

**Minutes of Haverhill Selectboard Regular Meeting  
Monday February 6, 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

**Draft subject to review, correction and approval at the next meeting.**

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Wayne Fortier, Mike Bonanno, Tom Friel, Chris Luurtsema and Darwin Clogston.

**Town Manager:** Jo Lacaillade

**Members of the Public Present:** John Bauer, Judy Bauer, Everett Sawyer III, Debbie Page, Teresa Lambert, Ken Harlow, Dianne Harlow, Fred Garafalo, Ed Privo, Clinton Savage-NHDOT, Michael Bruce, John Elliott, John Ellivo, David Binford-St. Representative, Edith Celley, Lawrence & Sandra Laleme, Ruth Wellington, Barbara Marshall, Allen Riley, Evelyn Elms, Alvin & Diane Fadden, John Thompson, Vail Adamkowski, Kathryn Micha, Michael Marshall, Dick Guy, Jeff Page, Roger Breselle, Thayer Paronto, Denny Ruprecht, Joseph Mitchell, Mary Brooks, Michael Lavoie, Deb Page, Cindy Bishop, Bill & Paula Cilbrith, Dave Joslin, Ron DeRosia, Rodney DeRosia, Mary DeRosia, Joe Fiore, Todd Fiore, Barbara Warren, Roger Warren, Janine Bixby, Camille Roy, Alden Brown, Alex Nuti-de Biasi-Journal Opinion, Rob Stoddard Jr., Kenneth Blaisdell, A Frank Steigler, Sandra Holden, Wendell Kenison, Bruce, and others not signed in.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval (additions/deletions completed by Board consent):**

Mike Bonanno made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a non-public session per RSA 9-A:3(c), seconded by Darwin Clogston and carried unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Mike Bonanno made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

**Public Appearance:**

**Woodsville High School, FBLA:** The Selectboard recognized FBLA members Dennis Ruprecht and Joseph Mitchell and presented them with the FBLA Proclamation for 2017. Wayne spoke of the Business Spotlight and Job Fair that the FBLA had held the prior weekend and commended Joey on his ice tea business that he has started. Wayne also spoke of Denny's involvement with the Veteran's Park project. Denny and Joey gave an overview of what FBLA does. Also in attendance for the FBLA were Vajl Adamkowsky and Kathryn Michael.

Wayne reminded those in attendance to sign in so that there is a record of their attendance.

**Public Hearing: Proposal for ATV Alternate Trail:** There was an overview of the current trail situation that has been closed to ATV's and OHRV's due to restrictions tied to the money used to purchase the trail. While that issue is being resolved, the ATV club is proposing using some Class V and/or Class VI roads in town for the coming season. The Route includes sections of Route 10 in North Haverhill and Woodsville, Clark Pond Road, Woodward Road, Briar Hill Road, Swiftwater Road, Ralston Road and Park Street. The alternate route was to use Mace Hill Road and Kimball Lane which have sections that are Class V & Class VI. Chairman Fortier received a letter from the Meyer's, who live off of Kimball Lane who expressed opposition to the alternative route, as it would disturb the peace and they felt would cause a safety issue. He said that he also had a letter from someone else that was not a residence also opposing the proposed route. He said a local Fish and Game warden that he spoke to does not support opening up roads to ATV's but many Towns north of us have done so. There are hopes by the Club to open up trails down the road that connect our trails to Warren. Ron DeRosia said that ideally they do not want to ride the roads; this is just a way until they can hopefully get the trails back open. He gave an overview of the months that ATV's are allowed and the hours of operation. The ATV Club stated that Mace Hill will require work before ATV use, and could be done this summer and paid for by the ATV Club and that is not the plan they are proposing tonight. Chris Gamache from NH DRED Trails Bureau was in attendance and gave a larger overview of the TE funding that was used to purchase the trails and he is sure the Town was never advised of that restriction nor was Claremont or other Towns facing this same issue. Any change will require Federal action. He also talked about the public roads currently being used north of Haverhill for ATV/OHRV's. Chris G. gave an overview of the process ahead if the Selectboard approves the use of the roads and the immunity afforded Towns that allow this type of usage on their roads. Howard Hatch stated that Haverhill accepted the grant money to buy the land was for the Town to buy the land and put in a sewer line. How is the Town supposed to get to the line to maintain it? Chris G. said that you can get permission for construction projects but you have to ask permission ahead of time. Darwin asked if no wheeled vehicles are allowed, how come the Town can use one when they are mowing. There was discussion about ATV and insurance requirements. There was discussion about the gas tax that ATV's pay. It was asked if the Towns that have allowed ATV's on their roads, have there been any safety issues. Chris G. stated it was very low. Jeff Page read a quote from a newspaper article that talks about the calls for service increase for incidents to do with ATV's. A lady from Sullivan County gave an overview of some of the few issues they have had in Claremont. Chris L. asked about the age requirements to operate ATV's. There was talk about the cost of registrations for OHRV's vs snowmobiles. There was more review of the route being proposed. Clinton Savage suggested using Forest Street and only needing to apply for a crossing permit at Route 10 in Woodsville instead of the trail going out to the light at the corner of Route 10 and 302. Because the intersection at the end of Forest Street is busy, this route was noted as potentially dangerous by many in the audience unless a traffic light is installed at the junction of Route 302 and Forest Street. Chris L. asked about using snowmobile trails. It was noted that would have to be negotiated with the land owners. Both alternative routes are being seen as a temporary fix, as it would be ideal to resume using the current trails on the rail bed when allowable. There was discussion about the process going forward to try to regain the use of our trails. David Joslin asked if the Woodsville Precinct had been given an opportunity to weigh in. TM Lacaillade said that she discussed it with Dick Guy and gave him a copy of the map right after the meeting where the route was discussed. The audience was polled to see if they favor the use of OHRV's

on Town roads and it was a unanimous yes. The benefits to the local economy for businesses along that route were noted. Jeff Page noted a concern about the farm equipment that uses these roads and how the ATV's will interact with them. Wayne entered the one letter into the record opposing the route. There was discussion about the speed limits allowed. Mike Bonanno made a motion to approve both plans with the Clark Pond Road route being the first route and then the alternate route and to revisit the issue in a year to see if there are any issues. Tom Friel seconded the motion. Darwin hopes that the Town will not lose sight of trying to regain the use of the original trail, Tom Fried concurred. The motion carried unanimously. The trails division will start the paperwork needed to get NH DOT permits.

**Powder House Hill:** Darwin stated that he would like to see the Powder House Hill property sold. He sees that it has no value to us. When he brought it up before Chairman Fortier said that he wanted to take it up with the Heritage Commission but as of this morning Darwin was unable to find any minutes from that meeting. Darwin made a motion to sell Powder House Hill by seeking voter's permission at Town Meeting. Chris Luurtsema seconded the motion. Everett Sawyer, Chairman of the Heritage Commission gave out some information regarding the property. He said that there is more history in that site then there is in Hazen Park. This was a cemetery; it is still on the registry as a NH Port and a US port; in 1812 there was a garrison there and in 1806 there was a hanging. He opposes selling the property. Darwin asked if there were any structures up there to which Everett said no. More history was given on where the structures have been moved to. Mike Marshall, Vice President of the Historical Society views the property as a Town resource and opposes selling. Everett said that if the Town keeps the property, a historical marker should be placed there. There was discussion about a right of way to the property. Others voicing their opinion opposing the sale were Edith Celley, Sandy Knapp, Ruth Wellington and Roger Warren. Marilyn Seminario submitted a letter of opposition to the sale. Ruth said that when they did a survey, years back, of what places the people of the Town wanted preserved Powder House Hill was on that list. The historical significance of the property was given by those listed above. Ruth referred to an RSA that deals with identifying and preserving sites like this. Wayne asked Darwin if the Town owns 80 some odd pieces of property, why this one? Darwin responded that it is a good place to start. There is a lot of property generating no income. There was further discussion about other historic properties in Town that have been sold. He looks at Alumni Hall and Court Street Arts as an economic driver but they are still sucking up \$9,000 in this year's budget, down from \$12,000 last year. This piece of property has been owned by the Town for 100 years and nothing has happened; let's move on. It was stated that more like 200 years. Darwin again asked what had been done with this property; he said he wasn't even sure there was a right of way. Mike Marshall asked Darwin, why this property? Is there an interested buyer? Darwin said yes. Mike Marshall said that once a historic property is sold off, it is gone forever. Edith Celley gave her history with trying to save some of the buildings and properties in Haverhill Corner; she strongly recommends that it not be sold. Sandy Knapp said that she does not want to see this property sold, the importance is outlined in history books about the importance of this site to the town. It is a beautiful spot and should not easily be given up. She gave the Board members an excerpt from the History of Haverhill published in 1888 that speaks about this property being used during the Revolution and the stone house was built in 1812 so it served Haverhill in those wars. Mike Lavoie stated that the Town does not have access to this property; there is no right of way. More was said about the Haverhill Historical Society, Haverhill Heritage Inc. and the Haverhill Futures group working to make

Haverhill Corner a destination for people and how important they felt this property would be in their project. Chairman Fortier stated that it may be beneficial for the Board and the Town to focus on selling properties that do not involve historical land for now. There was a call for a vote on the motion and it was defeated by a vote of 3/2; voting yes was Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel and Mike Bonanno. Voting no was Darwin Clogston and Chris Luurtsema.

**Sewer Line Study Grant:** B. Dexter Lefebvre, an engineer for Horizons discussed the Sewer Line Study Grant with the Board. The Board requested clarification on a few matters concerning previous projects that Dexter oversaw and to verify that the sewer line project would be run smoother than the Stonecrest Project. Dexter ensured the Board that all potential issues would be planned out and accounted for and is willing to see the project through. Mike Bonanno made a motion to continue with Horizons and Dexter on the Sewer Line Study Grant. Tom Friel seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.

**Recycling:** Chairman Fortier stated there has been a change in the cost of the Dan Marsh's proposal, due to the cost of insurance that is being required by the Towns' insurer Primex. This would increase the annual cost of the proposal from \$29,850 to around \$33,850. Dan Marsh mentioned that he has the capacity on his property to host the recycling efforts there, relieving the Town from any cost. This alternative proposal would involve residents paying Dan Marsh for recycling by the bag, rather than paying the Town for a sticker.

There was discussion about how much the Town would charge for a permit. Mike Bonanno made a motion to charge \$10 per sticker for a recycling permit. Wayne Fortier seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4-1 with yes votes from Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Mike Bonanno and Chris Luurtsema. Voting no was Darwin Clogston.

There was further discussion regarding Dan Marsh's statement that he could operation a "pay as you throw" recycling option at his own site. The Board talked about the number of users from the Newbury site versus the number of residents in Town and felt that the numbers were too low for all of the taxpayers to be supporting recycling. Another concern was raised that businesses will not be allowed to use it. After a lengthy discussion the Board suggested that perhaps they should not have recycling in the budget but they would decide at the review of the budget meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

TM Lacaillade informed the Board that she needed to talk to the DRA before tomorrow night's meeting to see what the repercussion would be if the Board eliminated the recycling line item all together from the budget and then the public wanted to appropriate money at Town Meeting for recycling.

The Board wanted TM Lacaillade to call the other two vendors not present and see if they would be willing to have a pay as you throw recycling option. She said it would actually only is one vendor because the third vendor only wanted to do trucking.

Tom wanted to know if the Board could just put all three options on the warrant and have the public pick which option they wanted to do.

Chris discussed some of the concerns he had about the recycling center. Chris wanted to give the Town the options that were available to them.

TM Lacaillade was not sure if the Board could present multiple options in one warrant article. Chris's concern with having the vendors do a pay as you throw program is that they can stop it at any time and there would be no recycling again.

There was discussion on just putting one warrant article on appropriating \$35,000 for recycling with a permit fee of \$10. It was noted that less than 300 residents used the recycling facility in Newbury.

TM Lacaillade said the Board could make their final decision tomorrow night at their special Board meeting.

**Sansoucy Appeals Contract:** Chairman Fortier want to know if the Sansoucy contract had to be done tonight. Tom said it was simple enough they should proceed. TM Lacaillade said the DRA was now requiring our utility assessor to have a separate contract with us specific to any appeals. Darwin moved to accept the contract. Tom seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the contract.

TM Lacaillade reminded the Board they tabled the issue with Lisa Woodbeck, but she wanted to know what they wanted to do. Chairman Fortier said Ms. Woodbeck has come before the Board on three separate occasions and offer solution to resolve the issue with the property. He would like to have the taxes paid in full. Chris wants the Board to stop continually entertaining options that do not work out. The Board said that they would allow her to pay the principal and they will waive the interest. Mike moved to have the principal paid. Chris seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4-1 with yes votes from Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Mike Bonanno and Chris Luurtsema. Voting no was Darwin Clogston.

Mike moved to withdraw the non-public. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Town Manager's Report:** Town Manager Jo Lacaillade stated that the Advisory Budget Committee has finished their work. House Bill 324, the bill pending for the evaluation of utilities, will be staying in committee for the remainder of 2017 and will not be moving forward until next year. Should it pass in 2018, the Town will lose over \$500,000 in tax revenue. The Highway Committee met to discuss the existing problems with the Town truck currently out of commission and recommends repairing it and retaining it the Towns fleet as a backup. Total repairs will cost approximately \$13,000.00. More information is still required to move forward with reviewing the purchase of a new truck.

### **Commission/Committee Reports:**

The Heritage Commission met and concentrated on a few items including Hazen Park, which is looking good, per Wayne Fortier.

Tom said the Recreation Committee has snowshoeing/cross country skiing on Friday and a Valentine's dance on Saturday.

**Correspondence:**

None at this time.

**Comments of the Public:**

None at this time.

**Comments of the Town Manager:**

None at this time.

**Comments of Selectboard Members:**

Mike Bonanno stated that he rode with the Town Highway Crew last Friday for a few hours and is planning on riding along with the Haverhill Police Department on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Bonanno made a motion to withdraw his original motion to hold a non-public session. Tom Friel seconded this motion and it carried unanimously.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

Mike Bonanno made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 P.M. The motion was seconded by Tom Friel and it was carried unanimously.

Minutes transcribed by Katie Moyses