

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

September 11, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Nancy Woolley, Martha Slater, Barb DeHart, Lois Bond, , Anni Mackay, Terry Severy, Ginny & Eric Bowman, Keifer & Bill Irwin, Toni Deslaurier, Mason Wade, Deb Leahy, Gordon Bettis, Martin (Smokey) Bowen, Marty Mahar, Kristen Casella, Harland McKhyrrer

Call to order: Doon called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Minutes: Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the August 28th meeting with one correction. Joanne will add "maintained" in second page regarding Pine Gap Rd. Seconded, so voted.

Additions to Agenda: none

New Business: Budget & Finance Committee spoke to board about the schedule of meetings for this year. Budget worksheets will go out to department heads by the end of the week. We will request that the completed worksheets come back to the office by September 29th. Short discussion ensued. The first B&F meeting is scheduled for October 16th at 6:00 pm. Health care plans will be discussed and Joanne will try to get the plan descriptions as soon as possible.

Guests: Attorney Toni Deslaurier told the board that she has had some time to review the records and maps, and it seems that Pine Gap Road is truly a road. She looked through 1936, 1937 and 1938 and there is no evidence of discontinuance. Also, the highway mileage reports for those years show no miles discontinued. Doon described where the road is situated for those attending. Toni explained that since this is still legally a road, the recourse is to ask for a discontinuance. The process by statute-Title 19, Chapter 708-allows voters and/or landowners to apply by petition with 5%. She submitted a petition to the board with 67 signatures. Joanne will double check for registered voters and will confirm with Toni when that is done. Toni has a map of the town highway showing the untraveled portion which only appears to cross Masons' land on the upper corner. The road doesn't go through Mahars land, but goes along the side. She is asking to discontinue just the section by Mason's land, not the entire road. Doon explained that the board will need to digest and discuss. He noted that they cannot discontinue a road that is the only access, but Toni explained that there may be other accesses available. It was noted again that the USFS has denied access on 62 and 62A. Marty asked if this is a state process, which it is not. Toni reviewed the steps of the process for discontinuance as noted in Title 19. Discussion ensued, and Kiefer voiced her concerns about parking. It will be difficult for the people who recreate there to find parking with extra snowmobile trailers taking space. Doon noted that the board will respond to the petition and inspect the road. Harland McKhyrrer wanted to have it mentioned in the last meeting that Larry Straus was all over his s*&%t years about dumping stuff on the road, and that Larry noted at Harvest Fair that the Selectboard has the last word on this situation. He felt that was pertinent information that relates to what we are talking about here but it wasn't in the minutes. He noted they

built the big bridge, FEMA money paid for it which is why the bridge is so big. He would not have gone along with the bridge at all if he'd known it would be so big. So, for the town to not pay any money for the bridge, FEMA paid for it. Doon noted that Mason was determined to be able to get back to his house, so there was pressure to rebuild the bridge. Charles Smith was ditching roads in the area, and a lot of his bank disappeared during that time. Harland let him dump a bunch of fill in his meadow and down at the river. Larry shut the project down. This relates because the Selectboard has the final say.

Toni also asked about the discussion about snowmobiles on town roads that were not in the minutes from the last meeting either. Doon noted that snowmobiles are allowed on town roads if they are not maintained, which follows state rules. The board will take the appropriate steps and move forward with this process. They will set a date to walk the road and look over the lay of the land. Tom Schnabel also noted that his neighbor Doug Billings also helped to build the camp, and the access to the camp was pine gap road. There has been only seasonal interest after the USFS built their roads, which is why it is overgrown. Marty noted that both Smokey and Gordon came to help bring historical information to the board if helpful. Smokey noted that they snowmobiled in through Bubby's (??) property in the winter. Kiefer asked about the history of recreational use of the area as recreational for the past 60 years as the Pine Gap Loop. Gordon explained that it was less than 60 years ago, more like 50 years that the camp was built. They built it in the 1970's and used Pine Gap to get there. Discussion continued. Doon again reiterated that the town is responsible for controlling erosion on the class 4 roads. Because this is a town road, the property owner would not need USFS approval to clear it, but Harland and Marty noted according to Ranger Chris Mattrick, any marketable timber in the roadway would belong to the USFS. Eric asked if they will bring it to a drivable state, and Doon explained that it would be up to the person who will use it. Deb Leehey asked if the town would be liable for any injury to a person working on the road, which is unclear. Toni asked Gordon Bettis about the old jeep road going up to Tin Camp, and Smokey noted that there are two Tin Camps, one was on IP land and the other was in Hancock. Toni believes that the one on the Rochester side was used for jeeps, but sometime in the 1970s, the USFS decided it should be a motorized trail. Harland noted that he remembers Russ Smith using what is now Thresher Hill Road, but doesn't remember anyone ever using Pine Gap Rd. Smokey noted that when Bassett's owned Harland's property, they would see them out picking berries when they went up Pine Gap Rd. Smokey also noted that Flanders Road is another Class 4 road above Harland's as well. Doon noted that the board will move forward with eh information. Smokey asked that he be notified when the board walks the road and would like to attend. Toni reminded the board that they will have to give notice and warn it, and she would like to be notified as well.

New Business: Doon explained that we are in the 5th year of our Town Plan and it needs to be rewritten. It will cost us \$1300 for our share of the match, and TRORC works with the planning and zoning committee to update the plan. Doon made motion to sign the resolution between the Town and TRORC, seconded by Jim. So voted. All board members signed the resolution.

Paving on Middle Hollow road will not happen until the first part of next year. It was noted that the area in front of the Post Office is in very bad shape-someone tripped on the broken pavement and fell. Short discussion ensued; Terry noted that there is going to be paving on Rt 100 soon, and possibly the road crew could get some blacktop from them. Doon will make sure it is taken care of.

Tom Schnabel noted that someone had told him that Corporation Road has not been graded at all yet, he will go take a look. Nancy Woolley mentioned that there is a large washout creating gully on the right side of the road on Marine Hill that should be repaired as well.

Utilities: Terry noted that he will be bringing the nitrate test results down to the office to post. The PH #'s of the water are great, consistently above 7. He was thinking of turning it down a bit. Short discussion regarding an email account for Terry to send his readings. Joanne noted that if he sends them directly to the town email, she can set up a separate folder for Terry's readings. Terry and Jim noted how hard it is to get a good picture, and Tom believes that he can find the right kind of light to make this easier.

Doon noted that the bill for Hebert Excavating (Marine Hill culvert) did not make it into the bills for tonight. Joanne will do a special warrant tomorrow and the board can come in and sign.

Joanne asked about the picnic tables and benches on the Park. It would be good to power wash them and weatherize them with some kind of sealant. The uprights on the pavilion at Riverbend Park should also be done. Short discussion ensued.

Terry asked if there are plans to paint Skatespace. RASTA had volunteered to help, and Terry noted that it will not be worth even filling it this year if it is not painted.

The sidewalk plowing contract needs to be put out to bid again. Joanne will pull the specs and forward to the board. Doon noted that Jeannette had asked if the library walkway shoveling will be included in this contract, but the concern is that hand shoveling may deter people from bidding on the job. Short discussion ensued.

Joan had forwarded a letter to the board asking if any of the Town's Class 3 roads will be updated to Class 2. No roads will be changed.

Bills reviewed and warrants signed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell