



**Office of Board of Selectmen
Town of Mason**

16 Darling Hill Road – Mann House
Mason, New Hampshire 03048
(603) 878-2070 (603) 878-4892 Fax

Selectmen Meeting 10/24/2023

Approved Minutes

Present: Selectmen Kate Batcheller, Charlie Moser, John Suiter; Admin Asst Jen Tenney; Accountant Brenda Wiley; Fire Chief Tony Burns; Facilities Manager Wally Brown
Conservation Commission Members: Bob Laroche, Liz & Garth Fletcher, Barbara DeVore
Energy Aggregation Committee: Curt Spacht
Energy Commission Members: Kathy Chapman, Richard Stockdale
Town Hall Renovation Committee & Trustee of the Trust Funds member: Jim Dore
Residents: Chanel St Pierre

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by Chair Kate Batcheller, attendance was taken by roll call as reflected above.

Approvals:

- Noted that the accounts payable and payroll manifests had been reviewed and approved prior to the meeting.
- Minutes of 10/10/2023 BOS / HWY meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.
- Minutes of 10/10/2023 BOS meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from John. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.
- Minutes of 10/19/2023 BOS meeting - Kate motioned to approve as written, second from Charlie. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye.

New Business:

- Conservation Commission met with the Selectmen to discuss proposal for conserving town-owned tax title parcel A-13. Conservation members reviewed the topography, water courses, wildlife significance, soil and recreational potential for parcel A-13.

Selectmen discussed their concern of conserving more land when some already conserved land is not readily accessible for residents, specifically the non-existent overlook parking lot. Conservation members expressed concern for inappropriate use of the land if a parking lot were to be opened up at the overlook. With increased police presence, Selectmen suggested having a conversation with themselves, the Police Department and the Conservation Commission to discuss their concerns, to which the Conservation members were in agreement.

Selectmen will review information presented to them for conserving A-13 for further consideration. Kate will reach out to Conservation Chair Bob Larochelle next month to discuss a future meeting.

- On behalf of the Energy Aggregation Committee, Curt Spacht met with the Selectmen to review the Community Power progress. They are currently constructing a Community Power Plan what will need to be reviewed and approved by the Selectmen. A warrant article will be written for the town meeting. Depending on the outcome of the warrant article, the committee will be able to look at provider options.
- Richard Stockdale, from the Mason Energy Commission, met with the Selectmen to discuss transitioning to electric vehicles in Mason. Charging infrastructures were also discussed. At this time there is not much Mason as a whole should be doing.
- Chanel St Pierre met with the Selectmen to discuss opening a small, one-on-one residential dog grooming business from a shed located on her property. There would be no additional employees or signage. Selectmen reviewed the town's land use regulations; as this is an allowed use, no special exception would be needed.
- Selectmen will arrange a special meeting to authorize a representative to sign agreements and contracts with the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, ie. New Hampshire Division of Historical Places Grant (Moose Plate Grant).
- Jim Dore reviewed a revised Trustees of the Trust Fund Investment Policy. Selectmen will review and discuss at the next meeting.
- Wally met with the Selectmen to discuss:
 - Skillings came out today to fix the suspected broken well pump. The well pump was ok but the expansion tank needed repairing. The expansion tank repairs will cost ~\$1900, the Selectmen approved this repair. The well pump will need to be monitored and re-evaluated next year; this repair will be ~\$3k-\$4k.

- Skillings also found the Police Department septic tank was overflowing and this was due to a filter being plugged. The cost was ~\$650.
- Wally reports the cemeteries are in good shape.
- The tree in the common area is overgrowing the flagpole. Wally anticipates this tree will need to be removed in the next 1-2 years.
- The Sunny Valley School logging went well. Wally is still waiting to hear back from the electrician regarding the electric panel.
- Wally is having a hard time getting contractors to give an estimate regarding the library addition unless there is a concrete plan in place. Library Trustees to decide.
- Craft fair arrangements have been made with Wally.
- Selectmen confirmed town equipment is only being used on town property.
- Selectmen reviewed Wally's proposed 2024 budget.
 - No large town projects anticipated for 2024.
 - Replacement tool list for Wally's personal tools is still being worked on.
 - The trailer Wally uses is the town's and does not need replacing.

Old Business:

- Selectmen, along with Wally and Jim Dore, determined it is not economically viable to make the temporary improvements needed for the Town Hall to open the building.
- Kate summarized budget work she has been working on with the Road Agent.
- Zoning Board Notice of Decision for 03-2023 was reviewed. Charlie will inform the Planning Board.
- Charlie updated that the Planning Board is in the beginning stages of updating the Planning Ordinance.
- Selectmen reviewed the Assessor's updated contract and elect to renew.
- Jen reviewed health insurance options. Selectmen elect to continue with the current plan.
- Kate gave an update that the Recreation Committee will have a Veteran's Day breakfast mailer ready this week. There is no update regarding the winter holiday event at this time.

Public Comment:

- Barbara DeVore shared that the Conservation Committee hired a forester to evaluate several parcels over several years and the forester has created a "master plan" for what the town should plan to do conservation wise around 2029.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Kate motioned to adjourn, second from Charlie. Roll call vote Kate-aye, Charlie-aye, John-aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:49pm.