

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 2, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 pm – Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order

Present: Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Fred McGarry and Cynthia McHugh, Selectmen.

Absent: Alden Dill

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Robertson asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Robertson: Okay. The first item we have on the agenda is Mr. Cross regarding Ridge Road Extension and I don't know if you have anything new for us, Mr. Cross. I can tell you that we don't have anything new for you.

Our attorney wants another day or two to go through the material that he has so we have you on the agenda and you are welcome to take the microphone, if you like.

Ed Cross – Ridge Road Extension:

Mr. Cross: Can you put me on the agenda for the next meeting?

Chairman Robertson: We can and I hope to have more informative content for you at that next meeting.

Mr. Cross: Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Thank you.

Next, I am going to recognize, Nick, from Parks and Rec. He's not on the agenda. We have canceled it a couple of times but I think that he is going to be fairly brief regarding Old Home Day.

Nick Lawrence – Parks and Rec – Old Home Day:

Mr. Lawrence: Good to see you guys again in person.

So, aiming for Saturday, August 21st and just wanted to get the formal blessing of the Board to move forward. We are going to be moving back to have a traditional style day where last year, we had kind of a condensed version of Old Home Day so just wanted to make sure that it was still a go on your end.

Chairman Robertson: As far as I'm aware, the Board of Selectmen is completely in support of Old Home Day and if any of you aren't, please speak up.

Vice Chairman Pitman: All good.

Chairman Robertson: Sounds great and we're looking forward to it, Nick.

Mr. Lawrence: Perfect. Thank you, guys.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. Our next appointment is with Steve Rollins, from the Highway Department and I believe Steve was going to give us some of the improvement projects that he was looking to complete with what we had left over from road reconstruction money.

Steve Rollins - Highway Department:

Mr. Rollins: Right, so, what I was looking to do is, there is two culverts on Haynes Road that are rotted out and gone. There are two cement ones also in there that aren't, that need to be replaced.

So, that was one of the projects.

There's a culvert on Griffin Road that I want to replace. Other than that, there are some trees, tree work that I want to do. We, we know we have a lot of dead trees so I will need a bucket truck and address some of those.

Um, and, that's pretty much the jest of it. Actually, finish the shoulder graveling. That's pretty much the projects for the rest of the money.

Chairman Robertson: Well, I can certainly vouch for the failure of the, particularly the uphill, diagonal culvert on Haynes Road. Last few rain storms it has been a variable river.

Other questions or concerns the Board has regarding those projects?

Mr. Rollins: I do have two spots on Middle Road that I would like to temporarily patch that is in between the two pieces that we resurfaced, also.

Selectwoman McHugh: What did you say was going on on Griffin Road?

Mr. Rollins: Griffin Road there is, there is, I believe, an old stone culvert. It's not an actual culvert but it has given away and we patched it last, well we patched it a couple of times this winter and a couple of times the hot top went in, but now I think we've got it plugged up but the problem is we also don't have anymore drain or had with the box, with the stone culvert that was there. A stone drain, I guess would be a better way to put it. It's not really a culvert.

Selectwoman McHugh: Where are we with the knotweed spraying?

Mr. Rollins: Well, they used to it in the fall so I'm waiting to hear back.

Selectwoman McHugh: Hear back from, you have somebody to do it?

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, the same guy that's been doing it right along as far as I know. I have not heard back from him.

Selectwoman McHugh: Did we spray last year?

Mr. Rollins: No, we did not. We wanted to but ...

Selectwoman McHugh: I talked to this guy today.

Mr. Rollins: Okay. You did?

Selectwoman McHugh: He said he has been trying to get ahold of you. He even stopped down the highway shed to see you.

Mr. Rollins: Really?

Selectwoman McHugh: Yes, so ...

Mr. Rollins: I've left messages with him.

Chairman Robertson: This is the guy from Epsom?

(Multiple people stated, yes)

Selectwoman McHugh: And they said we (multiple people talking over each other)

Yeah, give him a call because he is looking to get in touch with you. It's been a couple of years. He doesn't know if he is going to be able to do it this year because the permits have to be done and it's kind of late.

Yeah, so, give him a call.

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, I think that anything you can do regarding the dead ash tress we've got over roadways and power, too

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, and I think

Chairman Robertson: that's a step in the right direction.

Mr. Rollins: prices on bucket truck for the day with a guy, you know, it's just a matter of how much we have left after we do the other stuff.

Chairman Robertson: Yup.

Other questions or comments for Steve?

Selectman McGarry: Do you know when R & D is going to be doing the gravel backup ...

Mr. Rollins: Last I spoke to them, was about a week ago and they said within the next two to three weeks.

Vice Chairman Robertson: Steve, how much of this is going to be hired for the culverts?

Mr. Rollins: Um, probable the one on Haynes Road we will hire a piece of equipment for that.

The rest of it will be town equipment.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Your crew?

Mr. Rollins: I don't believe so. My stuff is busy.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, no, the town.

Mr. Rollins: Yeah, the town crew.

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, your crew as the town road agent.

So, how does that work, Steve, as far as they're already on the payroll to go against this money that is left?

Mr. Rollins: I think it will be more material and actual culverts itself than the labor.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Okay.

Mr. Rollins: For the Griffin Road one, but the one on Haynes Road, it's going to be a little bit more of a project and that will be equipment, material ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that something that you would hire like, Glenn Young or (multiple people talking)

Mr. Rollins: That's the plan. I've already spoken to Glenn.

Vice Chairman Pitman: That way it will get done right with him.

Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Okay.

One last thing, Steve, I have an email from Suzanne Steele that she wanted me to read at the meeting tonight while the road agent was here and I will just read the letter.

"From Suzanne Steele - 8 Harvey Rd.

"I'd like to thank the Highway Dept for the grading of Harvey Rd several weeks ago. Your team did a good job of addressing the many potholes.

(Chairman Robertson: Happy about that)

With this week's storms; however, not only are some of the potholes back on the Nottingham end, the road has washed out along #4 Harvey Rd. This is due to the lack of ditch maintenance on the east side of the road. I would really appreciate if some from your team come **with shovels/not equipment** to address the ditch. The lack of ditch maintenance has resulted in some of the rocks from the stone wall to fall into the ditch area. **Replacing those rocks** back up to the wall to maintain the scenic quality would be more appropriate **with human hands** rather than having machines potentially do more damage. The ditch does not need to be extra wide, just recreated so it drains as it is supposed to. There are several other places from our house to 43 that also need addressing. Again, utilizing humans with shovels rather than heavy equipment to address the ditch issues. Thank you for your time and any questions please reach out."

Suzanne
Suzanne Steele"

Chairman Robertson: Actually Steve, I will give you a copy of this.

I don't know the size of those rocks and whether they can easily pick them back up or not.

Mr. Rollins: Right.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, anything else for the road agent?

Selectwoman McHugh: Do we want him to take a look at that? We can't have the guys shoveling all the way down Harvey Road.

Chairman Robertson: No, I think, obviously, it's one citizen's wishes and what needs to be done.

Mr. Rollins: We actually just went and checked that road today and this, Paul Smith's end, does need some grading and it washed out on the hill a little bit and our intentions were to go out there tomorrow and maybe do a little grading on it.

I don't know how much hand work ditching we are going to be able to do but we will definitely look at it.

Vice Chairman Robertson: Well, there's a big difference between our backhoe and your excavator that was there last year.

Mr. Rollins: Oh yeah. We didn't do any ditching down there last year.

Vice Chairman Robertson: Two years ago.

Mr. Rollins: Two years ago, we didn't do any ditching down on that end.

Vice Chairman Robertson: That machine was on that road and stirred up quite a stir.

Mr. Rollins: On the other end. Yup.

But that end isn't giving us trouble now because it's ditched right.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Mr. Rollins: Now, this end is because it hasn't been ditched.

Chairman Robertson: Welp, if you're out there with the grader tomorrow of the next day, I'm sure it will be appreciated by the residents.

Mr. Rollins: Yup.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, thanks for joining us, Steve. We appreciate it.

Mr. Rollins: Thank you. Have a good night.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, next up we have Bernie Cameron.

Denny Greig: Andy, can I make a comment real quick that relates to Steve and the work off, it's about FEMA.

Chairman Robertson: Sure, sure.

Denny Greig: And the washouts for this storm.

I just got it.

We just received an email from Homeland Security a couple of hours ago with respect to the most recent storms.

They're requesting what they call an "initial damage assessment for public assistance" relating to these storms so what I will be doing is reaching out to Steve; find out what kind of damages the town sustained.

They are looking at it as three separate events but they will be looking at it and will also be reaching out to see what other kinds of departments might have had some injuries or damages in respect to extra time responding to the storm so I just wanted to let you guys know hopefully, if there is a way to quantify the damages that we had, there will be a baseline threshold for application to FEMA but that is potentially something that we are going to look at.

Chairman Robertson: Great. Thank you, Denny.

Okay, our next order of business is Mrs. Cameron regarding the redistricting request that we have spoken to Mrs. Cameron a couple of times. Sent a letter but I believe you have more that you wish to discuss with us.

Bernie Cameron – Redistricting:

Mrs. Cameron: Right. Thank you.

So, there is a movement going on throughout the state for towns that used to have their own district to try to recover that again with this special redistricting, special committee on redistricting.

So, I got a little curious about it and did some research in the town office in the old town clerk reports about Deerfield's history of having its own district and found out throughout our history, up until 1982, Deerfield only had one district. It was its own district and we had one state rep right through 1982.

Beginning in 1982, that was the first time they added a "floterial district" so we had our own district and then we had floterial so these are the days of Roger King and Jack Sherburne and that's the way it stayed up until the year, 2002.

We had our own district with one rep and we had a floterial and for a long time it was with Nottingham but it changed a little through the years.

Beginning in 2002, it's when the state's redistricting committee at that time changed everything throughout the state to multi-districts plus a floterial.

So that, we were matched to different towns over the years but now that district is Deerfield, Candia and Nottingham and our floterial are those three towns including Northwood. And, that has been true, pretty much, throughout the state. You don't see towns with their own districts anymore. They're part of multi-districts and the floterial.

So, the movement now is to try, for those towns that qualify, which Deerfield does, so it is part of the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 2 states that towns of a sufficient size, which with our recent Census, is 3,445 population, that towns of a sufficient size shall have its own district with one or more representative seats. Deerfield, according to the last census, 4,208

So, I spoke to a lot of people in town and you'll see in front of you, I gathered signatures on a letter from republicans, democrats and undeclared. Sixty people besides myself would like our Board of Selectmen to urge this special committee on redistricting, for Deerfield to go back to having its own district.

Vice Chairman Pitman: We're the only one in 4,280?

Mrs. Cameron: Are we the only town?

Vice Chairman Pitman: No, with only one rep?

Mrs. Cameron: We would have one rep but then we would also have a floterial and that's the way, that's the way they would be able to balance the population because you can't go over 400 state reps so there's leftover people in towns that have, like us, we have left over people so they join you with other towns with the floterial so you have your own state rep and a floterial. Just the way it used to be.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sounds good.

Mrs. Cameron: Back after 1982, it used to be that way. And it can be done. There are many states that do this. It helps to use technology; to use computer programs to do this. I don't know if that anything New Hampshire would want to do but it can be done even with our population the way it is.

So, this is my request and the request of these people whose names you see in front of you and I felt very strongly that this is a bipartisan issue. It's not one party verses another. There are people from all three parties; undeclared, democrat and republican who want this to be done.

So, the special committee is going to be holding public hearings towards the end of the summer and into the fall. I believe that they have to have this done by October. They will be holding a public hearing in each county so I would like and we would like very much to write a letter like you did before about the warrant article and also to testify, wonder if you could testify representing Deerfield that we want to go back to having our own district.

Any questions?

Chairman Robertson: Any questions for Mrs. Cameron?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Very well said.

Chairman Robertson: We do indeed have the petition here and it would be up to the Board to decide.

I would be happy to testify at the hearings if the Board is so inclined that this is the direction that they would like to move in.

I think it makes good sense.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Do we need any kind of a motion now, Andy?

Chairman Robertson: Probably wouldn't hurt to have a motion to accept the petition and authorize one of us to speak at the hearings.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to accept the petition as presented and authorize the chairman to speak at the hearings as well as to send a letter to the redistricting committee

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Selectman McGarry: Would the motion include a letter from the Board and Vice Chairman Pitman stated that it would

Chairman Robertson: Hopefully, this testimony is more fun than past testimonies

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Regular Business:

Review of Outstanding Minutes of July 26, 2021

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the minutes of July 26, 2021

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

Payroll Manifest - \$306.80 (gross), \$263.20 (net) and this is for one particular employee.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve the payroll manifest as presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Accounts Payable Manifest - \$79,195.60

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the accounts payable manifest as presented

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Signatures/Correspondence:

Chairman Robertson: We have requests for cemetery plots.

The first is from Robert and Mary Spindel and they are looking for two plots.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the sale of two plots for Robert and Mary Spindel

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is that at the Old Center Cemetery?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, it is at the Old Center lot.

And we also have a request Barry Braley and this is for the Ladd Cemetery on South Road and he is looking for three plots.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve the sale of three lots in the Ladd Cemetery for Barry Braley

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Vice Chairman Pitman: Can we make a motion for all four?

Chairman Robertson: Yes, I was going to ask for that.

Next, I have four letters. They are identical letters and this is per my request at our last meeting and it's in regard to Class VI roads.

This is basically advising the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Road Agent and the Building Inspector that anytime anything that has to do with a Class VI road, or looks like a Class VI road or smells like a Class VI road, comes before the Selectmen as we really need to be involved or have knowledge of what's being requested and everyone had agreed verbally last week that it was probably a pretty good idea but it wouldn't hurt to have a motion to authorize these four letters and send them.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to authorize sending letters to the abovementioned Boards regarding Class VI roads

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson: Okay, we have a couple of housekeeping things.

The first is a refund request. This is from Kelly Roberts. A resident registered their boat twice because of the way the boat registration system works, they couldn't just correct the mistake. It actually requires a refund. The refund amount is \$20.88 and it requires a motion of the Board.

Motion: Selectman McGarry moves to approve refunding the resident for the boat that was registered twice in the amount of \$20.88

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson: And, we have one, two, three, four, five refund requests and the refund requests were made because of overpayment on tax bills on the first half of 2021.

The first is to Absolute Title for \$268.06

The second is to the law offices of Richard Shay for \$2,410.00

The third is to CoreLogic Centralized Refunds and that is for \$11,166.00

The fourth is (couldn't understand) Closing and Title for \$14.00

And the last is to Cathy Lear for \$212.00 and the town clerk has provided the evidence of the refund.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to pay back the five names that were listed

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Chairman Robertson: And that concludes the signature file.

Moving to correspondence, we have two items that are of import.

The first was addressed with regard to redistricting and there is a copy of the petitioners and the request on the file.

The second is a letter from the Deerfield Heritage Commission. I know that they put quite a bit of time and effort into this so I'm going to read the letter.

"Dear Select Board Members:

We were dismayed to learn of the recent damage to the Thurston Pond Dam. This is an important and unique part of Deerfield's history and heritage dating back to its construction in or about 1772.

The unauthorized removal of a portion of the dam near the sluiceway is more than regrettable. We were represented at the Select Board's meeting on July 26, 2021, and both appreciate and support the sentiments expressed by the Board and the landowners abutting Thurston Pond.

In particular, we are supportive of the determination expressed by the Board to undertake appropriate repairs to the dam and sluiceway to remediate the damage and to return both the dam and sluiceway to their prior condition.

In so saying we note that, just prior to the actions taken which damaged the dam, the condition of the dam was deemed "in great shape" by engineers from the NH Division of Environmental Services during the course of the inspection undertaken on July 14, 2021, in the company of abutting landowners and representatives of the Board.

In light of the facts and circumstances known presently the damage to the dam was the result of, at minimum, ill-advised action taken which is likely to have controverted NH environmental statutes and/or regulations.

We request and will appreciate being kept advised of action taken by the Board in connection with this incident."

And I know that some of the abutting landowners are going to come, I believe, to our next meeting John, as them to discuss, uh, remediation of the Thurston Pond Dam situation and what might be done so that will be coming up at our next meeting for ...

Selectman McGarry: That was going to be my next question and I guess I can hold off on that question until, uh, next week, next meeting.

Chairman Robertson: I don't know if people got a chance to review the Thurston Pond Dam information, we received from Laura Lee Mathis today.

John had emailed it out mid to late morning and I know there are some, there's a structural diagram. There are some old pictures. There's also a report of what we agreed to do with regard to maintaining the dam on an annual basis. I think we agreed to do it in 2004 or 2005 and I don't know that that has been followed to the letter or the degree that the dam bureau advised.

I also think that we need to bring the uh, I know we discussed this informally around the edges of this but we need to bring the water commissioners probably into play here as well. They are charged with specific authority of Thurston Pond Dam and Freese's Pond and I don't know that they've ever really been involved um, with Thurston Pond and probably minimally with Freese's Pond. It's typically fallen to the road agent to manage water levels.

Selectman McGarry: So, we will be inviting them to the next meeting?

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, I think we should.

Selectman McGarry: Okay.

Chairman Robertson: Provided we have a water commission in good standing still. I know from time to time; they have disappeared and that is all that we have for signatures and correspondence.

At this time, I would look to the town administrator for his report to us.

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington: Two items for you this evening,

First, an update from the Atlantic Broadband or Cable Consortium that Deerfield is part of.

A suggestion being recommended by the attorney in the group is to go back to each board and ask the boards if they would be interested in possibly amending the current contract for another seven to ten years.

They feel that the current agreement is very solid and to try to open that agreement up and get the same kind of commitment from the cable company would be difficult at best.

They are still looking for cable companies to discard the cable service within ten years and just be internet providers at that time so they would be looking for renegotiating contracts anyway and to hold on and give folks who might not want to go through the trouble of streaming with internet that would hold off allowing cable to be in the town for ten years longer before they drop cable altogether.

Chairman Robertson: Did they have a cut off date or a deadline they're looking for an answer on that?

Mr. Harrington: No, no, They, just, I'm just mentioning it to you now because this is what all the members in the consortium are bringing back to their boards so we have time to think about it. The contract doesn't end until 2023 and we're in ongoing negotiations.

The second item I had for you tonight and you also have a summary of the report of the meeting with R.B. Lewis looking at the town hall sprinkler tank.

Just to give you the highlights; not the full report. When the cover to the tank access was pulled off, there was about a foot and a half of standing ground water covering the opening to the tank.

The water level is abnormally high right now and that would have to be drained before they could even take the cover off. Otherwise, we'd have groundwater emptying into the tank as we're trying to empty it.

So, what we've agreed to do is monitor it for the next couple of weeks. Hopefully see the groundwater go down to below the opening of the tank then schedule the two-day inspection, two weeks from that date.

The inspector needs at least two weeks to book it into his calendar and if on the day of the first inspection day when they plan on opening the tank and starting the draining, we find groundwater, we'll attempt to use pump to pump it out and keep it dry while they're working in there.

Once the tank is empty, they'll on the second day, go in and do the inspection. Hopefully find out what's going on with the tank and a recommendation will be drawn up by R.B. Lewis; the best approach to either fix it or recommend another course of action.

During the time that the tank is empty, the town hall will have to be closed to anybody going in there until the sprinkler system and the tank is filled up and it's back online.

So, all of this will happen with your knowledge before it's planned out hopefully within the next three to four weeks, we can get going on this but with all the rain, we need to wait for that water to recede before we can continue.

And, the change in plan from draining the tank down over the hill into the woods has now been changed to draining the 15,000 gallons into the empty lot behind the pump house.

There's enough land there to absorb the water rather to take a chance of it going into a stream down over the hill and into the woodlands behind on people's property which may cause some flooding.

Selectwoman McHugh: That was my question too, John, there's a pipe in there that drains that piece of, where does that pipe go?

Mr. Harrington: That just drains out over the hill, into the woods but ...

Selectwoman McHugh: So, it's going down over the hill anyway...

Mr. Harrington: That's just the groundwater out in the field. To put 15,000 gallons all at once, is a concern of getting into the stream and then flooding people's back property.

Chairman Robertson: Questions for John?

Mr. Harrington: As we move forward, I will continue to update the Board before anything is done.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Any update on the Veasey Park trees?

Mr. Harrington: I did contact the state. They're recommending talking to local arborists or loggers in the area. I know Travis has already contacted one who is going to come out and take a look at it for us and give us a quote.

Selectwoman McHugh: Who was that?

Mr. Harrington: He didn't mention who it was. It's someone local we've used before and once that price is known, we can, I'll come back to the Board with the, with the cost of taking down the trees.

Vice Chairman Pitman: When do you, when do you sign up roadside mowing to get a fire going into that?

Mr. Harrington: Excuse me?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Roadside mowing?

Mr. Harrington: That's already been awarded.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Somebody's got to call them and tell them.

Mr. Harrington: Yep. Now, that would be the road agent that works with the roadside mower. That's out of the highway department but I will remind him to ...

It's in the bid anyway that it needs to be done before the kids come back.

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, typically, we like to get that done before the first day of school.

Mr. Harrington: But I will remind him.

Chairman Robertson: Which the first day of school is on the 25th, I believe, this year so the clock is ticking.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thank you, John.

Mr. Harrington: Yep.

Chairman Robertson: Anything else, John?

Mr. Harrington: That's it for me this evening.

Chairman Robertson: Okay, that would bring us to unfinished business, new business or other business.

Unfinished/New/Other Business:

Hearing none, at this point, I would look to citizen's comments.

Citizen's Comments:

Erroll Rhodes – Church Street

Good evening, Erroll Rhodes, Church Street.

The road agent talked about the ash trees earlier and I know a number of folks in town are concerned about trees on their property.

Is there any effort to um, flag up to the road agent trees that are along the highway that would need his attention just to make him aware if he's not aware of everything that's out there?

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, I can't speak for the highway agent but I know he is acutely aware of the trees that we would like to remove. The problem being that we have had difficulty getting a hold of contractors and/or difficulty locating the funds to pay for the work that he would like to do.

Mr. Rhodes: Right. I was just wondering if he, I know, he may have a list of trees that may not include all the ash trees that are by road by public highways in town so ...

Chairman Robertson: I don't know exactly what he's got for an inventory but I know he has been very concerned about it and in some instances, they've been working piecemeal. If they're doing roadwork near trees and can get landowner permission; they, if they look easy enough to push onto the landowner's property away from the highway and utility lines, they've tried to do that but there's clearly a much greater inventory of dead ash trees in town than they're going to be able to handle doing that.

Mr. Rhodes: Right.

Chairman Robertson: We've also had the road agent, uh, reach out to the utility companies. They were doing a fairly persistent job of picking away at the trees and then just sort of disappeared late spring and haven't been back in town since so I know Steve has been after them trying to get some idea of what their plans and schedule are.

Mr. Rhodes: Yeah, that's, in the past, that's been driven by their departmental budgets within, within the utility companies.

Chairman Robertson: They've also pointed out to the highway agent that virtually every small town in the lower half of New Hampshire has exactly the same problem.

Mr. Rhodes: Oh, yeah, so if, if landowners had particular concerns, they should direct those to the road agent?

Chairman Robertson: You certainly can, as I said, I'm not sure what action you'll get or how quickly you'll get it but yeah, if you've got hazard trees or danger trees that would clearly affect the road or utilities, I would certainly make him aware of it.

Mr. Rhodes: Right. Okay.

I know Mr., second item, Mr. Berglund spoke with you all, um, I guess, maybe a month or so ago about making, I guess, governmental meetings more available to citizenry.

Have you all made a study at all or initiated a study in terms of how to do, how to include the general public, let's say, via zoom in, in going forward?

Chairman Robertson: Yeah, Mr. Berglund's request was pretty specific using technology and he referenced ZOOM specifically.

At this point, we have not initiated any particular study although we do have, I believe that might fall under the parameters of the federal American Recovery Act money that we have available and it's certainly something the Board can look into.

Mr. Rhodes: Terrific, and finally, um, you mentioned the DES report today. Is that going to be distributed to the parties who were there.

Chairman Robertson: I had mentioned to you as well as the land abutters and some other folks that I would indeed forward that information to you and I will.

My thought was the Heritage Commission, the Conservation Commission, the abutters, particularly those that were at the meeting and its public information and it can certainly be forwarded to anyone that has an interest in it.

Mr. Rhodes: Terrific. Thank you.

Chairman Robertson: Other citizens? Mr. Cross.

Ed Cross – Thurston Pond Road

My question somewhat got answered as far as the dam reports. I'm not an exact abutter to that dam but I was wanting to be on that list of getting that information.

Chairman Robertson: And I do have your email address now and we'll include you on that list, Mr. Cross.

Mr. Cross: And I assume that information is going to include some of the pictures and my question would be, would it be pictures from their previous inspection back in 2013 or 15 or something like that?

Chairman Robertson: There are pictures, I believe, starting from the 1990's. There are a couple of three series of pictures. There's a copy of the maintenance instruction that they had provided the town, I believe in 2004 or 2005. There's a picture of a diagram of, done by an engineer who was looking at a hydroelectric application there who had, to scale, drawn out the rocks where they were, dimensions, that sort of thing.

Mr. Cross: Will that have, also any, um, report that had to do with the recent meeting out at the dam?

Chairman Robertson: It does not. This is just information that the engineer, Laura Lee Mathis forwarded from what they had in the state file regarding Thurston Pond Dam.

Mr. Cross: Okay, great. If you could and thank you for considering putting me on that list, I appreciate that.

Chairman Robertson: Absolutely will.

Yes.

Kathy Shigo – Cate Road

Just two quick items. I believe the last election that there was an article that was passed about the selectmen being able to appoint another road agent in addition. Can you give me an update on that because I haven't heard anything plus after, after that got approved?

Chairman Robertson: Sure, I can. It, it was approved by the town at our last election and it would not be an additional road agent.

Basically, the election for the road agent would go away and the select board would appoint a road agent by authority of this board as opposed to an election.

We have been advised by legal that that would take effect this coming March, March, 2022. It goes for one year from your regularly scheduled town meeting or town election.

Ms. Shigo: And that will be ongoing in the future, I mean, we'll never again elect a road agent, is that what you are trying to tell me?

Chairman Robertson: Not necessarily. The town could change its mind and, and certainly vote to return it to an elected position.

Ms. Shigo: Okay. And my second quick, the petition that Bernie gave, is it possible that the public can look at it and see who, who signed the petition as there's only 60 names on it so I wanted to ask if that's a possibility. Is it the Freedom of Information Act type thing?

Chairman Robertson: Nope, it's a, it's a public document that has been submitted to the Board as correspondence so it certainly would be available for review.

Ms. Shigo: Okay thank you very much, thank you.

Ms. Cady – Old Centre Road:

I have no problem with the petition to have each town have a representative with a flatorial district but what we have came about because of a legislative action saying that it was unfair the way we had election of representatives town and that was taken to court and we ended up with this from the Supreme Court's redistricting of the state so I don't know if the legislature will be able to comply with what the Supreme Court felt we had to do.

This whole thing keeps going back and forth but it, it was the Supreme Court who set us up this way so whether or not the legislature will be able to overturn that Supreme Court, it's going to be interesting.

Chairman Robertson: It won't hurt to ask.

Ms. Cady: And, the, my mind's not working, I'm sorry. It will come to me and I'll write you an email.

Chairman Robertson: Okay. Thank you.

Further public comment?

Seeing none.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn at 6:15 pm

Second: Selectman McGarry

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Next Meeting: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:30 pm

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*