

**Town of Haverhill  
Select Board Meeting  
MINUTES  
Monday, November 8, 2021, 6:00 PM  
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building  
65 South Court St.  
Woodsville, NH 03785  
Or on ZOOM**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Fred Garofalo, Chair.

**Select Board Attendance:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Present), Steve Robbins (Present), Howard Hatch (Here), Mike Graham (Here), Fred Garofalo (Here). A quorum was met.

**Town Employees Present:**

**Town Manager:** Brigitte Codling (online)

**Assistant Town Manager:** Jennifer Boucher (onsite)

**Members of the Public Present:**

***In Person***

Greg Mathieson  
Winston Currier  
Miguel Vasconcelos  
Mark Lang  
Melissa Roy  
Doug Henson  
Ken H.  
Ed Ballam

Colton Grant  
Marilyn Blaisdell  
Mary Patridge  
Darwin Clogston  
Susie Tann  
Darlene Simboli  
Dave Long

***Online***

Sean O'Donnell  
Cliff Batchelder  
Dennis Cunningham  
Mike Bonanno  
Cassie Moulton  
Karen Cox  
Ester Hodges-leClaire  
Robert Maccini  
Dorothy Long  
Joanne Young

Aprille Paradise  
Doug Henson  
Regis Roy  
D. Appleby  
C. Hebert  
Lorie Aldrich  
Bob Long  
Elizabeth Henson  
Matthew Yao

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

The members reviewed the Agenda and Garofalo added:

- Mike Bonanno as a Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) applicant.
- Ester Brown (Hodges-leClaire) as a ZBA applicant.
- Robbins suggested adding these applicant reviews to the ZBA discussion under Pending Business.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION #1:** Bjelobrk made the motion and Robbins seconded the motion to approve the minutes from **October 25, 2021**, as written.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Graham (Abstained), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed with four Aye votes and one abstention.

## **SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

Garofalo stated the appointment were moved to Old Business.

## **TOWN EMPLOYEE APPEARANCES:**

- **Matthew Yao, Detective-in-Training**

Garofalo asked Yao to talk about himself and his background. Yao stated that he grew up in Goffstown, NH. Yao stated that he has been a police officer in Thornton since 2017 doing community policing, investigation work, and instructing. Yao stated that previously he worked at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant on their tactical response team, and prior to that, he was in the Marine Corp Reserves.

Garofalo welcomed Yao to Haverhill and thanked Yao for speaking with the Board.

## **PUBLIC WANTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

**Susie Tann:** Tann stated that she is speaking to the Board for Mary Patridge and herself regarding the Vertex Tower installation on Eric Mt. (Capitol Hill, Teepee Hill). Tann stated that both properties will be dramatically affected by the installation of the tower and were disappointed with the Planning Board's decision to accept the site plan. Tann expressed that she and Patridge endorse broadband, and from the Telecommunication Ordinance, there can be a win-win situation. Tann stated that she has contacted the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives where she found much information. Bjelobrk asked Tann to explain the negative impact on her and Patridge's properties. Tann noted that the view that she and Patridge have from Cunity Road will be impacted, as well, as the property values. Graham asked about the height restriction in the Telecommunications Ordinance, and Tann replied, "100 feet." Tann stated that she can ask Vertex to hire a lawyer and a radio frequency design engineer. Graham stated that he heard that Vertex already had contracts with providers, and Tann replied, "With T-Mobile." Tann also learned that the tower can be extended by 20 feet without having to go back to the Town for approval.

**Doug Henson:** Henson requests from the Town a list and information on the projects that have been funded through NPIAS. Garofalo stated that NPIAS has no connection with the airport reconstruction and Airport Rd. restructuring. Henson stated rather than marking trees for the airport safety zone, he would like a line that indicates where the safety zone is. Discussion ensued. Bjelobrk stated that he will ask Town Manager Codling and Airport Manager Ralph Crosswell to follow up.

**Greg Mathieson:** Mathieson asked that the Town Manager post all the NPIAS documents on the Town's website for residents to review. Mathieson commented on airport safety and compliance stating that he contacted NHDES about the fuel station and, when inspected, there were many deficiencies, which had to be corrected in 30 days. Mathieson stated that fire codes were not met, including emergency cut offs. Mathieson continued asking why there was Airport Day if the airport is so unsafe for aircraft to fly.

Mathieson commented about the Woodsville sand pit stating that he contacted the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and an inspector viewed the pit, reported on many issues, and contacted OSHA for follow up. Mathieson stated that the pit slopes and the barrier fencing were the main issues. Mathieson stated that the pit should be shut down until the safety issue can be resolved. Garofalo stated that particular pit is owned by the Woodsville precinct and that this information should go to the Precinct Commissioners. Boucher noted that the Planning Board can address this issue. Bjelobrk noted that they are working though the issue of whether the pit is a municipal pit. Graham stated that everyone is aware of the safety compliance issues of the Woodsville pit.

**Bjelobrk** spoke to the issue of inspections at the airport not being done in 3 years stating that Covid pushed back inspections for 1 1/2 years and the inspections are not scheduled – inspectors arrive without notice. Bjelobrk addressed the statement from Mathieson about the airport being unsafe stating that there are issues that can be improved to make the airport safer, but he would not characterize the airport as unsafe.

**Robbins** stated that it is not a manned station, and all requirements do not have to be met. It is a 24-hour unmanned fueling station. Mathieson replied that according to the standards, "aircraft fuel service emergency systems are required."

**Miguel Vasconcelos:** Vasconcelos stated that the research from Mathieson on the airport is "misguided," and urged the Board to consider only factual information.

**Winston Currier:** Currier stated that he SENDS a big thank you for all those who work at the airport. Currier owns an aircraft stored at the airport.

## **PENDING/OLD BUSINESS**

### **ZBA Appointments / ex officio Appointment**

- **Ester Hodges-leClaire**

Hodges-leClaire stated that she is a resident of Haverhill Corner and a licensed architect in Massachusetts, and moved recently to New Hampshire and is working on securing her NH license.

Garofalo asked:

1. What is your basic understanding of the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the ZBA, which you are volunteering for?

Hodges-leClaire replied that the ZBA oversees requests for variances that might result from the disapproval of a building permit and the members have to have a working knowledge of

the Town's zoning ordinances. Hodges-leClaire stated that she understands that the ZBA meets as needed.

2. Do you have any experience or training that would be useful?

Hodges-leClaire stated that as a licensed architect and a designer, she has prepared submissions for zoning boards, so she has experience and a working knowledge of building and zoning codes.

3. Are you willing to attend training that may be provided by the State or the Town related to this?

Hodges-leClaire replied, "Yes."

4. What is your understanding of a conflict of interest?

Hodges-leClaire replied that it occurs when she or any close family member brings an issue to the Board in which case there would be a conflict of interest.

5. Are you willing to so state a conflict of interest if one should arise and remove yourself from the table?

Hodges-leClaire replied, "Yes."

6. What is your view on basing decisions solely on the facts alone prescribed by the NH statutes and local ordinances?

Hodges-leClaire replied that all decisions should be based on facts and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**MOTION #2:** Bjelobrck made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to appoint **Ester Hodges-leClaire** to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrck (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

Boucher stated that Hodges-leClaire will have to visit the Town Clerk to take the Oath of Office and be sworn in.

- **Mike Bonanno**

Bonanno stated that he is applying to become a member of the ZBA. Bonanno stated that he's been involved with the Town for over 10 years as a member of the Planning Board (8 years), Select Board, Airport Commission, and, currently, he stated he is deputy director of emergency management for Haverhill. Bonanno is also the chair of the Planning Board for Mt. Lakes (8 years).

Garofalo asked:

1. What is your basic understanding of the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the ZBA, which you are volunteering for?

Bonanno replied that the responsibilities of the ZBA are to review and decide cases where a relaxation of the zoning ordinance is applied for.

2. Do you have any experience or training that would be useful?

Bonanno referred to his previous statement of having been a member of many boards in the past and currently.

3. Are you willing to attend training that may be provided by the State or the Town related to this?

Bonanno replied, "Yes."

4. What is your understanding of a conflict of interest?

Bonanno replied that conflict of interest is something that would benefit me personally, my family, or a friend.

5. Are you willing to so state a conflict of interest if one should arise and remove yourself from the table and become part of the audience while that issue is being discussed and voted on?

Bonanno replied, "Absolutely."

6. What is your view on basing decisions solely on the facts alone prescribed by the NH statutes and local ordinances?

Bonanno replied that that is how he makes decisions on the facts and the state RSAs.

**MOTION #3:** Bjelobrk made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to appoint **Mike Bonanno** to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

Garofalo stated that Bonanno will have to visit the Town Clerk to take the Oath of Office and be sworn in.

- **Nomination for ex officio member to the ZBA**

Graham asked if that was correct to have a Select Board member on the ZBA. Bjelobrk noted that the Select Board has an ex officio on every board because the Select Board is ultimately responsible for every board.

**NOMINATION:** Robbins nominated Bjelobrk as ex officio to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Garofalo seconded the nomination.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Did not vote), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed with four Ayes and one no vote.

### **Airport Safety Study / Discussion of Alternatives**

Garofalo asked the members where they are in their thinking about the Alternatives.

- Bjelobrk noted that the Henson's and the public brought up many issues and he felt that Alternative 5 has some benefits: implemented right away, mitigates the safety risks right

away, and is less intrusive on the Henson's property. Bjelobrk noted that from his conversations with the chiefs of police and fire, the emergency response to the school would not be affected by the closure of Airport Rd., and at Town Meeting if residents are concerned, they can bring it up for a vote for appropriation of funds. And, Bjelobrk noted, this will cost the taxpayers nothing.

- Robbins stated that option 5 was voted off the table. Bjelobrk stated that the vote last meeting was a tie vote, and the motion did not pass. Bjelobrk stated that the vote last meeting died with a tie vote.

**MOTION #4:** Bjelobrk made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to select Airport Safety Study Alternative 5 (closing Airport Rd.) and mitigate the safety issues immediately.

- Robbins noted that in 2015, the voters did not want the road closed.
- Garofalo noted that if the road was relocated, it would take property away from a landowner. Bjelobrk stated that there is an area that the Town has to own and have control over in the airport safety area.
- Hatch noted that many mistakes have been made at the airport and we have to fix them. Hatch continued that 95% of the airport reconstruction money we can spend, but he stated that the taxpayers should not contribute the 5% match.
- Graham stated he studied the report and reviewed the Town vote on keeping the road open, which he could not ignore.
- Garofalo stated that closing the road is the least expensive and easiest way to create a safe airport. Garofalo stated that he believes that option 4 is the answer. Discussion continued about the vote for construction appropriations at Town Meeting.
- Marilyn Blaisdell stated that the impact of the road closure will be felt by Town Meeting day.
- Bjelobrk stated that the Town can appropriate funds by warrant article to relocate the road.
- Hatch stated that if we vote #5, it stops the clock. Hatch asked will we lose the \$150,000 that has not been spent. Boucher stated that some of the money went towards the Safety Study.
- Vasconcelos stated that a vote tonight will allow the Study to continue to the next phase.
- Discussion continued about the planning of the road closure.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Review of the ATV Season / Discussion**

Bjelobrk asked for input from the Chief of Police relating to ATV calls. Chief Appleby had statistics on the ATV incidents from May 2021:

- May 23, one incident (speed issue).
- July 29, one incident (speed issue).

Garofalo noted that he gets a weekly report of violations of ATVs in Mt. Lakes, and the individual who does this reported one to the police. Chief Appleby noted that he did receive three to four incidents related to speeding. Boucher noted that the individual is on French Pond Rd. Discussion continued.

Garofalo asked Road Agent Colton Grant about ATV use on the roads of Haverhill. Grant had no issues. Garofalo stated that he saw no concerns except for one or two speeding. Hatch stated that the trail intersects Tewksbury Rd. and Briar Hill Rd., and he has no complaints.

Bob Long from the ATV Club stated that he has seen lots of new activity in Mt. Lakes and most of the riders are going slowly. Long noted that it has been a good experience. Robbins noted that he has not seen any issues.

**MOTION #5:** Bjelobrk made the motion that ATV use in Mt Lakes has passed the probationary period and that the Board make permanent the ATV seasonal use during daylight hours (half-hour before sunrise to half-hour after sunset) May 23 to October 31 in Mt. Lakes. Robbins seconded the motion.

- Trail discussion continued.
- Darlene Simboli stated that she operates a cleaning business in Mt. Lakes and cleans ABNBs rentals. Simboli notifies the renters how to inform their clients coming in.
- Discussion continued about the dates of ATV use.
- Audience member suggested keeping the rail trails open according to the state and closing a few of the Mt. Lakes trails on October 1 because of hunting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review of Food Pantry Agreement**

Boucher reviewed the agreement with the Board and the revised sections made by TM Codling, including a statement about cleaning the premises because the Town's cleaning staff will be cleaning the Food Pantry area.

Ed Ballam stated that the largest increase was the use of electricity because of the refrigeration. Ballam stated that it is a pleasure doing business with the Town. Ballam stated that there has not been an increase in individuals and families coming to the Food Bank. Ballam stated that the Food Bank is part of the Fresh Rescue program, which collects food for senior centers.

**MOTION #6:** Robbins made the motion and seconded by Graham to approve the Ecumenical Food Pantry agreement.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT / COMMENTS:**

- Boucher stated that the Board can sign the MS-1, which are the new assessed values, and the Town's MS-1 for the village district is to review only. Boucher will send these to the districts so they will be aware of their assessment are.
- Boucher stated that her team is continuing to work on getting the tax rates set.
- Boucher reported that the auditors were in the office last week.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Robbins:** Robbins noted that the Fire Chief retired after 49 years, and the Board should put together a proclamation or a letter of appreciation.

**Bjelobrk:** Bjelobrk noted that it is good that the Town is moving forward with the airport.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION #7:** Garofalo made a motion and Bjelobrk seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:01 PM.

*Transcribed by Joanna Bligh*