

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 23, 2021**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the New Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager Thomas Holmes, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Colbath noted that they had received guidance on the placement of the flags in the Meeting Room and had adjusted them accordingly.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers stated that there was the addition of agenda item 3a., Donation of a Bench by the Lions Club.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

DONATION OF A BENCH FROM THE LIONS CLUB

Alicia Gildea from the Lions Club appeared before the Board. She explained that they had been awarded a bench after acquiring a large number of soft plastics for recycling. She stated that they would like to donate the bench to the Town for the people of the Valley to enjoy.

Ms. Gildea explained that the Lions Club's mission is to provide eye care and hearing care to the community. She stated that they serve Town's all over the area such as Conway, Berlin, Eaton, Intervale, Glen, Bartlett and Jackson.

Mr. Colbath thanked them for what they do.

There was discussion about locations to put the bench.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept the bench from the Lions Club and place it in an area at the New Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF ZBA ALTERNATE MEMBERS

- a. Jonathan Hebert (2-year term)

- b. Jac Cuddy (2-year term)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to appoint Jonathan Hebert and Jac Cuddy as alternate members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath stated that he is the Chair of that Board and they have a very difficult time getting alternates.

Mr. Porter stated that both of these men were good assets to the ZBA.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- a. Larry Huemmler (3-year term)
- b. Peter Minnich (3-year term)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to appoint Larry Huemmler and Peter Minnich as members of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. The motion carried unanimously

EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR SUMMARY – COUNCILOR JOSEPH KENNEY

Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney appeared before the Board.

Councilor Kenney gave a summary of all of the projects they are working on.

Councilor Kenney noted that he realizes there has been a delay in communication with DOT regarding the by-path project and right of way issues, but stated that he had encouraged them to advance the project as quickly as they can.

Mr. Colbath asked if the stimulus money that was set to come to Conway had any guidelines. Councilor Kenney noted that he was unsure of specifics, but he knew that it could not be used to offset taxes.

Mr. DegliAngeli expressed his frustration on the lack of communication from the State regarding the rec path project. He stated that he would like to make it a formal request that the Commissioners hold a regularly scheduled weekly meeting with all stakeholders including the Town in order to work through the issues so that they can move forward.

Mr. DegliAngeli added that because of the delay and lack of progress on the issues relating to this project, many of their financial donors are backing out and they are losing the funding for this project.

Councilor Kenney stated that he would go to the top at DOT since this is a priority for the community.

There was a brief discussion on the difficulty of finding credentialed people to serve as Judges in New Hampshire.

REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR SACO WOODS

Ellin Leonard appeared before the Board. She explained that she was the treasurer for the Board at Saco Woods.

Ms. Leonard gave the history of the association and explained that there were many problems that needed to be fixed in the units such as the replacement of all the windows and the updating of the decks to meet safety standards.

She explained that she was coming before the Board to request a reduction in the cost of the building permit fee for this \$750,000 project.

It was decided that this decision would be tabled for a week so they could obtain the exact permit fee from Mr. Pandora.

DISCUSSION OF CONWAY LAKE PARKING AND BOAT RAMP

Mr. Holmes stated that he had met with John Eastman and the Conway Lakes Association via zoom regarding the issue of parking and boat ramp fees at Conway Lake.

He noted that the Lake Association's written response was in their packets.

The concern from the Lake Association was that if they charge boat ramp fees, people may try and get onto the lake in other areas and could introduce milfoil to the lake.

It was the recommendation of staff that they wait a year to charge for parking or boat ramp fees so that they can look into it more, but instead, only allow resident sticker parking in the parking lot at Conway Lake. It was stated that trailers would not be allowed in the parking lot at all.

Ms. Seavey was concerned about safety issues of people parking on the street.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to limit the Conway Lake parking lot to sticker parking only and prohibit all trailers from the parking lot. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF OLD TOWN HALL SIGNAGE

Mr. Holmes explained that he needed guidance regarding the old Town Hall sign. His idea was to add the word "annex" to the sign and have another sign below for Valley Vision.

Mr. Colbath stated that he believed that would look cluttered.

Ms. Seavey was concerned that keeping the sign there would cause confusion.

Mr. Colbath stated that he would like to look to lease the open offices.

Mr. Holmes stated that it would have to be the right tenant as it cannot cease to be used as a Town House or it reverts back to the Eastman family.

Mr. Holmes also noted that the front panels of the Old Town Hall have "Town Clerk" etc. painted on them.

The consensus of the Board was to table the decision until they could all go and look at it.

DISCUSSION OF FLAG POLE AT TOWN HALL

The Board had a discussion regarding options for a flag pole here at Town Hall.

The consensus of the Board was that they would like to see the flag poles at the Old Recreation Center Site and the Old Town Hall to be lit at night.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to authorize the purchase of a new flag pole and flag for the New Town Hall location. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to have the flag pole be 25 feet tall and have a flag of 5' x 8'.

DISCUSSION OF TERM "SELECTMEN"

Ailie Byers, resident of Conway and Planning Board member appeared before the Board. She gave the history of the term "Selectmen" and suggested that the Board consider changing from "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" to make it a more inclusive term.

Ms. Seavey stated that she wanted to be called a "Selectmen".

Mr. Weathers stated that he had served on the Board with six women and all the duties of the men and women are the same. He noted that the term reflects back on their history.

Mr. Thibodeau inquired as to what individual members would be called.

Ms. Byers stated that it would only be the title of the Board as a whole and it would be up to each individual Board member to decide what they would like to be called.

Mr. Porter stated that while he appreciated her bringing this up, he is old fashioned and prefers the original term.

Mr. Colbath stated that he would be interested in what other Towns in New Hampshire are doing.

Mr. Holmes stated that up until 2008, the law did not allow for a change of name of the Board, but it has since been amended to allow the change if the town so wishes.

DISCUSSION OF NEW MAILING ADDRESS

There was discussion regarding whether they would be going with Town Hall mail delivery vs. a PO Box. Mr. Holmes noted that the Post Master was away this week, but they had been told the mail carrier has some concerns regarding delivery to the building.

Mr. Holmes will let the Board know when he has any more information.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Letter of Appreciation for Denise Leighton
- b. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for Vaughan Community Service, Inc. (6/26/2021)
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-55
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 256-14
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 231-11
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-18
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 250-77
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.081
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 266-1
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.083
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 265-161.355
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.112

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the documents listed above in a. through l. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 3/25/2021
- b. Payroll dated 3/25/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the items above in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 3/18/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to ratify the document listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. White Mountains Community College Outdoor Health and Wellness Fest (7/17/21)
- b. Strawberry Festival at the First Church of Christ Congregational (6/26/21)
- c. Rockhopper 5K & 10K “Kickin Asphalt” (7/17/21)
- d. American Legion Post 46 8th Annual Campout (7/23/21-7/25/21)
- e. Ragnar RTB, LLC Reach the Beach Marathon (9/17/21) PENDING INSURANCE

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the special event applications above in a. through e., with e. pending insurance. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 2/23/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adopt the minutes above. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that in 1986, the voters had given the Town the ability to create a Historic District Commission with not less than 3 members, but no more than 7 members. He added that one member must be a Selectmen, and they may have no more than 5 alternate members. It was also stated that members have to be residents of Conway.

Mr. Holmes explained that the Historic District Commission could craft a Historic District Ordinance that would need to be adopted by the legislative body.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to put an ad in the paper regarding the creation of the commission and get letters of interest for potential members. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes stated that he had a Zoom meeting with Councilor Kenney and other interested parties regarding the potential Northern Borders Grant. He stated that they require a 50% match. He noted that he was unsure they could come up with the match by the deadline.

The consensus of the Board was that they would like Mr. Holmes to look at applying for the grant and finding potential funding sources for the 50% match.

Councilor Kenney stated that they should look to apply for other funding sources such as the USDA and EDA.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau explained that the transient hangar project had not progressed during the winter months, but they still were planning to have it ready to lease for the winter of 2021-2022.

Ms. Seavey stated that the Economic Council would be meeting the next night.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting the next night.

Mr. Colbath stated that the ZBA had met the previous week.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board would be meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Mr. Thibodeau added that they had four angel flights from the airport in February alone. He stated that these types of services cannot be had any other way than through the airport. He stated that he is hoping that the voters will support the airport this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Chris Meier appeared on behalf of the MWV Trails Association in regards to the by-path project as they are the non-profit partnered with the Town of Conway on the project.

Mr. Meier explained that they are stuck in terms of moving forward on the project and they are losing private match funding.

He thanked the Board for their letter to DOT in support of moving forward with the project.

Mr. Meier explained that the current issue that is holding up the project is the right of way issue that they have been aware of since June 2017.

Mr. DegliAngeli once again expressed his frustration as the project is not delayed, it is currently stopped for issues that they have known about for three years.

At 5:37 pm, Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(d). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II(D) – CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION,
SALE OR LEASE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

At 5:46 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to seal the minutes from this non-public session. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 5:46 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary