

**July 9, 2013**  
**Selectmen's Meeting/Approved Minutes**

Present: Selectmen: R.P. McGinnity Chairman, C. Moser, absent, B. O'Grady & A.A. Milkovits

Also present: Deputy Treasurer Garth Fletcher, & 3 residents

**Agenda:**

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM. The check manifest was reviewed and approved.

**Appointments:**

1. Stephen Hoffman, Mason Broadband Committee, met with the Board to update them on the progress of Broadband for Mason. He presented the cable/dsl map of Mason sent by NRPC and done by the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping & Planning Program (NHBMPP). The NHBMPP is trying to verify the broadband coverage in the State of NH so each town, working through their regional planning commission, has received a map to modify as required. Much of the coverage information on the Mason map is incorrect as there is no cable service in Mason. DSL coverage is sporadic in the town and other residences use satellite service with dial up. Mr. Hoffman is requesting the Board's help in correcting the data on the map. Residents will be urged to sign onto [iwantbroadbandnh](http://iwantbroadbandnh.com) to do a short survey about what type of coverage (broadband speed, etc.) they have. Even if there is no dsl coverage, it is also important to indicate that. The map must be done by September 1<sup>st</sup>. A notice will be sent to the webmaster to post this request and information on the survey on the website. Selectmen suggest contacting the Mason Boy Scouts for any door-to-door survey requests. Selectman O'Grady will contact scout leader Michael McGuire about this matter. There is also Broadband related and community outreach training information and Citizen Planner for Planning Boards on the [iwantbroadbandnh](http://iwantbroadbandnh.com) site.
2. Recreation Committee members Jeannine Phalon and Linda O'Grady met, as requested, to give their suggestions for a policy for the use of the gazebo. Selectmen would like the gazebo to be under the auspices of the Recreation Committee, which would also include any maintenance for the gazebo. (There was a problem with the electrical work done on the gazebo where the electrician had inadvertently used the breaker that for the Historical room. This was corrected by the town building maintenance person. Mrs. Phalon stated that the Rec. Committee Chairman had spoken to the electrician who had been planning to return to fix the problem.) Policy recommendations were: no outside rental of the gazebo, only the Rec. Committee would sponsor concerts or events, trash would be picked up by the Committee. Since only two concerts are planned for July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> that are coordinated with the Community supper at the Mason Congregational Church, the Church will be open for restrooms' use and parking will be at the Church parking lot. Selectmen agreed with the members' recommendations.
3. Road Agent Fred Greenwood met with the Board to discuss the following:
  - Paving has been completed and sides of roads have been smoothed and banked on Brookline Road, Wilton Road, and Old County Road. Stop signs have been erected and stop lines have been painted as well as

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crosswalks for the school. The crosswalk for Parker's Maple Barn Restaurant will be done on Friday. Selectmen praised the Highway Department for all their hard work and efforts on the roads.

- Re: Replacing the Backhoe – Mr. Greenwood has been researching other equipment that could replace the backhoe. The machine has been used hard and is starting to break down. There is a need for a bigger machine. Mr. Greenwood is looking at a mini excavator about 9 tons; a skid-steer track machine that will cost about \$10,000 more than a new backhoe. The excavator will be able to do more road work. Selectman O'Grady is concerned that the excavator is not mobile and will require a trailer to move it to jobs, which means more work. Also the lack of a front bucket on the excavator will mean purchasing another machine for that. Mr. Greenwood mentioned a Bobcat would be the second machine. While the Selectmen agreed that the Highway Department needs a new machine next year, they cautioned the Road Agent to look at the advantages and disadvantages to replacing the backhoe with an excavator and a Bobcat. What would be the most efficient machine with the best price and longevity use? Mr. Greenwood will be trying out a new excavator next week and will report back to the Selectmen on the differences in machines. The purchase of a new machine will be brought up at the 2014 budget process.
4. Dorothy Millbrandt, Planning Board member representing the PB Chairman, requested that the Selectmen appoint two Planning Board alternate members: Louise Lavoie for three years and Leeann Currier for one year. The Planning Board also requested that the Selectmen appoint Eric Anderson as a full PB member for three years. Selectmen approved the Planning Board's requests and will appoint the three new members.

**Selectmen reviewed the following:**

**Old Business:**

1. Re: Minutes – Staff Meeting minutes from June 25, 2013 and the Selectmen Meeting minutes from June 25, 2013 were accepted as written.
2. Re: Quarry Conservation Easement – the Board reviewed the comments from town attorney concerning the changes to the easement. Also reviewed was the letter from Selectman Moser concerning his comments on the amended easement and the Memorandum of Understanding that he composed to be recorded with the easement deed. The MOU details the financial responsibility of the Conservation Commission for repairing any breach to the quarry easement. Also an email was received from Kirk Farrell and Chuck Anderson, residents who wanted an update on the quarry easement process. Chairman McGinnity explained what the easement means for the property and the choices the Board could make: Approve or deny the easement; approve or deny the memorandum. The memorandum will be reviewed by Town Counsel. Chairman McGinnity stated that he feels the Board is receptive to the easement but would prefer to make the final decision when there is a full Board. After more discussion, the Board decided to table the

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decision until the next Selectmen's meeting in order for the entire Board to review all the material before any acceptance is made.

3. Re: Building Inspector Deputy – According to Selectman Moser, Wil Wildes, the Temple Building Inspector, does not do septic inspections as he has no expertise in that area. Mr. Wildes had explained that the town of Temple simply “subs out” their septic inspections to someone licensed in septic installation. The Board agreed that this method would also work for Mason should the situation arise where a septic system installed by Mr. Anderson needed to be inspected. No specific person/installer was named at this time for the Deputy position.

**New Business:**

1. Email from HealthTrust Benefits Advisor concerning healthcare reform guidelines for probationary/waiting periods. 2014 benefit requirements state that a plan cannot impose a probationary period that exceeds 90 days. Since the HealthTrust guidelines enroll individuals on the first of the month after an employer's probationary period, the town's employees could exceed the 90 days, according to our Personnel Policy. The advisor suggested changing the town's probationary period to 60 days to keep the town compliant as of January 2014. A motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative by the Selectmen to change the probationary/waiting period for health/dental benefits in the town Personnel Policy to 60 days.
2. From LGC-PLIT: Liability insurance renewal and 2014 Member Agreement.
3. From Primex: revised invoice: \$17,022.21 premium holiday, credit for 2013.
4. From HealthTrust: information on new website for benefits, etc.; also Healthcare Reform Compliance Information, Exchange/Marketplace Coverage Notice Deadline
5. From LGC-PLIT: information on their new website.
6. Bldg. Permits: #13-17, Cook, lot H-19, garage
7. State Approved Septic Design: Schulman, Lot L-2-2
8. Police logs
9. Other:
  - Other correspondence

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara L. Milkovits  
Administrative Assistant