

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: October 7, 2014

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2014**

Present: Chairman Danforth, Selectman Folsom, Selectman Galemмо, Selectman Drew, Selectman Cowan

Also Present: Dwayne Morin

Chairman Danforth called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of September 23, 2014

Dwayne Morin stated that under Section 6, in the fourth sentence, he changed "Soccer Association" to "Noble Travel Soccer".

Selectman Drew motioned to accept the minutes of September 23, 2014 as amended. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

3. Public Input

No public input at this time

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Canoe Launch: Update on Progress

Dwayne stated that the parking lot is done. They are waiting for the trees to be removed by the waterside. There is one pine tree there and some limbing of the oak tree to take care of. The next step will be to put in the pathway and put in the anchoring block at the waterside. They will also add blocks so people won't be able to drive down there. He stated that the old granite that they got from the train trestle off of Dennett Road will be used around there to make it look nice.

Dwayne also stated that he had designed a sign, which he included in the packets, for the park. Selectman Cowan asked what color it would be and he said that it was going to be forest green. He said that the sign is a 1 inch plastic sign and they groove the color so the colors come out white. It is vandalism proof and is guaranteed for 50 years. They can also get the poly posts and connectors through the same company, which is Kirby Built. Chairman Danforth asked how many signs he was planning to get. Dwayne stated that he wants one right at the entrance. He also wants a small sign at the road that says Elroy Day Canoe Launch with an arrow next to Pratt and Whitney. Selectman Cowan asked how they were going to be attached to the posts. Dwayne showed the Board members some pictures of the available posts. The sign is 48 x 36 for \$337.00. The hangars are \$8.00 per set and the 6 foot deluxe posts are \$213.00 apiece. He stated that they would also obtain a tobacco-free park sign and mount it underneath or on the cedar fence.

Selectman Drew motioned to accept the sign design for the Elroy Day Canoe Launch. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne stated that they will order the dock now but they will only install it in the spring. Dwayne said that the person from the dock company will be coming back next week to take measurements. Dwayne stated that they need to have a 2,000 pound block at the shoreline. He said that they will look to see if they have a large piece of granite that they can bury 8 inches down. Then they will attach an 8 inch pressure treated piece to the granite. Dwayne stated that the company will be doing all of the installation. The only thing that we need to do is rig up something to lift the dock and lock it in place.

Selectman Folsom stated that she would feel more comfortable if they put in some barrels over by the falls. She stated that in the spring the water is pretty high and moving pretty fast so it could be dangerous. Dwayne said that he does not believe that they have the authority to do that because we do not own the dam. He also does not feel that they should do it anyway because it opens us up to liability. He stated that if somebody does go over the falls, we do not have any liability whatsoever. Our responsibility ends at our facility. Selectman Cowan stated that it is really an assumption of risk.

B. Roads: Update on Road Projects

Dwayne stated that they are done for this year. We will do Hartford Lane in the spring because our paving company cannot do it this year. Dwayne said that they will go do some stumping and ditching this year. They will also do Fox Farm Hill Road and Linscott Road in the spring as well.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – October 21, 2014 – 6:30 pm Community Center

5. New Business:

A. Commitment 2015: Municipal Valuation Return Review

Dwayne stated that Craig has put together the Municipal Valuation Return for the Board to review. It is a summation of all of the value in our town. Dwayne stated that this is what triggers all of our State funding. Once they send the return in, the Town can start receiving its funding.

Selectman Galemмо motioned to accept the Municipal Valuation Return. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne went over the State valuations. He stated that our valuation went up while the valuation for Berwick and Lebanon decreased. He said that the way the school funding works is that it is always two years behind and it is the average of the two years. He stated that next year the budget will be basically flat for us in terms of our funding formula, but the following year will be pretty significant. Selectman Cowan asked Dwayne if he was foreseeing anything alleviating the impact in the future and he said that he didn't. He said that he didn't know if it would have an impact on the tax rate.

B. Commitment 2015: Abatements

Dwayne stated that they have an abatement to review. It is for Map 17 Lot 45 which is for Account #1468. The North Berwick Historical Society took possession of the little house, next to where Dollar General is building, in the month of August. They are a tax exempt organization. We needed to tax it for ownership as of April 1st and the tax bill went to the previous owner. However, since they don't own it anymore, they gave the tax bill to the Historical Society. He stated that they have paid the one month that it was owned by a taxable entity. Now an abatement is in order for \$1,323.85 to abate the Historical Society's taxes for August through July 1st.

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the abatement for Account 1468 for the North Berwick Historical Society in the amount of \$1,323.85. Selectman Galemмо seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

C. General Assistance: Establish Public Hearing Date for Changes to Appendices

Dwayne stated that the Board now has to approve Appendices B & C for the General Assistance. He has tentatively scheduled it for the first meeting in November.

Selectman Galemмо motioned to hold the Public Hearing for General Assistance Appendices B and C on November 4, 2014. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne wanted to let the Board know that they used to store all of the election stuff at the school, but the school has asked us to move it because they need the space. It is now here in our building. Selectman Cowan asked if they had some kind of issue with it. Dwayne stated that the school has said all along that they would rather not hold the elections there. They state that it disrupts the school schedule because they can't use the gym. Selectman Cowan said that she feels that it is a wonderful activity for the kids to witness so it is a perfect place to hold the elections. Dwayne stated that we are now going to have to transport the equipment back and

forth. The Highway Department is going to have to set it up the night before and break it down the day after.

D. Newsletter: Review Draft Election Newsletter

Dwayne stated that he has been working on the Town's newsletter. Most of it is dedicated to the election items and explains the new redistricting. He also included the results of the Annual Town Meeting. He also included a Dollar General update. They are planning on opening by Thanksgiving. He also has a blank spot to include something on Hannaford. He is waiting to hear back from them. There is also an update on the Capital Improvements. Chief Peasley wrote an article about scamming because it has been a big issue lately. There is also the Parks and Recreation News of upcoming events and a brief article regarding the Canoe Launch. He has also included the information on the Neighborly Craft Fair and the North Berwick Community Gardens.

6. Other Business – Executive Session –

Dwayne gave the Board a copy of a letter from the American Legion. He stated that about three weeks ago, Obie Robbins came in and said that he was going to put the signs in wherever he wanted to. He was very upset about it. Dwayne stated that the American Legion came to the Board of Selectman and asked to put a moratorium on that area so that no signs would go there. Mr. Robbins stated that they are the Legion and they can put them there. Dwayne told him that if he allows the Legion to put signs there, he has to let everyone else do it. He kept on screaming and yelling. Dwayne told him that if he put any signs up they would be removed. The next week, Dwayne saw that he had put a sign on the Memorial area. Dwayne called up Paul Rollins, whom he thought was the Commander, to let him know what happened. Mr. Rollins moved the sign to the corner by Kennebunk Savings Bank and Mr. Robbins moved it back to the Memorial. The Legion met with Mr. Robbins and told him that he would have to come apologize to Larry and Dwayne but Mr. Robbins quit. He told them that he would come up and talk to the Board of Selectmen himself about the situation. The Legion wrote this letter of apology because they were appalled by his behavior. The Board asked Dwayne to let the Legion know that they appreciate the letter.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	September 30, 2014	- \$ 72,953.36
Warrant:	October 7, 2014	- \$ 13,552.59

Selectman Galemme motioned to accept the Warrant of September 30, 2014 for the amount of \$72,953.36 and the Warrant of October 7, 2014 for the amount of \$13,552.59. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Drew motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:45 pm and come out at 8:00 pm. They will adjourn at 8:05 pm. Selectman Folsom seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Respectively submitted,
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Wendy Cowan