

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: September 1, 2009

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Present: Chairman Folsom, Selectman Danforth, Selectman MacDougall and Selectman Drew.

Absent: Selectman Bourbon

Also Present: Jean Demetracopoulos, Jack Kareckas, Christine Magruder, Rebekah Yonan, Virginia Reusch, Janet Hooke, Todd Hoffman, Jennifer Kearns, Christopher Kearns, Robert Kearns, Nancy Moulton, James Moulton, Matt Begin, Stephen Peasley, Rick Varney and Dwayne Morin.

Chairman Folsom opened the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of August 18, 2009

Selectman Danforth moved to accept the Minutes of August 18, 2009 with one correction, Selectman Drew seconded a motion. Vote, 4-1

3. Public Input: No Public Input

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Roads: Update

Sid Hall Drive will be completed by September 4, 2009.

The Town Crew will start work on sidewalks and Portland Street and the Dummy Light Garden the week of Sept. 7, 2009.

The Water District will start work on Meader Street the week of Sept. 7, 2009.

Dwayne received a letter from the residents on Portland Street requesting the police enforce the posted speed limit, place more speed limit signs and also place a sign “slow, children at play”.

B. Route 9 Bridge: Request to Name Rte. 9 Bridge Veteran’s Memorial Bridge

Dwayne read into the record a letter from the Board of Selectmen addressed to Representative Eves and Senator Nass. The Town of North Berwick Board of Selectmen would like to endorse the Quint Cheney American Legion Post 87 proposal to name the Route 9 bridge the “North Berwick Veteran’s Memorial Bridge”.

C. Energy Grant: Discussion on Joining KEYS Town for Energy Grant

Dwayne discussed with the Board the Energy Grant meeting that he attended for the (KEYS). They have an interesting idea which is to create an evolving loan fund for the Town’s that would be involved.

The Town of North Berwick should be involved in the (KEYS) Energy Grant project.

Dwayne asked the Board to be thinking of a resident to appoint who would be interested in this project to represent the Town of North Berwick.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – Sept.15, 2009-6:30 p.m. Municipal Building

5. New Business:

A. Farmer’s Market: (moved) Update by Association, Plans for Winter Market

Rebekah Yonan updated the Board of Selectmen on the North Berwick Farmers Market. The Farmers Market is doing well. There is also an interest in a Winters Farmers Market which would be once a month. We would like to hold the Winter Farmers Market at the same time and around the same area.

The Farmers Market is having signage problems with the Zoning Ordinance that requires the signs be setback 15 feet. We would like to know if we could attach the Farmers Market sign to the Town line sign or place the sign under the Town line sign.

Dwayne will review the signage request to make sure it does not violate the Town’s sign ordinance.

Rebekah Yonan asked if the Board would consider a community garden somewhere in North Berwick. We have an educational component to what it is that we are trying to do in North Berwick and we feel a community garden would get people more involved with growing their own food.

Chairman Folsom asked Rebekah Yonan to look at different places for a community garden and come back and discuss it with the Board.

B. Planning Board: (moved) Application of Patrick Raftery

Dwayne was contacted by Patrick Raftery and that he was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Dwayne explained that for future Planning Board applicant's questions have been put together to better learn about the applicant and what they know of Planning Board issues and Zoning.

Todd Hoffman suggested that prior to applicant's permanent appointment that the applicant be required to attend at least one Planning Board meeting to see if this is what they really want to be doing, it will also give the Planning Board the opportunity to meet the potential applicant.

C. Great Works Land Trust: (moved) Discuss DEBTONE Property Conservation Project

Jack Kareckas explained to the Board that he is the President of the Great Works Land Trust and is here this evening to discuss the conservation easement associated with DEBTONE farm.

Mr. Kareckas introduced to the Board Jean Demetracopoulos who is our farm land expert that has done easements before and is essential to the negotiation with the family and other government entities. Christine Magruder is our development coordinator. Todd Hoffman is a Board member and Virginia Reusch is a former Board member.

Christine Magruder explained to the Board that the Great Works Land Trust is talking with the Goodwin's about the possible conservation of their property. Great Works Land Trust put in an application to the Federal Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program to aid in purchasing development rights from the Goodwin's and in creating a conservation easement that the Great Works Land Trust would hold. We have now hired an appraiser to do an appraisal of the property and it yielded of value for the conservation easement that was acceptable to the Goodwin's. The application to the Federal Government was also accepted.

The Great Works Land Trust has a farm land protection program and for specific farms that is really critical to the regional agricultural economy. We have employed a federal computer program to help us purchase development rights on those pieces that we feel really need to stay in agricultural production. This federal program provides 50% of the full amount of the appraised value for the development rights. The agricultural easement allows for the land to continue being in agricultural production. We will need to raise \$115,000.00 which will be through fund raisers and personal solicitation.

Jean Demetracopoulos asked if the Great Works Land Trust could obtain a copy of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. It is my understanding that these farms had been singled out as something that the Town of North Berwick felt were important to the rural character of the Town and that is a wonderful thing to have.

Dwayne will provide the Great Works Land Trust with a CD of the Comprehensive Plan.

Dwayne discussed with the Board that there are funds available in Impact Fee Reconciliation. We have funds that we need to expend for Open Space and Open Space does include conservation easement.

Dwayne spoke that the Town would require a request for funds and a draft on what the easement will look like by mid December 2009.

Chairman Folsom asked that the Great Works Land Trust raise funds and come back before the Board. The Board will then know what can be expended to help the conservation project.

D. Maine Community Foundation: (moved) Grant Projects Award

The Directors of the Maine Community Foundation have approved a \$40,000.00 advised grant to the Town of North Berwick for the traffic island garden and Mill Field improvement projects.

E. York County Connection Study: Draft Cooperative Agreement

Dwayne discussed with the Board of Selectmen that the Town of North Berwick participate in the York County Connection Study the Cooperative Agreement between the State of Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority.

F. Liquor License: Johnson Seafood and Steak

Selectman Drew moved the Board sign Johnson Seafood and Steak House liquor license, Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

G. Police Department: (moved) Taser Demonstration

The North Berwick Police Department provided the Board of Selectmen with a taser demonstration.

H. Mass Gathering Permit: Morin

Selectman Drew moved to grant Mass Gathering Permit, Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

I. Parks and Recreation: Resignation of Peggy Curtis

Selectman Drew moved to accept Peggy Curtis resignation with regret, Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

J. Pheasant Hill Condominiums: Letter of Concern

Dwayne received a letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen from the President of Pheasant Hill Condominiums Association. The letter indicates that there are two issues of concern; the Crematory and an odor in the air over Pheasant Hill Condominiums on August 29, 2009.

Dwayne addressed the letter from the President of Pheasant Hill Condominiums Association that he will bring to the Board of Selectmen's attention the concerns regarding the Crematory and the odor over Pheasant Hill Condominiums.

6. Other Business:

7. Executive Session – 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) - Personnel

Executive Session – 1 MRSA 405(6)(C) - Legal

Selectman Danforth moved to go into Executive Session - 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) Personnel and 1 MRSA 405(6)(C) - Legal at 8:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

8. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant: August 25, 2009 - \$27,278.41

Warrant: September 1, 2009 - \$12,112.76

Selectman MacDougall moved to accept the Warrants of August 25, 2009 for \$27,278.41 and September 1, 2009 for \$12,112.76, Selectman Drew seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

9. Adjournment:

Selectman MacDougall moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., Selectman Drew seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

Respectively Submitted:
Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Jay MacDougall