

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 9, 2013
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Lynn Wheeler, Roderick Ladd and Robert Roudebush

Excused: Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer Jo Lacaillade

Town Manager: Glenn English

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Pierce Rigrod, Donna Doel Bascom, Steve Robbins, Pam Gilbert, Jesse LaFlamme, Gerry LaFlamme, Kevin Phelps, Karl Johnson, Anna-Lisa Pruitt, Dave Pruitt, Patsy Dodge, Jessica Miller-Dodge, Marcia Welsh, Dick Woodside, Maryellen Kirkpatrick and Ed Ballam -- JO

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Wayne Fortier called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Lynn Wheeler made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Robert Roudebush made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **DES/USDA Conservation District-Groundwater Protection:** Chairman Fortier introduced Pierce Rigrod of the New Hampshire DES, Drinking and Groundwater Bureau, Source Water Protection Program. Mr. Rigrod's job is to work with communities and public water systems to develop protection strategies for water resources, groundwater and drinking water resources. There are approximately 3,000 public water systems in New Hampshire. The focus of the meeting was options for groundwater protection, particularly agricultural uses. He would reference some statutes and other related regulations that apply to agriculture. The Department of Agriculture oversees the Best Management Practices, which are a guide for regulating agriculture in NH. He was going to defer to Donna Doel Bascom of NRCS, who has a better handle on how these practices are applied. Mr. Rigrod did a Power Point presentation, which showed a map of Haverhill's Drinking Water Resources. The approach at the DES is similar to what the Federal government prescribes for protecting source water resources – it is a multi-barrier approach. It is a series of structural equipment treatment of drinking water as well as the way water is stored and the way it is monitored. The first step is how to protect the original source – aquifers, lakes and rivers that are used in NH. Part of what the DES does is explain and help communities and water systems deal with source protections. One of the primary drivers of this, at both the Federal and State levels, has been contamination of various communities in NH.

Petroleum related contamination has cost \$180 million over the last 20 years. 7000 contamination sites required remediation; many affecting groundwater and public water supplies. He went on to describe steps to manage sources of drinking water. (1) Delineate the area that may contribute water to a well (the wellhead protection area); (2) Identify the activities in that area that have the potential to release contaminants to the ground; and (3) Manage those activities to minimize the risk of releases. He then described factors affecting a well's vulnerability to contamination; environmental & health concerns related to livestock and poultry; and human health risks related to livestock/animal manure. He described RSA 485-C:5, which has four "Classes" of groundwater. They are GAA (delineated wellhead protection areas); GA1 (groundwater of high value for present or future drinking water; GA2 (potentially valuable stratified drift aquifers; and GB (all groundwater not assigned to a higher class). Mr. Rigrod also discussed the summary of municipal options for groundwater protection. They are Option 1: Reclassification of groundwater to GAA or GA1; Option 2: Adopt a health ordinance in conjunction with reclassification of groundwater to GAA or GA 1; Option 3: Adopt a health ordinance for wellhead or groundwater protection without reclassification; and Option 4: Adopt a groundwater protection or agricultural zoning district. Some of the advantages of the GAA or GA1 reclassification are: Local health officers are authorized to issue cease and desist orders related to groundwater BMPs (GAA and GA1); prohibits small number of high-risk uses (GAA only); requires groundwater monitoring wells for certain existing high risk land uses per RSA 485-C; 13(III) (GAA only); and extends local comment period for DES permits by 30 days for "local entity". There are 93 communities in NH that have groundwater/aquifer protection districts. His summary conclusions are: Manure contamination of drinking and recreational water resources can be a human health concern and/or incur increased drinking water treatment costs; good management through BMPs minimizes the risks and local consensus and farmer involvement is key; most contamination comes from overland flow so BMPs to reduce that are protective. Limit "overland flow" into streams, ponds or directly to groundwater (via structural cover, composting or other treatment). And lastly, a local health ordinance with GAA/GA1 reclassification (Option 2) would be most protective – allowing local enforcement of groundwater and agricultural BMPs presenting health/safety hazards. Rick Ladd asked Mr. Rigrod if the options that are on the web are the same options listed under model ordinances and the reply was yes. Chairman Fortier asked Mr. Rigrod if the DES had any regulatory authority to cease and desist other than the local health officer. Mr. Rigrod replied that he didn't think they had any cease and desist authority. Steve Robbins asked Mr. Rigrod if the DES provided education for the health officer and Mr. Rigrod replied that they had information that health officers could modify that would be very helpful.

Chairman Fortier then introduced Donna Doel Bascom, Soil Conservationist, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Orford office. She did a short presentation of what NRCS does and who they serve. NRCS is a part of the USDA; they were originally what was called the Soil Conservation Service. Their purpose is to give solutions and practices available to landowners and farmers to help them protect water quality, air quality, wildlife and forestry. They were asked to come and talk about what they can offer as Best Management Practices for a farm coming into or wanting to adopt Best Management Practices so they comply with regulations. She then discussed Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP), technical criteria, and their nutrient management practice codes. Rick Ladd asked Ms. Bascom about an ordinance. She replied that they were required to comply with all Federal, State and local ordinances. She also stated that they were not a regulatory agency; they were there to assist

landowners to meet some of these obligations. She stated that her agency follows New Hampshire's Best Management Practices and DES regulations. They are primarily concerned with protecting surface and ground waters. She stated that nutrient applications should match crop plant needs and uptakes for a growing season. There are different methods of applying manure that will help minimize losses to groundwater or surface runoff. They encourage and help farmers to learn about those techniques – things like using cover crops to take up excess nutrients, different ways to apply manure so it's put directly into the ground so there is less nitrogen and there is more precision application rate. These methods are based on scientific research, soil science, and University-based recommendations from years of gathering data. NRCS offers incentive payments for people to use cover crops, improve soil quality and manage nutrients more tightly so that it's not going into surface water or groundwater. NRCS also has air quality standards; they have buffers and wind breaks available on a farm. TM English asked Ms. Bascom if air quality included smell and she responded that it did. Lynn Wheeler asked if most of the farms in the area took advantage of the run-off program and Ms. Bascom replied that they did. Ms. Bascom was asked who the landowner reports tests to and she replied that when they sign someone up for the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, they need to have a waste storage facility. They will receive an incentive payment for following through on the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and in order to get that payment, they need to show the NRCS the manure spreading rate for the year, their storage, and their animal numbers. They have to keep records that demonstrate that they are following the Plan. The NRCS provides them with a recordkeeping system.

Jesse LaFlamme, co-owner of Pete & Gerry's Organic Eggs of Monroe, NH, did a short presentation about their egg farms. Their core values are to produce very high quality, cage free organic eggs in an environmentally sound way. They are a four-generation family farm and their chickens are entirely cage free and they are the first egg farm in the country to be certified humane egg farmers. They sell their eggs all the way from northern Maine to Florida. They support about 60 other family farms that contract egg producers. They are the only company of their size in the country that is 100% cage free. He stated that they have long-term contracts with their farm partners. The farmer is obligated to provide the farm, labor and care and production of the hens. The company retains ownership of the flock. The key components are food safety, animal welfare and proper waste management. Their farms range in size from 5,000 to 40,000 hens. Rick Ladd asked who did the inspections of the farms and if the health officer was required to do the inspections. He was told that the company would be at the farms every week or every other week inspecting to make sure everything was up to the company's standards. TM English asked what they did with feathers and Jesse replied that the feathers went with the manure. Robert Roudebush stated that he had recently toured the farm in Monroe and asked if anyone at the meeting would be welcome to visit the facility and Jesse replied that they would encourage it. Rick Ladd asked what would happen if Pete & Gerry's pulls out and they have a bad manager or bad owner in place. Jesse replied that the likelihood of that happening was slim to none.

Public Hearing: None

Members of the Public: There were several residents of Haverhill Corner at the meeting to talk about the Connecticut River Byway signs recently erected. Anna-Lisa Pruitt stated that she returned from a visit to find an "8 foot tall from the ground and 4 foot wide" sign across the street from her house. She was also concerned about the big sign on the hill. She stated that many of her neighbors were upset by

the sign. The afternoon of the meeting, she looked out and the sign was coming down and she is grateful that she can see the river again. She was asking how Haverhill Corner had inherited those “big” signs. Patsy Dodge, who lives across the road from the Pruitts and also runs a preschool there, stated that she felt that the sign was a traffic hazard. When one of her preschool parents picked up their child, the parent stated that they had a hard time seeing out of her driveway because of the “huge” sign. Dick Woodside asked how all of a sudden, Haverhill Corner had these signs. Chairman Fortier stated that they were part of the Connecticut River Byway and because of the historical nature of the Common, these signs were created to promote the activities of Alumni Hall and Haverhill Academy. It was federal money that created those signs; we accepted that because we are a part of the Connecticut River Byway. When the signage was first developed, which was well over a year ago, there was a process. In the beginning, the Board of Selectmen said that since they were involved with the Connecticut River Byway, they applied for a grant for the signs. The signs came and then when the first initial information about where the signs were going to go, there was an uproar from people who lived in Haverhill Precinct. He stated that these signs were also in Woodsville. He does recall that the signs designed for Haverhill were in keeping with the Colonial aspect of the Common and that’s why there are two colonial posts instead of the black cast iron posts in Woodsville. He stated that, a year ago, because of concerns from people on the Common, the Board decided to receive input from citizens. Then the Board also took a tour. The signs were originally going to go where the flagpole is and that caused a great concern. So the Board met with interested people and looked for alternative places to put the signs. At the end of the meeting tour, there was no definitive site. It came back that the location of the signs had been worked out. Rick Ladd also did a brief overview from the Precinct Commissioners’ side. He stated that where they had finally put the signs was a compromise. Anna-Lisa Pruitt asked why that size sign had to be put in Haverhill Corner. Chairman Fortier stated that the color and size of the sign went with the National Historical signage. TM English stated that a few years ago when they ordered the signs, they were standardized in either a Colonial or Rustic style. He recommended to the Board that the signs be pulled and it would be advantageous to work with Alumni Hall and the Commissioners of Haverhill Corner to get a smaller sign located at the Common at Court Street on the triangle that is acceptable to everyone. The only purpose of these two signs is to get people to turn onto Court Street to experience the Hall. Rick Ladd stated that if the sign is done right, it is workable on the Common. Lynn Wheeler asked how the new signs would be paid for. Rick Ladd stated that between the Town and the Precinct, they should be able to come up with the funds for the signs. Lynn Wheeler stated that the new signs should have some consistency with the other signs around town. She suggested driving around, looking at the other signs and coming up with designs that are similar to the ones already up. The Board would work with the Commissioners and any interested parties throughout the Town to see that this project gets completed to everyone’s satisfaction. Rick Ladd volunteered to be the lead on this project.

New Business:

- **Building Permit and Fee revisions:** Lynn Wheeler made the motion to table building permit and fee revisions for another meeting; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Town Manager’s Report: TM English stated that there was notice of a pre-construction conference for the Route 10 project going south out of North Haverhill village to stabilize the bank where the guardrail is. The meeting will be at the JRM Building in the gym.

Pending (Old) Business: None

Commission/Committee Reports: None

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier stated that they had received a thank-you from Amy Wright concerning the death of her dad, Winthrop Clark, a former Selectman. He also had correspondence from North Country Council about their 40th Annual Dinner on Wednesday, October 23, 2013.

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: None

Comments of Selectboard Members: Robert Roudebush stated that Airport Awareness Day is Saturday, September 14 from 10 to 3. He was going to the Budget & Finance Workshop on September 17, 2013 in Manchester. The Ammonoosuc Community Health Services is having another get-together Thursday, September 12 from 6 to 7 in Littleton. He will be going to the third session of the Selectpersons' Institute on September 21. Rick Ladd stated that the presentations from the DES, USDA and Pete & Gerry's were excellent. He would like to continue some discussion on this in terms of what direction the Town was going to go. He would like to see this placed again on the next Agenda. He also stated that the Committee meetings they have had dealing with school construction and where they are going with the schools, he would like to have some discussion amongst the Board of what they can do to help achieve better education in the Town of Haverhill. Education is a key to growth, jobs, and everything we do. There are some detractors on the municipal side that they can look at. TM English stated that low-income housing has been growing exponentially, which contributes to the problems in the schools, which contributes to the municipal costs. Lynn Wheeler disagreed and said the emphasis should be on the quality of instruction in the schools. Chairman Fortier stated that he would like this placed on the next Agenda as well. He would like specific examples of how the Town can address the issues and come up with methodologies on how the Town might do that. The next meeting of the School Committee is Wednesday, September 11, 2013. The Committee would be hearing from the Police Chief and the Fire Chiefs.

Adjourn Meeting: Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde