

**North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: August 5, 2014**

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES AUGUST 5,  
2014**

**Present:** Selectman Glemmo, Selectman Folsom, Selectman Drew, Selectman Cowan

**Absent:** Chairman Danforth

**Also Present:** Dwayne Morin, Greg Daigneault

Vice Chairman Glemmo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chairman Glemmo stated that they would move on to the approval of minutes and come back to the Public Hearing.

**3. Review and Approve Minutes of July 22, 2014**

Dwayne Morin stated that he had made a few changes to the minutes. He stated that wherever there was a number with a \$ he added the ".00". He also stated that under the Other Business section where it talks about the Mill Field activities and says, "He stated that Larry is certified to set these off." He added the last name of Straffin to clarify which Larry it was in reference to.

Selectman Cowan motioned to accept the minutes of July 22, 2014 as amended. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Selectman Drew asked if Dwayne had filled Laura Eves position yet in the office. Dwayne stated that they have not done so yet. He has nine applications to review and he will begin to interview next week.

Selectman Folsom stated that we should go ahead in the agenda to the New Business section in regards to the Veteran's Memorial because Greg Daigneault had to attend another meeting.

**6. New Business:**

**B. Veteran's Memorial: Sign Request from American Legion**

Greg Daigneault stepped forward and stated that he has submitted a project for the Board to vote on regarding the addition of five service seals to the reverse side of the memorial in town. He feels that this addition would improve the appearance of the Veteran's Triangle. He stated that it would also serve the veterans whose names appear on the back side of the memorial. He stated that it would also include the slogan "Freedom is not Free!". This is a popular slogan these days which further recognizes the sacrifices the names on the other side of the memorial have made.

Mr. Daigneault stated that he has only lived in town for 15 years, but each time he has approached the Memorial from the main street, he sees nothing but a blank space. He stated that the addition of the seals would draw further attention to the Memorial and help people reflect on what the purpose of this Memorial is all about. He stated that he was just at the Legion meeting and this has the full support of the members of the American Legion here in town. He stated that they are looking forward to him returning to the meeting and letting them know if it was approved or not.

Dwayne told Mr. Daigneault that there was a change to something that was said in his original email. The original email stated that it would be 18" diameter military service seals. However, Dwayne stated that they will actually be 12" diameter so they will fit better on the sign. He said that they will be raised on 1/2" stock and the bottom lettering will be gold with black trim and will be on flat aluminum stock. Dwayne stated that the cost will be \$150.00 and the American Legion has come up with all the costs for it. There will be no cost to the town. Bill Wyman will have another company do the seals. Selectman Cowan asked what they would be made of and Dwayne stated that they will be made of colored plastic material and will be laminated. They will be weatherproof. Selectman Cowan asked if the back of the current sign will need to be repaired or repainted. Mr. Daigneault stated that they want to make sure that the bottom part where the slogan will be located will match the current sign color so they will be repainting the back side. The slogan will be in gold and black bordering. It will be vinyl and attached to an aluminum plate. Dwayne stated that Bill will be securing it from the back side and then mounted so it will not be able to be removed.

Mr. Daigneault stated that one of the concerns that some of the Legion members had was with the location of the Yield sign and a speed limit sign. They are directly in front of this memorial as you approach it from Market and Main. They were wondering if these signs could be relocated so there is no obstruction to the Memorial. Selectman Cowan asked Dwayne if these signs were controlled by the State. Dwayne stated that they are our signs but they have to be on the right side. They will not be able to be moved.

Selectman Folsom motioned to accept the sign proposal as presented by Mr. Daigneault to be installed by the Legion. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

## **2. Public Hearing – 6:35 pm General Assistance Appendices**

Vice Chairman Glemmo opened the Public Hearing for the General Assistance Appendices.

Dwayne stated that every year they have to do two of these Public Hearings. One for the overall limit for General Assistance and one for specific limits. This one is for the overall limit. Dwayne stated that the overall limit has increased \$10.00 to \$11.00 per month in maximum assistance.

There was no public so Vice Chairman Glemmo closed the Public Hearing.

## **4. Public Input**

There was no public comment at this time.

## **5. Unfinished Business:**

### **A. Canoe Launch: Update on Progress**

Dwayne stated that he had nothing new to report on the progress. Selectman Drew stated that he had 90% of the fence down. He did cut the posts down to the ground. He made a path down through to get to the fencing. Dwayne stated that hopefully when the crew is done working on Beech Ridge Road, they will be able to work on the parking lot and the trail. He stated that he was approached by one of the neighbors that abuts the canoe launch and they had a few concerns. They were happy to see the chain link fence go but would like to see something else go up in its place. He told them that there was no plan to do so at this time. He stated that they can reevaluate it in time and if they see a need to have something go back up, they will address it then. He stated that the neighbor is mostly concerned with people throwing trash onto her property. The abutter was also wondering about signage. Dwayne told her that there would be one at the entrance stating that it was a canoe park and is open from dusk to dawn. Selectman Cowan asked if there was going to be any trash cans and Dwayne stated that there would be some there.

### **B. Roads: Update on Road Projects**

Dwayne stated that they are still working on Beech Ridge Road. They started graveling the lower part of the road today and got about a third of it done. They finished the widening on the upper part today and they will be starting on the culvert detail. He stated that they should be done all the culverts by the end of next week. They still have about 12-14 driveways to finish. They are shooting for the end of August to pave it.

**C. Traffic Ordinance:** Review Letter to MDOT RE: Route 9 Speed Limit Change

Dwayne stated that the Board had discussed at the last meeting sending a letter to the State in regards to the change in speed limit on Route 9. It reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Soucy:

The Town of North Berwick Board of Selectmen were approached by a group of citizens requesting that the speed limit on Route 9 entering North Berwick from Wells be reduced due to the number of homes and businesses along that Route and to make the speed limits consistent with the speed limits on Route 4 entering North Berwick from Sanford and South Berwick. Currently the speed limit is 50 mph (node 7255) entering North Berwick and then it drops to 40 mph (between node 7252 and 7251) after Davis Way and then drops to 35 mph (between node 7251 and node 7250) in front of Pratt and Whitney to the Route 4 and 9 intersection. It was requested to have the speed limit 40 mph entering North Berwick and then drop to 30 mph in the vicinity of Linscott Road.

The Board of Selectmen along with the North Berwick Chief of Police reviewed the speed limits along with four years of accident history to determine whether a decrease in the speed limit would be appropriate. After careful consideration, the North Berwick Board of Selectmen would like to request the following speed limit change for consideration:

Decrease Speed Limit in the vicinity of the Bragdon Road in Wells (Node 7255) from 50 mph to 45 mph and then decrease the speed limit in the vicinity of Davis Way (half way between Node 7252 and 7251) from 40 mph to 30 mph and have the 30 mph speed limit continue to the intersection of Route 4 and Route 9 (Node 7513).

The reasons for the decrease in speed limits are:

- 1.) To make speed limits consistent within the village area. Currently the speed limit on Route 4 is 30 mph in the village area both northbound and southbound.
- 2.) Due to the traffic congestion, proximity of buildings, nine (9) side roads, and the Pratt and Whitney factory, a 30 mph speed limit would be a safer speed limit between nodes 7513 and 7251.
- 3.) Accident reports in this area of village show that, between node 7513 and node 7249, there were 6 accidents in 2011, 9 accidents in 2012, 6 accidents in 2013 and 3 thus far in 2014.
- 4.) In the past ten years there have been 12 new houses built between node 7251 and 7252 and the Board feels that a reduction in speed in front of these homes would be appropriate for the safety of these residents entering and exiting their homes.

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank you for your consideration of the speed limit change request. Should you need additional information on the speed limit request, please feel free to contact Dwayne G. Morin, Town Manager at 676-3112 x 4.

Selectman Folsom motioned to accept the letter as written. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

**Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting** – August 19, 2014 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

**6. New Business:**

**A. General Assistance Ordinance:** Approve Change to Appendices

Selectman Folsom motioned to accept the General Assistance Appendices. Selectman Drew seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

**C. Library:** Parking Lot Paving

Dwayne stated that he included a sketch of what the library parking lot will look like. He stated that the goal was to increase staff parking and graveled the area. We then said that we would resurface and restripe the existing parking lot and do the staff parking if we were able to do so. They received 4 bids with the lowest being by Libby Scott for \$13,750.00. He stated that to do just the driveway and the existing parking lot would be around \$11,000.00. He needs to know from the Board if they want to do everything including the staff parking or just repave and restripe the existing area. Vice Chairman Galemme stated that he feels the staff area should remain as crushed gravel. He stated that if it is paved and there is an open space in that area, somebody other than a staff member could park there. Selectman Cowan stated that \$2,000.00 is quite a bit extra to come up with that was not included in the budget. Dwayne stated that it would also be difficult to figure out where to get that extra money.

Selectman Drew motioned to accept the bid from Libby Scott Paving to resurface and restripe the existing parking area and leave the staff parking as gravel. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

**D. Tax Rate:** Review Draft Tax Rates for FY15

Dwayne stated that he has worked out all the numbers for the tax rate and we can maintain the tax rate at \$12.45. Dwayne stated that on Page 24 of the packet is the tax calculation form. He stated that we have gained about \$3 million in Real Estate value from last year. Our personal property has dropped about \$3 million from last year. Our BETE has increased tremendously from about \$49,000.00 to about \$69,000.00. This is where the increase in value is being found. With keeping the tax rate at \$12.45, we would have \$199,487.50 in Overlay. He stated that this is not a true number because the Homestead Reimbursement of \$65,424.75 needs to have 5% taken off that because our valuation is at 105%. The State automatically reduces reimbursement. This would take about \$3,000.00 off the Overlay leaving about \$195,000.00. Dwayne stated that this is fairly high but we have been eating at our surplus so it is good to have the extra.

Selectman Folsom stated that she was happy with this because not many other towns have been able to maintain their tax rate for three years in a row. Dwayne stated that we are on the lower

end for a tax rate in comparison to our neighboring towns. Dwayne also stated that we should have a fairly good BETE again next year because of Pratt & Whitney's addition and purchase of new equipment.

Dwayne stated that his main concern is the school budget. Every time they increase the budget, the amount of money that we have to carry to make sure that we can pay their bills until taxes goes up on a monthly basis. The money does come back but we have to float them for a few months throughout the year.

Selectman Cowan asked about property reassessment. Dwayne stated that they would only do this if the numbers start to dip or start to rise. Typically, it is stated that it should be a ten year time frame but that does not necessarily need to be done. They do watch the numbers every year. He stated that we are currently at 105% but if we get to 110% we will need to do something. He stated that the other thing they need to watch is our quality rating and ours is currently very good. You want to be at 20 or under and we are currently at 6.

Dwayne stated that they will need to set the tax rate at the next meeting. He recommends that they maintain the same rate of \$12.45.

#### **7. Other Business:**

Selectman Cowan stated that she went by Pike Industries where they are putting in the gas lines and said it smelled like there was a gas leak. Dwayne stated that they are probably purging the lines.

#### **8. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence**

Warrant:	July 29, 2014	- \$ 7,758.19
Warrant:	August 5, 2014	- \$ 48,025.15

Selectman Cowan motioned to accept the Warrant from July 29, 2014 for the amount of \$7,758.19 and the Warrant from August 5, 2014 for the amount of \$48,025.15. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

**9. Adjournment:**

Selectman Folsom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Respectively submitted,  
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Wendy Cowan