



Office of Board of Selectmen Town of Mason

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Selectmen Meeting 6/23/2020
Approved Minutes

Present: By roll call, using the Zoom platform – Pete McGinnity, Charles Moser, Louise Lavoie – selectmen; Kathy Wile, AA; Brenda Wiley bookkeeper (audio only); Fire Chief Fred Greenwood and Kerri Griffith; Andrew Smeltz; Dave and Deb Morrison; Garth and Liz Fletcher, Joe Harney, Charles Anderson, Mike Judge, and via audio only Bob Dillberger. Karen Taylor was briefly shown as attending by audio only, but no response. Bob Larochelle joined the meeting later.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order 7:31 PM by Chair Charlie Moser. He began the meeting by reading the procedures for electronically held meetings pursuant to the Governor's executive order 2020-04. That document is attached to these minutes. The meeting had been posted on the town website, and on the bulletin boards at both the Mann House and Town Hall. He then proceeded to take roll call attendance, reflected above.

Approvals:

- Noted that the accounts payable and payroll manifests had been reviewed and signed prior to the meeting by the selectmen.
- Minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting had been reviewed by all selectmen. Motion from Pete to accept the minutes as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote to approve the minutes of 6/3/20 as written – Pete-aye, Louise-aye, Charles-aye.
- Minutes of the June 22, 2020 staff meeting with Road Agent Dave Morrison had also been reviewed by selectmen. Motion from Charlie, second from Pete, to approve as written. Roll call vote to approve minutes as written – Louise aye, Pete aye, Charlie aye.
- An intent to cut timber had been reviewed and signed by selectmen.
- Appointment papers had been signed for a member to the Recreation Committee.

New Business:

- Andrew Smeltz, representing NRPC, was on the call to explain a service called the Road Surface Management System (RSMS) being offered to the Town of Mason at no cost to the town. It is a two part process – inventory and analysis. For inventory, all town roads are sampled (visually) every ¼ mile for pavements wear, cracks, etc as well as drainage. (This will be the first project to include gravel roads.) The road samples then get a rating on a scale of 0-100, ranking to prioritize maintenance. For analysis, the data is entered and the system projects out 10 years for each sample, provides cost and type of repairs to help develop a budget. It is a 4-5 month process, and they could begin July 1, when their new fiscal year

begins. Andrew will need to work with Dave Morrison, who had a few questions for him, to ensure the maps NRPC has are accurate.

Selectmen agreed it will be a great addition to information the town already has, and will help with budgeting while giving residents the benefit of outside expertise. Andrew left the meeting saying he will send a confirmation email.

- Liz Fletcher, Bob Dillberger and Chuck Anderson, all members of CC, began a discussion about the quarry. Issues included excessive parking at the parking area and along the sides of Scripps Lane, use by non-residents, fires at night, and alcohol consumption. The last CC meeting had decided the simplest first step would be to physically close the parking area, limiting easy access. Discussion included the many concerns and challenges surrounding quarry overuse - closing the lot, ticketing, towing, emergency access, gate and culvert replacement scheduling among them.
Decision was made for form a committee – Louise will be the selectman rep, Chuck the CC representative, Chief Maxwell for the PD and ultimately town counsel Bill Drescher to craft a workable solution to bring back to BOS to be put in place quickly.
- Tax Collector Deb Morrison attended to discuss the concept of abating interest on late payment of property taxes (bill 1) as well as staying the deeding process as stated in NH Emergency Order #25, which gives the governing body the authority to do so. Deb explained she does deeding later in the year so that is not an issue right now, and that collection of property taxes seems to be on a schedule comparable to last year. Selectmen agreed there is no reason to do anything on this right now, and will revisit if/as needed. Dave and Deb left the meeting.
- Map lots A-19 and A-20 was on the agenda, as it was brought to the attention of the office that there are 2 small buildings on town-owned lot A-20 that are in poor condition and Wally asked if he should take them down. Complication of incorrect property card listing of these structures as being part of A-19, which has recently been sold. Advised to have the assessor make the corrections, inform the new owners, and to have Wally take the buildings down. Please let BOS know when/how he will do the demolition and removal.
- There had been a request from a recreation committee member to seek permission from Eversource to hang flower boxes with artificial flowers on certain telephone poles. Noted it was the responsibility of the buildings and grounds employee, not the recreation committee, to decorate the town properties. Request denied through unanimous roll call vote.
- Library had requested through email to have their new hire start working. She had been on hold since March. Selectmen agreed it was a decision to be made by the Library Trustees, as long as social distancing and mask protocols can be followed when 2 employees are working at the same time.

Old Business:

- Mike Judge represented the Mason Broadband Committee, and was seeking input on a potential project for that committee. There is potentially money available from the state to qualifying towns from the CARES Act fund for internet improvements. This may only help

certain areas of town, and likely not replace the need for a bond. He said even if those areas are improved, the town's underserved status (and qualification for the bond) would not be jeopardized as the RFP had already gone out. The committee would like to submit their questions (due 6/24) and potentially a proposal (due 7/2). Selectmen agreed it was worth getting questions answered.

Mike also asked about getting the funding for a mass mailing. Discussion led to agreement that for now using the webmaster and town clerk email lists for updates, and saving the mailing to share the final proposal would be most cost effective.

- Re-opening of Mann House discussion re-visited. Decision to maintain the status quo for now, keep the building closed except by appointment for essential business. As for public meetings, committees/boards can have the option of a virtual or live at Town Hall meeting, and after that, if things continue to go well virus wise, all should consider live meetings at Town Hall. The next BOS meeting will be scheduled at Town Hall for July 14 at this point.
- Naming of Black Fly Brook, as requested by resident Ron Dube, need official approval and signature by the BOS chairman. Three roll call votes to approve the name and ratify Charlie's signature on the approval document.
- Regarding the Fire Department Equipment Fund – no restrictions had been found in the warrant article of 1972 creating it, so permission for Chief Greenwood was given for his requested purchase of turnout gear for EMS staff.
- Selectmen had received an email from an abutter concerned that the new construction at 452 Old County Rd was too close to the road. Pete will talk to the building inspector about checking on this, and also regarding a deadline for removal of the old house.
- Contract for the roofing project at Sunny Valley Schoolhouse was required by Primex in order to have builder's liability insurance for the project. Approval granted, Charlie's signature ratified by unanimous vote.

Informational Items/Communication:

- There had been an email requesting that town ordinances be available through the website to make it simpler for people to find them. Agreed it was a good idea – Kathy has collected most of those general ordinances in a single folder and can get it to Alanna for posting.
- The office had been notified from Health Trust that there will be a rebate for both Health and Dental coverage coming at the end of their fiscal year, but they did not say how much and how it will be applied.
- Lighting improvement project walk through is scheduled for June 23 at 1:00 PM, to include Wally, Garth Fletcher and Kathy on the town side.

Public Forum:

- Joe Harney had attended the meeting on behalf of the energy commission, and gave a brief update on the last MEC meeting. Most discussed was the Carbon Cash proposal through

Eversource that is potentially available for its customers. It will be further investigated by the committee.

Non-Public:

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Charlie motioned to adjourn, second from Louise. Roll call vote to adjourn – 3 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM, zoom meeting forum closed by Charlie.

Next regular meeting will be Tuesday July 14, 2020 at Town Hall, 7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Wile
Administrative Assistant