

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 22, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm at Town Hall with the following present: Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter and Ryan Shepard, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Seavey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF WORK BY USVLT

Executive Director for the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust Jen Pribble appeared before the Board.

She also introduced their new Conservation Director Mike Morin.

Ms. Pribble explained that they wanted the Selectmen and the public to be aware that they would be beginning a project on the riverbank across from the Hussey Fields after Labor Day.

They are working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a riverbank restoration project.

Instead of using riprap, they plan to use giant root balls and a riparian buffer to help slow the erosion.

The project will be 100 feet deep and 600 feet wide.

Ms. Pribble noted that unlike riprap, this will absorb the energy of the river and create a water habitat.

The hope is that in 40 years the root systems will hold the bank in place.

David Weathers stated that this is going to be interesting to see how this holds up.

The projected length of time for this project will be about 10 days.

Mr. Colbath stated that it sounds like a wonderful and innovative project.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR METAL DETECTING

Ms. Seavey opened the public hearing at 4:14 pm.

Mr. Eastman explained that they had a few complaints regarding people who were metal detecting and digging in Schouler Park.

Because the Town has a permissive ordinance and metal detecting is not currently discussed, it is technically not allowed.

He had drafted a potential ordinance that stated the following:

91-1. The practice of metal detection and/or dowsing is prohibited on or in all Town-owned property.

Mr. Eastman noted that the issue does not seem to be the metal detecting itself, but instead the disturbance of the ground from digging.

He also stated that in many of the Town parks there are buried electrical wires and sprinkler systems which have the potential to be damaged.

Resident Blaine Nelson explained that metal detecting is a hobby she loves and is a member of the State metal detecting club.

She also noted that she is a volunteer for the Garden Club and has been detecting for 20 years.

She gave a demonstration on the process of metal detecting and using a screwdriver to retrieve things in the ground.

Ms. Nelson's sister, Jan, who was from Denver, explained that metal detecting is allowed there.

She suggested a potential permit system.

It was also suggested that they spell out where it could be allowed.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that it may be difficult to word it, but would be amenable to metal detecting without the disturbance of the ground.

He also noted that he did not think "dowsing" needed to be included.

Mr. Colbath stated that the issue with new ordinances is enforcement.

Mr. Shepard stated that he would prefer the change in verbiage over going the permit route.

Resident Jim McQueeney stated that he had been metal detecting for 30 years.

He suggested signing waivers.

He would hate to see more rules and the banning of it everywhere.

Ms. Seavey stated that obviously there was an issue that prompted this and it shouldn't be abandoned completely, but prohibiting the disturbance of the ground should be addressed.

John Hartman, resident of Eaton, stated that he also metal detects.

He noted that needles are being found and will need to be properly disposed of.

David Weathers stated that from a conservation point, he did not see an issue with metal detecting in places such as Whitaker Woods or the Marshall property.

Mr. Eastman will rewrite the proposed ordinance for consideration at the next meeting.

Ms. Seavey closed the public hearing at 4:50 pm.

REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHT ON FARRINGTON AVE.

No one was here for this item so it was not discussed.

DISCUSSION OF LETTER FOR VOTING MACHINES

Mr. Eastman directed the Board to page 3 in their packet which was a draft letter from the Town of Gilford to the State regarding voting machines.

He explained that the State is going to be requiring a change in voting machines which will be costly.

He posed the question of whether the Board would like to draft their own letter to see if the State would pay for a portion, if not all of the new machines.

Mr. Colbath stated that this was a wonderful idea.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to draft a letter similar to the one presented to be signed at the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 216-73.1
- b. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.009
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 218-14
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 272-31.2
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 255-10.101
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 207-10
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-42
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 274-23
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 268-117.62
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 202-194
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 202-157
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-151
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 203-116
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 247-55
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.008
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.001

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/24/2023
- b. Payroll dated 8/24/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to sign the AP Manifest and Payroll dated 8/24/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 8/15/23

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 8/15/23 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman explained that each year they come up with a combined Annual report between the Town of Conway and School Board regarding the Rec Center.

He noted that once again, things are going great.

Selectmen Porter volunteered to pay the one dollar of rent.

Mr. Eastman reviewed that last week they had been asked by the State if they were interested in purchasing the old condos next to Settlers Green as well as parcels up the North South Road.

He explained that he had looked into it and the State never did give a price.

He spoke with the State and they will be putting together a formal letter with an asking price.

It was noted that the Planning Board would be discussing this at their next letter.

Ms. Seavey did note that the power to purchase and sell land does like with the Selectmen.

Mr. Colbath gave kudos to the Rec Center for an amazing summer program.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard noted that the Historic District Commission would be holding an event at Tuckerman Brewing on September 14, 2023.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that the Aviation Academy's Aviation Day would be on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at the airport.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Economic Council would be meeting in September.

He explained that the ZBA met the previous week for 5 hearings, 2 of which were continued until September 20, 2023.

These included a solar panel array in the wetlands and the appeal of the Administrative Decision on the Conway Casino.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board would be meeting on Thursday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mr. Eastman stated that the ribbon cutting for the refurbished tennis/pickleball courts at Davis Park would be held next Tuesday at 3:15 pm.

Mr. Steer asked what the Board hoped to come from the Charter Commission's first public hearing which was being held the next evening.

Mr. Colbath stated that he is anxiously awaiting the outcome of the Charter Commission.

At 5:16 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (C) – TAX MATTER

At 5:45 pm the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to seal the minutes from this non-public session as divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective and . The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the deed waivers for Map/Lots 223-12, 259-111, 253-51.33, 217-22.8, 217-22.26, 276-97, 214-3, 225-042.001, 262-83.3, 276-266, 262-079.012, 279-017, 261-027, 219-225, 265-057, 265-058, 299-120, 250-193, 262-083.201 and deed Map/Lot 265-130.1. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 5:52 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary