

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: April 1, 2014

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES APRIL 1, 2014

Present: Chairman Galemmo, Selectman Folsom, Selectman Drew,
Selectman Cowan

Absent: Selectman Danforth

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Laurienne Missud Martin, Sofie Larsen

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of March 18, 2014

Dwayne Morin stated that because the file with the minutes had been submitted in pdf form, he could not make any corrections on it. He will not be able to have them sign the minutes tonight. The Board decided to approve them tonight and sign them at the next meeting.

Selectman Drew motioned to accept the minutes of March 18, 2014 as amended. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0 Abstain: 1

3. Public Input

No public input at this time.

4. Unfinished Business:

Chairman Galemmo stated that they would go to the Parks and Recreation section first.

A. Parks and Recreation: Membership Application for Commission – Missud-Martin

Dwayne introduced Laurienne Missud Martin who is an applicant for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said that she has been attending meetings for about nine months and they would like her to become an official member of the Commission. She is here to meet the Selectman and to answer any questions that they may have. Selectman Drew said that he noticed that she has already been involved in some of the events and he thanked her for that.

Selectman Drew motioned that they accept Laurienne Missud Martin's application to become a member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4-0

Chairman Galemmo suggested that they move on to Farmer's Market under New Business.

5. New Business:

C. Farmers Market

Dwayne introduced Sofie Larsen, who is the Market Manager, to the Board. He stated that every year the Board has to sign a lease between the Market and the Town for the use of the parking lot on Friday afternoons. He would also like to have Sofie give an update as to how the market did last year and what they have to look forward to for this year. She distributed a letter to the Board members for their review. She stated that last year the vendors reported that there was a decrease in sales, which is collaborated by their SNAP data. She stated that with the SNAP data, which are Food Stamps, they have to record what is spent. This is usually the best record that you have for sales at a farmers market because you don't get any hard numbers from some of the vendors. They did discuss it at length at their spring meeting and decided that the bad weather was partly to blame. She stated that they had only about 5 days last season where it wasn't raining. Another reason for the decrease may have been because of the government shutdown in the middle of the season, which left the SNAP recipients unsure of whether they would be getting benefits or not. She stated that funding also was cut so a lot of SNAP recipients lost their benefits. She stated that she has spoken with other market managers in the area as well as the vendors that attended other markets, and they seemed to have bigger decreases in sales than we did. She is still working with Maine Farmland Trust to secure funding for the SNAP program and to secure funding for the SNAP operator to run the booth that keeps the data for the program. She stated that the new farm bill that just went through the legislature and was signed into law, provides specific funding for SNAP at farmers market. She stated that they had used data from our market for information regarding this bill.

Sofie stated that they are continuing the music series and Martin England is helping them with this. He is raising funds for it and he is coordinating the musicians for them. Dwayne stated that the Parks and Rec are also working with Mr. England on doing a concert series in the park. They are looking to coordinate this with the market days as well as the skate park nights. They are looking to have 3 or 4 nights this year. Selectman Drew stated that since they were going to be doing more activities on the field, wouldn't it be better to start having the market on the Mill

Field instead of on the parking lot. Sofie stated that her main concern with that is the vendors would want to drive the vehicles onto the grass and if we have a wet season like last year, it would tear up the field. She stated that a lot of vendors do sell a lot of their stuff right out of the back of their trucks. Dwayne stated that they had brought it up a couple of years ago and the vendors were against it because they could not drive their vehicles on the grass.

Selectman Cowan asked about how many vendors they were expecting this year. Sofie stated that it fluctuates with the flow of the season. They are at about 17 at the peak of the season. She stated that last year they started having events. They had flowers for Mother's Day where they gave mothers free flowers. They had Herbal Oil day where customers could mix their own herbal salad oil. They also had Blueberry Pie day where customers got to walk away with samples of pie. They are planning to continue with these events this year.

They are also planning on bringing in some guest vendors during the slower parts of the season. They were usually not for profit organizations that would advertise awareness on certain topics. For example, they had the Girl Scouts show how they had grown little plants that would clean the air in the home and were giving some of these away. They also had some food nutritionists come in. This year, they are partnering up with the Middle School, who are doing a Community Garden.

Selectman Cowan asked if there was any initiative out there that would incorporate homegrown vegetables and produce into the school system. Ms. Larsen stated that for most of the vendors at our market, it is hard to provide vegetables on that scale because schools use a lot of vegetables per week. Ms. Larsen stated that they had nothing on the market side of that, but personally, she is trying to have students get more involved in farming. She has several high school students that come to her farm every week and help farm.

Selectman Drew stated that they should probably review Section Five of the Lease regarding Signs. He stated that last year they had asked the Board if they could put up signs on the Town signs from May thru October. He stated that these signs stayed up all year, but he thought they were supposed to be removed after the market was done in October. Selectman Folsom and Cowan asked why they would have to take the signs down. Selectman Drew stated that his concern was if they let these stay up, then others may want to add their own and it would lead to our Town sign being used for advertising. Ms. Larsen stated that she was never shown where these signs were and that they needed to come down. She just started as Manager last year and she did not know they were going to come down. Dwayne stated that Billy Wyman used to take them down but he had other things going on last year and didn't get to it. Ms. Larsen stated that she will have no problem with removing them at the end of this season. Selectman Cowan stated that she has no problems with those staying up year round because it is an event specific to the Town.

Selectman Drew motioned to approve the lease for the Farmers Market and allow Dwayne Morin to sign it. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Canoe Launch: Update on Progress

Dwayne stated that they did receive some updated documents from Pratt & Whitney. We have approved them and our Town Attorney has approved them. Pratt is still waiting for their corporate office to approve them. Dwayne did receive a request from the Maine Community Foundation to provide an update on the progress of the project. He wants to be able to at least tell them that they have swapped the land so he has made a plea to Pratt & Whitney to get this done as soon as possible. Dwayne needs to send the paperwork to the Foundation by May 1st.

Dwayne stated that he has been working on some dock designs. He has received three dock designs. He stated that the City of Westbrook has just done this and he has included pictures in the packet of what they look like. Dwayne said that the dock that they are proposing to us is the Accudock System which is an all-aluminum system which makes it very light and very buoyant. He said that the problem with these is that they are very expensive. Selectman asked what the price difference was. Dwayne stated that for the size they need which is an 8' x 20", the aluminum system is \$5,400 and the wood system is \$4,885. If they went with the 8' x 16' timber-frame then it would be \$4,000. Chairman Galemme asked what our budget approved from the Town was for this. Dwayne stated that we had \$37,000 available but they have spent about \$11,000 so far and they still need to build the parking lot and walkway. They had originally budgeted \$5,000 for the dock system. They are obviously going to spend more than this. Dwayne said that the aluminum system all bolts together and it attaches to the side instead of resting on the dock. Selectman Drew stated that that would probably not be safe on high water. Dwayne stated that it all floats and it is all hinged and anchored with underwater cables. Selectman Drew thought this might be dangerous. Selectman Cowan asked if all the designs were anchored this way and Dwayne said they were. Dwayne stated that it was done the same way as they did it at Bauneg Beg Pond. It is meant to float with the water. Selectman Drew stated that when the water gets really high and above the bank, it will put stress on the cables. Dwayne stated that if they get water above the bank then they should remove the dock. Selectman Cowan is concerned with the plank just resting on the dock instead of being attached to the side. She does not feel that this would be safe.

Selectman Cowan asked if what the budget was for the parking lot. Dwayne stated that it was \$10,000 but he needs to get out there and actually look at it. He should be able to pare this down some. He also needs to have the people that are providing the docks come out and see what they would need to do. They may not need the 8'x20' dock. They could probably go with an 8'x15' which would be less expensive. He said that they also do 5'x7' panels so they could go 7'x15'. The Board stated that the 8'x15' would probably work fine.

Selectman Drew asked if they would feel obligated to put a cable across the river to prevent people from going down the dam. Selectman Folsom stated that it be a liability if someone goes over the dam and gets hurt. Dwayne stated that there is no liability with parks and recreation. Dwayne stated that putting something across the river would put more of a liability on them. Dwayne stated that there is a little island before the dam that Michael Johnson owns so they could probably check with him to see if they could put some kind of warning sign on it.

Dwayne will have them price out an 8'x15' aluminum dock for the Board to review.

B. Budget FY15: Review Budget for FY15

Dwayne stated that the town reports and newsletters are out. He stated that they did find three typos on the Warrants after the Board signed it and they did amend those.

C. Legislation: Update on Maine Legislation

Dwayne stated that there is really nothing to report regarding legislation.

E. Foreclosures FY12: Update

Dwayne stated that there was one more foreclosure that they needed to do. They needed to be notified again because the bank mortgagee had not been originally notified. The property is on 60 Somersworth Road. There is no land that is associated with it. It is just the mobile home which is in very bad shape. He stated that there is a house on the property and the owners of this house own the land that the trailer is located on. The father lived in the house and the child lived in the trailer. Selectman Drew asked why the homeowner was not liable for the trailer. Dwayne stated that the building is owned by someone other than the landowner. They have now foreclosed upon it. He stated that they have not been in the interior but he is sure it is not good. He said it will probably cost them to get rid of it and we will not get paid for it. Selectman Drew said we could just advertise that if anyone wants it they can just come and haul it away. Dwayne stated that the problem is that they would need to get permission from the bank. He said that he would like to make contact with the bank to see what they are planning to do with the vacant house next door. The parents that lived there just moved to Florida and left everything. The Board agreed with getting in touch with the bank. Selectman Drew stated that we cannot even get onto the property at this point. Dwayne stated that this is the problem with leasing property. He has told Craig that from now on any leased property has to be taxed with the property. This is the last one that he know about.

F. Chair of Honor: Update

Dwayne stated that they have contacted Berwick and Lebanon to see if they want to participate with the installation of a Chair of Honor at the high school. Berwick will be voting on it tonight and Lebanon has already agreed. Selectman Drew asked what the contribution from each town would be and Dwayne stated that it is \$125 per town. The school would like to have it in by Memorial Day. They scheduled a date of unveiling for May 22nd but Dwayne is trying to get them to move this date because he is not available on this date. One of the School Board members will also not be available. They are going to put a chair in the football stadium and one in the auditorium.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – April 15, 2014 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

Dwayne stated that the Board will need to elect a new chair and vice chair for the ensuing year.

5. New Business:

A. Town Meeting: Discussion

Dwayne stated that at the last meeting, he had asked the Board members if there was anything specific that they wanted to discuss. Dwayne said that they should bring their budget books in case they get asked any questions. He stated that he has not heard much about the Town Meeting. He said that he spoke to Paul Danforth today and he said that people have been telling him that they are happy with how things are going in town right now. The Board feels that there will be a much smaller crowd than at last year's meetings.

B. Heating Oil: Locked in Oil for 2015 at \$3.129

Dwayne stated that over the past month he has locked in the electricity rate for the next nine months at the same rate as the last three years. He locked in the oil rate at \$3.129 which is \$.07 lower than last years. This year they were able to negotiate with SAD 60 for the rate.

6. Other Business:

No other business at this time.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	March 25, 2014	- \$ 12,413.36
Warrant:	April 1, 2014	- \$ 54,861.30

Selectman Drew motioned to accept the Warrant of March 25, 2014 for the amount of \$12,413.36 and the Warrant of April 1, 2014 for the amount of \$54,861.30. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Drew motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Respectively submitted,
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Wendy Cowan