

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 11, 2022  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

5:30 – Chairman McGarry called the meeting to order

**Present:** Fred McGarry, Chairman, Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Alden Dill, Cynthia McHugh, Selectmen

**Present via ZOOM:** Will Huebner, Selectman.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman McGarry: Will is in Ireland, is that correct?

Selectman Huebner: That's correct. Southern Ireland, the very tip.

Chairman McGarry: We need to take a vote to allow him to participate in the meeting.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to allow Selectman Huebner to participate via ZOOM

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman McGarry: The vote's unanimous.

All right. Ray. You're up.

**Ray Ellis: Facility Supervisor Quarterly Report:**

Mr. Ellis: Good evening, everyone.

So, basically, just to fill you in, what I have been working on and where we're heading.

As far as the town hall, I am going to have one side painted this summer. I have already talked to Dave Hanson. He said within the next two or three weeks, he's going to come by and also look at the shutters on the town hall and give me a different price for repair on them. I've picked up twenty or thirty slats on the ground over the winter and the slats are just falling out of the shutters.

So, I'm going to get a quote. I'm not saying I'm moving forward with it but I'd like to know what it's going to cost to fix it.

We are going to paint that one side this summer because we already have the money appropriated for that.

Vice Chairman Pitman: What side?

Mr. Ellis: We're still waiting to hear from R.B. Lewis ...

Chairman McGarry: What side is that?

Mr. Ellis: The east side facing the fire station.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Mr. Ellis: The sprinkler system I'm still waiting for Tim to get back to us on when he can do it. He said that it would be soon. I don't know any more than that.

The GBW, we haven't had any carpets cleaned here for at least three, four years. They're starting to look a little grungy so I got ahold of High-Tech Cleaning. He's going to come down and do our carpet cleaning. Now, we are going to do it April 27<sup>th</sup> when the kids are on school vacation so that they can dry properly without being trampled on.

Septic tanks; haven't been pumped since 2018, some of them 2016 and 17 so I'm looking to see how many of them I can get pumped this summer as well.

The parking lot. Costs have gone way up on the parking lot so I don't know if that is going to happen this summer or not. I'm still waiting for the guy to get back to me to see how much it has gone up since the last time we were going to have it striped and have the whole thing sealed so I don't know where we're at with that. I haven't forgotten it.

The mower's meeting is coming up. That will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> it closes and I will be meeting with the mowers and try to figure out what contract is going to be for the summer so that will be coming up as well.

I'm working on the gazebo painting. Charlie Wheeler gave us a price last year. I called him back. He didn't know if he could stand by that price or if it was even possible so he is going to get back to me on that.

Selectwoman McHugh: The gazebo what, Ray?

Mr. Ellis: To paint the white part of the gazebo. We had the roof done.

Selectwoman McHugh: Right.

Mr. Ellis: But the white is starting to get some mold in places and it really does need to be painted again.

Selectwoman McHugh: Painted?

Mr. Ellis: Yes, just painted.

Selectwoman McHugh: So why can't we check with Dave Hanson?

Mr. Ellis: I can. I'm also going to check with Dave when he comes and figure if he can give us a better deal seeing he's going to be there anyway painting the town hall, what that would cost so I am going to look at that avenue as well.

He can do it a lot faster because he sprays everything.

I'm starting to work on the signs across the street. They are starting to fall apart a little bit. We just kind of got them up and running there and never really went back and fixed them correctly so I'm going to try to do that this summer so that looks good across the street and we can keep the signs going.

I've been doing some spring cleanup even today, down back. We cleaned up today where they were plowing, we pushed all the loam back and tried to get the edge of the pavement supported again so we don't break that up. Put some stone along the edge by the fence where the drains are so to just make it look better and keep it from breaking up.

I picked up some limbs and stuff and have been walking around the grounds to see where we are that there.

The handicapped ramp at the town hall, a little rough. I put some more screws in it. The boards are popping. I don't know how old it is. It was here when I came so...

But I did get some Thompson's Water Seal and I sprayed the whole thing again with Thompson's Water Seal to help protect it a little bit. Try to keep up with that.

As far as the horse-hair plaster in the ceiling above the stairway inside the town hall, I finally did get ahold of a guy, matter of fact, today. His name is Dan from D & D. He's supposed to come by either tomorrow or the next day to look at it and give us a price on seeing what the repair would cost for that. So, I'm happy I finally found somebody.

And then, a safety thing came up across the street where we go down to Bicentennial Field, that back stairwell that goes down from the parking lot, on the left-hand side, where there's no railing at all, it's washed all out and in some places it's five-to-six-foot drop offs and it's not even good.

So, I'm thinking we could probably get some pressure treated lumber and cut them in half and make some posts and put a rope railing on that side to match the other side. I don't know anything else we can do that would be fairly reasonable and cheap right now.

It would take a lot of material to put in there and fill it in and I don't think the highway department even has time for that now so.

Selectman Dill: It's going to be hard to get down there, too.

Mr. Ellis: It is. It is.

So, that's basically what I have been working on. Do you have any questions for me?

Selectman Dill: A couple of years ago, it was actually quite a few years ago, over at the Bicentennial Field, I feel it was this time of year, we had the fire department burn off this face over against 107 and it seemed to keep the tick population down a little bit.

Maybe want to talk to them to see if we can do that again?

Mr. Ellis: Yeah, I don't know if that's something that the fire department could help us do?

Selectman Dill: They did it last time.

Mr. Ellis: I'll reach out to Matt ...

Selectman Dill: Because that's just been a tick haven the last few summers.

Mr. Ellis: Yeah, and it's pretty wet over there. I was over there today because we had a tree that came down on the dugout and I went over and helped them pull it off the dugout so ...

Selectman Dill: Well, thanks for doing that.

Mr. Ellis: Not a problem. But yeah, I will look into that.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman McGarry: I just noticed today quickly when going by Veasey Park, a tree went and crushed the chain link fence.

Mr. Ellis: Oh, really.

Vice Chairman McGarry: Luckily, it didn't come into 107. It went to the woods. I don't know if they can take a look at that and take it off the fence.

Mr. Ellis: Sure. Take a look at it.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's not a priority. It's already down so ...

Mr. Ellis: Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: Doesn't the Veasey Park have a line for that for maintenance?

Vice Chairman Pitman: I'm not sure whose property it's on. If it's on state or ours.

Mr. Ellis: Well, if it's on the chair, it's in our right-of-way, right? The entrance?

Vice Chairman Pitman: It's between the pavement and the chain link fence.

Mr. Ellis: Okay. I'll look at it, Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: You bet. Thank you.

Good job on everything else, Ray.

Mr. Ellis: Thank you.

Selectwoman McHugh: The mowing, Ray, is that, I mean, we're talking cemeteries, the gazebo, ...

Selectman Dill: The transfer station.

Selectwoman McHugh: Transfer station, fire cisterns?

Mr. Ellis: No. We're not doing the water holes and cisterns this year.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Mr. Ellis: Matt Fisher is taking that back because he has part time help now and he's going to start taking care of them so that's one thing I don't have to worry about.

And Mark Young is now back as supervisor of the cemeteries so I'm going to have the mowers meeting but once we award the bid, Mark's going to take over that so I won't be stretched out quite so much.

So, I'll just take care of the town mowing and the transfer station.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: Good.

Selectwoman McHugh: And there's no way Parks and Rec can mow the fields?

Mr. Ellis: I don't want to say that there's no way. We have two mowers. One at each. I don't ....

Selectwoman McHugh: We now have a director ...

Mr. Ellis: I can't speak on Nick's behalf because I don't know what his work load is. Short of myself going down there and mowing them, I don't know. I don't know what he has for help, you know, and if I'm doing that, I can't be doing the rest of my job.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Right.

Selectwoman McHugh: No, I'm not expecting you to do it.

Mr. Ellis: No, I understand but I mean, I was asked and it was going to be put back on the mowing list.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: How about quotes for doing the re-loaming of the gazebo field? Do we want Ray to provide the recommendation on that?

(Couldn't hear due to paper being moved and audio being bad.)

Chairman McGarry: Oh, okay.

Okay, I guess we're all set, Ray.

(Multiple members of the Board thanked Mr. Ellis)

Selectwoman McHugh: Oh, no. I have one more thing.

The carpet cleaning. Our cleaning company can't clean our carpets?

Mr. Ellis: Well, she's not very healthy for one and two, her contract is just for cleaning, general cleaning not carpet cleaning so I asked her and she said that she could probably do it. She would have to give us a price on it but I was looking to get it done, over with ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: Professional.

Mr. Ellis: Right. Yeah. Because it hasn't been done since it was installed.

Selectwoman McHugh: I don't think it would hurt to get a price from her.

Mr. Ellis: I can get a price from her but like I said ...

Selectwoman McHugh: Because that's what they do, that's a company, right?

Mr. Ellis: She's not very healthy.

Selectwoman McHugh: Okay.

Mr. Ellis: But I will ask her.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Thank you, Ray.

### **Regular Business:**

#### **Review of Outstanding Minutes of March 28, 2022**

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to accept the minutes of March 28, 2022 as written

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:** Selectman Dill: Technically, we have to have a roll call vote here.

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

#### **Vouchers/Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:**

##### **Accounts Payable Manifest: \$203,584.97**

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the accounts payable manifest as read

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman McGarry: Vote's unanimous.

#### **Signatures/Correspondence:**

We have cemetery plot applications. One for Anthony Samsel for the Old Center Cemetery.

Selectman Dill: Do you want to do these in one big motion?

(Discussion between members of the Board and the town administration wasn't audible regarding cemetery plots)

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the cemetery lot application for Anthony Samsel for \$1,100.00

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman McGarry: Now, we have a second one for Sarah Kendall, 31 Coffeetown Road for \$550.00 again for the Old Center Cemetery.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the cemetery lot application for Sarah Kendal in the amount of \$550.00 in the Old Center Cemetery

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Chairman McGarry:

#### **Intent to Cut Wood/Timber property on Brown Road**

Selectman Dill: And we've unposted roads so we're all set on that. It's a huge piece up back.

Chairman McGarry:

**Intent to Excavate: and Rachel Eames Revocable Trust** – off of Dow Road.

The reason why I'm somewhat slow on this is that it hasn't come to the Planning Board.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Is this to cut?

Selectwoman McHugh: No, this is to excavate.

Chairman McGarry: They're looking to excavate 57,000 yards of gravel.

Selectman Dill: Well, that's a gravel pit at that point, correct?

Chairman McGarry: Yes.

Mr. Harrington: Fred, why don't you leave that in the folder and I'll send it back to the (couldn't hear) and give it to Jane.

Selectman Dill: Good catch.

Chairman McGarry: Okay, I have a Veteran's Tax Credit - Derek Biehle at 4 Hidden Drive in the amount of \$750.00

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit for Eric Beale in the amount of \$750.00

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Veteran's Tax Credit – Nicole Biehle at 4 Hidden Drive in the amount of \$750.00

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit in the amount of \$750.00 for Nicole Biehle

**Second:** Selectman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Selectman Huebner: Fred, how often are those tax credits offered? Is it an annual thing or a one-time lifetime thing? What's the frequency of that?

Chairman McGarry: John thinks it's annual.

Selectman Huebner: So, every year they get a \$750.00 tax credit per veteran.

Chairman McGarry: Correct, yeah.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

(Conversation between Board members not audible)

Chairman McGarry: All right, we have a solar energy exemption for:

|  |                               |             |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Deborah Kelley Living Trust                | 126 South Road                | \$28,800.00 |
| Kenneth and Marcie Dugas Trust             | 46 Cotton Road                | \$24,000.00 |
| Jonathan and Lucinda Broek                 | 6 Babb Road                   | \$19,200.00 |
| Avis Rosenfeld                             | 193 Nottingham Road           | \$18,000.00 |
| Barry and Gay Brearley Revocable Trust     | 138 South Road                | \$19,800.00 |
| Joseph and Stephanie Burke                 | 50 Cotton Road                | \$21,000.00 |
| Andrew Smellie, 10 Beau Acres Road, Candia | 10 Beau Acres Road, Deerfield | \$24,000.00 |
| Benjamin and Lori Lunsted                  | 52 Range Road                 | \$15,000.00 |

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approve the abovementioned solar exemption credits

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Selectman Dill: That was a much better idea than doing them piece by piece.

Selectman Huebner: That seems to be a surprising number of these applications for the solar exemption. I wonder if it's all the same company that's doing the work?

Selectman Dill: I think we've had this, two years now or a year. I mean, we did a ton of these last year. A ton of them. I really thought that it would be slowing down here soon.

Selectwoman McHugh: Do they do them every year?

Selectman Dill: It's just like the other credits. You apply for them and then they don't expire.

Man, the first couple of meetings we were signing like thirty or forty of these.

Selectman Huebner: So, this must be quite a lot of exempted taxes for the town. It seems to add up to, let's say, the equivalent to several residences in the town which I'm not saying that I am opposed to doing that but it is quite a lot of money that gets deferred from tax.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, I think this is the second year with this, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Okay. Thanks, Alden for the info.

Selectman Dill: Eventually, it will start to slow down but there are a lot of them and there is also a push right not to get this in by April 15<sup>th</sup> for this year's taxes.

Selectman Huebner: Right.

So, is there one primary contractor that is doing this in the town or is it a number of them and are they Deerfield-based contractors that are at least getting some of that money back, local business? We probably don't know, I guess.

Selectman Dill: No.

Chairman McGarry: There's no backup with regard to who the contractors are or any information, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Chairman McGarry: That takes care of that.

Mr. Rhodes.

**Mr. Rhodes – Church Street:**

Just a point of information. The Energy Committee might be helpful with Mr. Huebner if he came to a meeting to talk about that whole program because I think we're going to do another SolarUp like we did maybe six, seven years ago which is where a lot of these credits, these solar installations came from.

Selectman Dill: When do they meet?

Mr. Rhodes: The Energy Committee? You should check your Dooryard Gazette.

Selectman Dill: I should but it hasn't come yet.

Mr. Rhodes: That's a technicality. It's, I think it's, I want to say, the second Monday? I can get that to you. It's on the website.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Thank you.

Correspondence we have a write up from Ted Gatsas with what has transpired at the Executive Council.

We have a letter of resignation from Dianne Kimball with regard to the transcriptionist for the Board of Selectmen's meetings.

We have a letter from NH Planning Commission regarding transportation programs and community assistance.

We have an agenda for the Planning Board meeting for this Wednesday night and we also have something from the Vegetation Control Services ...

Selectman Dill: I think that is who we have spray knotweed on the side of the road.

Chairman McGarry: Ah. Okay.

Selectman Dill: I think.

Selectwoman McHugh: From Epsom, Chichester?

Chairman McGarry: That's it for correspondence.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Harrington: I have three items tonight.

The first is a request from the Deerfield Parks and Rec Commission. They'd like Board approval to put up a 10 x 16 storage shed next to the pump house at the gazebo field for all the materials related to the ice rink set up in gazebo field.

I sent out a map to all of you. It's in your folder which shows the appropriate location of where we would like to put it which is near the road's edge far enough away from the pump house so as to not interfere with its operation and it should be not in the way of anything.

We plan on putting in a gravel base and it will be a kit that will be delivered on-site and be assembled there because currently, all of the materials are in the town hall and I'd like to get them out of there.

Chairman McGarry: So, it's fairly close to the edge of pavement there.

Mr. Harrington: That's an approximate location. I couldn't get it exact but there will be enough of a setback so that it won't be involved with the snowbanks.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: Approximate cost for that will be \$3,780.00. That includes the shed itself. The cost for the base gravel and shingles that don't come with the kit and that would all be spent out of the 80 funds for Parks and Rec.

Selectwoman McHugh: And that's not going to be on any piping or anything from that ...

Mr. Harrington: No electricity, just plain storage shed.

Selectwoman McHugh: Isn't that the pump house for the town hall?

Mr. Harrington: No, the piping, I don't believe it's going to be anywhere near that.

Yes, Dick?

Vice Chairman Pitman: How's that going to look compared to the Old Town Hall?

Mr. Harrington: We are going to paint it white. It's going to match all the buildings there.

Vice Chairman Pitman: It is?



Mr. Harrington: Yeah. The original thought was to put it right there behind the town hall but I really didn't want it anywhere near the town hall so I put it over in the field and it comes primed, ready to paint but it will be painted white.

Is the Board okay with that?

Selectman Dill: Where are we paying for it?

Mr. Harrington: 80 funds. Parks and Rec 80 fund.

Selectman Dill: Okay.

Selectman Huebner: John, why is it in front of the pump house as opposed to further towards the road, Church Street. It seems like there is a lot of room just adjacent to the town hall.

Selectwoman McHugh: The town doesn't own that land.

Mr. Harrington: We don't own that land, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Oh, that's a good reason.

Mr. Harrington: I will try to get it as far away, like I said, the map that I drew was just to give you an idea of where it is. We are going to keep it as far away from the pump house as possible, further towards Church Street if I can go that far but the land slopes off that way and I want to keep it on the level ground.

Selectwoman McHugh: Not on the chicken pit either. Watch out for the chicken pit.

Selectman Huebner: Are there any regulations about how close to the other property owner's boundary we can build it?

Mr. Harrington: I can check into that but I believe it's the Fire/Rescue Association's and we can probably work with them.

Selectman Huebner: Okay.

Mr. Harrington: Is there general agreement that we can do this?

(Members of the Board agreed)

Selectman Dill: I was wrong on that Vegetative Control. That's Eversource.

Mr. Harrington: For the powerlines.

Second, you had a letter from the Lazy Lion requesting approval for their "April Foolishness" event on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Dill: Do we have to make a formal motion on that?

Mr. Harrington: Yes. I will send a letter with the Board's approval.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to approval the Lazy Lion's "April Foolishness"

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, I would just like, I mean this sounds like a fun event but let's make sure that they keep their cars off 107. I know there's been issues in the past.

Mr. Harrington: They have already checked with the police chief. I will ask him if he reminded them. If not, I will put it in the letter that I send back and they also wanted me to add in that this is a fundraiser for DCS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class.

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Mr. Harrington: I will send the letter.

The last item is that all the A/V equipment that we replaced in this room, I'd like to install up in the BOS conference room upstairs so that we actually have two meeting rooms that can be recorded for posting online and it's reusing and repurposing the equipment we already own.

Tim Griffin has offered to put that in. We do have to buy a couple of pieces of equipment of \$1,280.00 which I would use ARPA funds to set that room up.

Selectman Dill: So, this is using what we took out of here?

Mr. Harrington: The camera, the DVD player and the small monitor would all be mounted there and that way, if there is an overflow meeting that needs to be recorded, we have another room that can be recorded.

Selectman Dill: Seems like a good idea to me.

Do you need a motion on that?

Mr. Harrington: Yes, please.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to set up the BOS conference room with the used A/V equipment from the big room and spend \$1,280.00 of ARPA funds to complete this

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Mr. Harrington: Thank you.

And that's all I have this evening.

Chairman McGarry: And what are we doing with the quotes in regard to the restoration of the gazebo field?

Mr. Harrington: You had three quotes in front of you. Those vendors have already been talked to. Those are "up to" prices. There was some confusion before they put in their bids that they thought they were loaming over the loam that we put in last year to build up the flat areas. So, we are not loaming over the top soil that we already put in.

That's ready to plant. We just need loam from about the pump house forward to the edge of the driveway where all that sand and muddy area is. That has been regraded by the Highway Department and hopefully the water will drain down to the drains. We just need topsoil there and we are going to grass that in.

Selectman Huebner: John, the way that I read the quotes, they're different amounts of yards of loam in the quotes of each of these.

Mr. Harrington: That's why these are "up to" bids. They're likely to be probably half of what we are actually going to spend because they were under the impression, they had to loam over all of the area that was not currently grass. That's not the case.

Selectman Huebner: So, Blue Sky is saying 25 to 35 yards and another company has got over 40 yards, I think, in their estimate.

Mr. Harrington: Correct.

Selectman Huebner: But of course, a higher price so it's not apples to apples in terms of just picking the lowest price here, I don't think.

Mr. Harrington: These would be "up to" bids.

Selectman Dill: There is only one that's hydroseeding.

Selectman Huebner: Right. That's Blue Sky.

Selectman Dill: Which, yeah, and if we're trying to get this done and established fast ...

Mr. Harrington: I don't believe TNT has the capability of hydroseeding.

Selectman Dill: No, everybody else is just seeding with labor which if we are trying to establish grass quick ...

Mr. Harrington: The reason that these are coming out as early as they are is that we want to give the turf as much of a chance to come in before summer.

Selectwoman McHugh: I didn't think we were going to be doing this? I thought Parks and Rec was going to replace that.

Mr. Harrington: They are going to be paying for this. That's part of ...

Selectwoman McHugh: This is coming out of Parks and Rec?

Mr. Harrington: Yes. But because it's over \$1,000.00, the Board needs to approve it.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to award Blue Sky the bid for gazebo field

**Second:** Selectman Huebner

**Discussion:**

Selectman Huebner: I think it's the best one because of the hydroseeding.

Selectman Dill: Agreed.

**Vote: Yea 4, Nay 1, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Roll call vote: Selectman Huebner: Yea  
Selectman Dill: Yea  
Selectwoman McHugh: Yes  
Vice Chairman Pitman: Nay  
Chairman McGarry: Yea

Chairman McGarry: So, 4 to 1 in favor.

Mr. Harrington: Thank you.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Chairman McGarry: I had some discussion with regard, at the last meeting, in regard to the decision of the ZBA on the variance request by Mr. Cross for putting additional driveways across the proposed open space in that subdivision. The open space subdivision.

And I had prepared a letter requesting the ZBA to provide a rehearing on that and the Board of Selectmen has standing with regard to being able to making such a request so I want to know what action the Board wishes to take.

Selectman Dill: I read your letter, Fred, and I'm going to go with your recommendation on this. I think ...

Chairman McGarry: Any other questions?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Sooner than later.

**Motion:** Selectman Dill moves to send the letter prepared by the chair and have the chair sign it

**Second:** Selectwoman McHugh

**Discussion:**

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries**

Vice Chairman Pitman: Thanks for writing that, Fred.

Chairman McGarry: I based all of my comments based on the minutes as I wasn't there at the meeting. There is some potential for other appeals being filed on that, too.

#### **New Business:**

Selectwoman McHugh: Yeah, on Dianne's resigning, is this something we can give to Randi to do during the week rather than hire another transcriptionist? Could Randi handle doing the minutes?

Mr. Harrington: I could ask her. Sure.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Keep it inhouse. I would like to see the minutes stay inhouse if we can.

Mr. Harrington: All right. That's a good idea, Cindy. Let me check on that.

Selectman Dill: I had other business. On Board organizations, since I said I'd do Rec Commission, I forgot I got something going on Wednesdays at that point so I just wanted to put it out there if anyone else had time to do Rec Commission. It's once a month on Wednesdays but like I said, I have a standing appointment on Wednesday evenings right now.

Chairman McGarry: Okay.

Selectman Dill: Think about it and get back to me.

Chairman McGarry: Okay. Do we need non-public?

No.

**Citizen's Comments:**

Hi. Good evening. My name is Kendra Cohen. I live at 115 Mountain Road.

I want to address an intent to cut that may or may not have been filed in the past few days and I want to publicly apologize to Mr. Harrington for bothering him so much about this.

We, my husband and my family, my daughter and I live on the unpaved portion of Mountain Road just past the Eversource powerlines.

Since last July, there has been a logging operation on the property on the other side of the powerlines. They take the logs from the property, pull them up on the Eversource property and process all the fire wood in the middle of the Eversource property. That's about 100 feet from my front door, eyeballing.

My husband and I work from home and that's been very disruptive to our ability to have calls and live our lives on our property and when March 1<sup>st</sup> came around this year when their last year's intent to cut expired, they moved all the tractors, skid steers and all the equipment they were using and we could finally breath the fresh air outside without having chainsaws and all the other equipment they've been using for the past nine months.

We went out of town this past weekend and when we returned around 4:00 pm and drove right past the property and all the tractors and the skid steers were back on the Eversource property which was very disheartening to us.

We got out of the car and there's again the hum of chainsaws and the familiar loggers who we've come to see every day.

There's been an intent to cut on that property since at least 2020 and they've been logging on the property at least six days a week since last July and we have approached the landowner, the logging company, asked them to make reasonable accommodations like processing all the firewood on the property where the intent to cut is for, not on the abutting property to our house and they've refused to do that or we've requested not to do it on Saturday so we could enjoy time outside with our daughter. They've not done that either.

They've also been very threatening to my husband and I. They threatened to cut down trees on our property.

Today I asked them, you know, how long they are going to be there and they said that if we continue to try to get it closed down that they're going to make our lives worse. I don't know what that means but it's, they've been very harassing towards us.

They have actually cut down trees on an abutting property. I don't know if that was intentional or not. I think there's some sort of legal action going on. I'm not privy to it but they have not in good faith, cut down other trees around our neighbors.

I've looked through prior minutes and I haven't seen an intent to cut for this year approved but they are out there today doing the same logging operation.

Mr. Harrington: I was able to check with the assessing clerk. They filed it this afternoon.

Ms. Cohen: Okay.

So, I don't know if you have any ability or power to limit the intent to cut or not approve it but it's really taken a toll on our lives and if you have any ability to not approve it or request that they do the logging operation on the property where it's actually approved, I would request that you do that.

Thank you.

Chairman McGarry: Is that something we could have Mr. Pelletier go out and check?

Mr. Harrington: I will have him do it tomorrow.

Selectman Dill: Yeah. And in the timber trespass is obviously illegal, I mean you can't cut somebody else's trees. The state does enforce that. It's, depending on if it's, they have an unintentional and intentional one. The intentional one is a huge fine so that's, I mean, if that's going on, that's right up to the state forester.

But I know they stopped because we posted the roads.

Ms. Cohen: Yes.

Selectman Dill: And that was why that had stopped because you couldn't haul anything out. Other than that, we're not, we don't have a huge amount of leeway on intents.

Chairman McGarry: Dick.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Who actually is the permit under?

Mr. Harrington: Pardon?

Chairman McGarry: Who's the permit under?

Mr. Harrington: I believe it's under, it'll be under Mr. A's. It's Roscoe Blaisdell's property.

I think it's Mr. A's Firewood, something like that. At least that's what it was last time. I haven't seen the intent to cut.

Chairman McGarry: Maybe you could also have Mr. Pelletier check with Public Service or Eversource to see if they granted any approval?

Mr. Harrington: I contacted them last year when this came up and they were aware of it.

Chairman McGarry: Where, have they granted approval?

Mr. Harrington: That is, it was left with Eversource. They checked into it and they said that they were okay with it.

Selectman Huebner: What jurisdiction does the select board have over this case?

Vice Chairman Pitman: We can stop it.

Mr. Harrington: You don't have to sign the intent to cut. I don't know what the restrictions are and this has never come up.

Vice Chairman Pitman: Well, we didn't sign it tonight, correct?

Mr. Harrington: No, no, it just came in this afternoon so you're likely ...

Vice Chairman Pitman: So, technically, they shouldn't be cutting for two weeks if we don't meet again.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Mr. Harrington: That's true.

Selectman Dill: Yeah, that's a good point, Fred, I mean, Dick.

Chairman McGarry: They started again today?

Ms. Cohen: Yeah.

Chairman McGarry: I guess probably have Mr. Pelletier tell them that they do not have an approval to cut from the selectmen.

Selectwoman McHugh: A signed approval.

Chairman McGarry: Yeah, signed approval.

Mr. Harrington: Because you won't see that for two weeks, not until the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Huebner: Right, you could ask them to simply not cut until they get a signed approval. Right now, they're cutting without approval, right?

Chairman McGarry: And maybe we want to see them before we sign anything.

Mr. Harrington: Okay.

Selectwoman McHugh: Can we put restrictions on an intent to cut like during the week only or certain hours only? Is that something we can do?

Mr. Harrington: I'll check into what power the Board has.

Selectman Huebner: So, for the time being, I think we should ask Mr. Pelletier to inform them that they should cease and desist from cutting it until they have an approved cutting permit.

Chairman McGarry: Right.

Selectman Dill: I was just going to say, the state forester is under DRED up in Concord and there is county, that's the enforcement arm of the forestry division so, I mean, they're actually armed police which is an interesting wing of New Hampshire but that's who does the timber trespass and those enforcement actions.

Chairman McGarry: Anybody else?

**Mrs. Cady – Old Centre Road:**

I wondered if the selectmen have figured out the total assessed value that is deferred in solar?

Vice Chairman Pitman: We did up to about two months ago and it was \$1.6 million.

Mrs. Cady: A million what?

Vice Chairman Pitman: A million, six. \$1 million, six hundred thousand. Since then, we've signed numerous more. I asked John to get us that number.

Mr. Harrington: I can get a new number.

Selectman Huebner: When was that up to, Dick, you said? Up until what date?

Vice Chairman Pitman: Prior to the election, Will.

Selectman Huebner: Okay, so in February.

Vice Chairman Pitman: John will rerun it.

Mrs. Cady: About two or three ago, figuring that 66 percent of the town was in current use and a certain amount of the town was in conservation use, it came down to about 27 percent of the property owners were paying full taxes so now we're looking at some of the property owners were taking off another million, eight as of tonight.

That is thrown on those 26 percent or so that are paying full property taxes.

Emily Petrowski on Pleasant Hill lost her house at 4 o'clock in the morning Friday. Will the town vote to reduce the taxation on the property for her? I'm asking for that to be done. She's over 60 and said in four years she would be 70, works as a waitress. She really doesn't have the assets.

The, something else, it was oh, the, I think what I heard was the power lines are cutting or having a company cut lumber?

Selectman Dill: No, it's an herbicide treatment along some powerlines.

Mrs. Cady: Herbicide treatment?

Selectman Dill: Yes.

Mrs. Cady: Which means if the bush and trees grow up under the power lines, we lose electricity?

Selectman Dill: I think that's what they're trying to avoid.

Mrs. Cady: I agree with you. I think they're trying to avoid it.

I would also point out there are a lot of people that burn wood in this town that get no tax abatement. Is that going to be the next thing that people are going to be looking for?

And finally, I found out last Friday that the town has asked for legal costs. I didn't hear that voted at a meeting. When was it done and I'm further stating when I am discussed or my property is discussed, I want it done in public.

So, I'm looking for that information to be answered.

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn

**Second:** Selectman Dill

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 5:30 pm**

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