually being used. Dick said he believes that no one should have a water hook-up until they are paid for.

The Board unanimously approved the motion that we lift the moratorium on water hook ups on the Bray Hill system subject to approval by the water department.

Katie Lombardi had information to give to the Board to give to the town attorney, Christine Fillmore, for the Pre Filed Testimony, which will give the Town an opportunity to present testimony directly to the SEC on the impacts of the Northern Pass Project on our town.

Duncan Nevers said could this be done in private session since it is a matter in litigation. The Board discussed this and decided to go into non-public session after the public portion of the meeting was completed.

Judy drafted a letter for the Bureau of Rail & Transit in reference to the rail yard located on Union Street. Peter thought that Shawn was going to discuss this with Phil Beaulieu. Sondra Brekke asked a question about the railyard. At one point there was a project that was supposed to revitalize the areas and by the rail yards and make a park. She thought they wanted to make trails in that area for people to walk on. She was wondering if what we do now affect that? Mark said it could if we decreased the size of the parking area. We are not looking for a permanent solution at this time. We are looking for a quick, easy solution to prevent the trucks from parking there and running overnight. Edie asked if there is a new sign here. Mark said that sign has been there, but he hasn't seen any trucks there since the barrels were removed. Edie said it is better with the barrels gone because people use that railyard to turn around. Someone asked about the police department enforcing the no overnight parking. Wendy said we do not have 24-hour police coverage. Dick suggested no parking after 9p.m. or 10 p.m. Wendy said we are looking at making it more presentable. We could limit the parking to passenger cars only and no overnight parking. The goal is to eliminate truck parking and overnight parking and to the extent that we can make it look presentable.

Peter Corey had reviewed the Engineering Agreement prepared by Horizons Engineering contract for the water/sewer projects. This is for the initial project design. Peter did say he found a couple of things.

Page one on the top where it says: evaluation of existing wastewater facilities and preliminary engineering report, definition of water project—is this clear enough? It might need to be further defined to say “replacement or upgrade options”. Peter said some of that is in the details, and he is not sure what they mean by definition of the water project. On the second Page 5, right hand side,

paragraph 2-- basis of design – It looks like a typo error—The present and design year population data to include the Town and Town will be compiled?? Peter said it says in that paragraph they talk about a 20-year plan, and he is a little concerned we are only looking at 20 years for design of the system. Mark thinks it is a regulation. Peter said he worries we are going to design a system for only 20 years. Page 7 – paragraph 5, sub-paragraph c – Engineer will perform a preliminary engineering study for the “lower plains area” – what is the lower plains area? On the third page 3 & 4 where it speaks to compensation packet and we will see on the left-hand side page - \$45,000 for study & evaluation phase. Go over to page 4 and c speaks to compensation for reimbursable expenses – are we subject to these costs in addition to the \$45,000 or is that included? Judy will follow-up with Horizons on these questions. Jon actually is scheduled to come to the next meeting on the 17th.

Peter Corey suggested that the Board take the personnel policy revisions and review them before the next meeting and we can discuss them at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the petition warrant articles by outside agencies requesting funding at town meeting. It was decided for 2017 to have the outside agencies submit their petition articles with the signatures of 25 registered voters.

Terry and Brad Lufkin have had questions about the minutes of the August 8th meeting which have already been approved and the building that Peter Corey owns in Littleton. Terry said she meant to say the building was rented to the U.S. Air Force. Peter said the building located at 260 Main Street in Littleton, NH is owned by the FACB, LLC , which is a partnership in good standing with the Secretary of State since 2003 the partners are Peter Corey and his brother Jeff Corey and the building has 4 office/retail spaces and one of those is rented as a U.S. Air Force Recruiting station.

The Board reviewed the extended warranty for the new water truck. The Board felt we do not need the extended warranty for the new truck.

The Board reviewed the information on the new “All Veteran’s Tax Credit”, and decided if people want to put it on the warrant for town meeting they will need to submit a petition with the signatures of 25 registered Whitefield voters to get it on the warrant in 2017.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve the minutes of the September 26th Selectmen’s Meeting with the following corrections: the correct spelling for birm is berm. On page 4, second paragraph replace down here with at the Morrison Senior Living Community project. On page 4, last line, it wasn’t Marsha who said the current equipment is 1.5 inches, it was Shawn who said it. On page 3, line 4 and on page 6, four full paragraph down it says introverted syphon and it should be inverted syphon.

Frank Lombardi gave the Selectmen a handout he did a couple of years ago for the town meeting about the Whitefield sidewalks.

Mark had someone ask him we were going to bill the Morrison for Fred’s time to bleed that line when A.B. broke the line. The Board unanimously agreed to send a bill to Morrison’s for Fred’s time. Edie said that is good—that is how it should be.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to enter in to non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims for litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 9:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Wendy Hersom, seconded, and unanimously approved to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the conclusion of the pending Northern Pass litigation.

Tom Ladd had given the Board a photo of a new weight limit sign that was put up on Gould Road. He was concerned as we had not voted on this weight limit. The Board asked Judy to put this on the agenda for the next meeting on October 17th and to have Shawn remove the weight limit sign until this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.