

**Lancaster Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting**

**Meeting held upstairs in Town Hall**

**Monday – May 21, 2018**

**Attending:** Town Manger Edward Samson

Selectmen Leon Rideout, Leo Enos and David Stickney.

**Others:** Don Williams, Alan Savage, Maureen Truland, Barry Crawford, Greg Cloutier, Henrietta Howard, Lucy Wyman, Melissa Grella, Tara Giles, Gretchen Fink, Harriet Beattie, Greg Westcott, Fletcher Manley, Lucas Kerry, Mary Benford, Luther Kenney and a number of others.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M., by Chairman Leon Rideout followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Appointments:**

Lucas Kenney from the McKee Inn came to the Selectboard regarding the recent tax assessment on the McKee Inn. They have a Pilot agreement with the town. He stated that the taxes had increased dramatically, his adviser wanted him to come and discuss it with the Board. They are assessed at 2.6 million and 1.4 million is fair value. He stated that the valuation jumped really high after they did the renovations. He had not talked to Jason Call regarding this but felt it needed to be addressed. Mr. Samson stated that they would have Jason Call at the next meeting and told Mr. Kenney that we were in a reval year. It was asked if it had been given to the Land Use Appeals and were told that the appeal to dismiss was over ruled.

Residents and business owners to discuss trees on Main Street.

Melissa Grella spoke stating that the group would like to do the work as to where the trees were to go, and wanted the work that is now being done on the sidewalks to stop until this is settled. They wanted to know what kind of trees that were being planted. She stated that she had been in contact with people from Berlin and Littleton regarding the trees that they had and how to plant and take care of them.

Mr. Samson stated that the rings that are there now will stay in place. There are plans to have 3-4 trees on each side of Main St. Lucy Wyman had provided him with information stating that they should be planted in squares and not circles. Mr. Samson stated that there are many ways in which to plant them. Once the sidewalks are done the issue of the trees will be addressed and the business owners will have input to make sure that nothing is compromised. The trees that are there now will stay,, the stumps will be taken out.

Melissa Grella said that she had spoken to Jeff -----and he said that he would come and do a city scope plan for this. Mr. Samson further stated that he had read the material given to him and it is baall in what has to be done, depth, proper soil etc.

Greg Cloutier asked about the cutting of holes as the new sidewalk will have been done. Mr. Samson stated that right now there is no funding for the trees, but once the sidewalks are done then they will further explore the tree issue.

Melissa Grella asked about the care of the trees and the training of someone to do this. Mr. Samson stated that trees need annual care and it is not the responsibility of the town employees.

Chairman Leon Rideout stated that this is a “2 Phase Project”. The sidewalks need to be done this year and then the tree issue will be looked at. It was asked about the Dow Fund and is it being used. Mr. Samson stated that it was established in 1932 and in 1960 Mr. Dow died. It is stated in the

will that if it is not used in 5 years it dissolved. In 1992 Adelaide Monohan died and it has been stagnant since, there was a motion to the court to have it go into the Conservation Commission account, there has been nothing done to that as yet. They are able to spend the interest on the account. They are still waiting to hear from the Attorney as to how to proceed.

Greg Cloutier stated that he felt the sidewalks should be done fast, efficiently and ASAP. He asked how long it was going to take. Mr. Samson stated that they had to remove the concrete and other materials to get ready for the pouring of the new sidewalk, it should take about a week per section. A lot depends on the weather and they are going to go as fast as they can so that it will be done right the first time and not have to go back and do it over again.

Gretchen Fink asked if it would make it harder to plow the sidewalks when there is a snow storm with the trees there and the answer was they plow now and it hasn't been a problem.

Henrietta Howard stated that the trees planted on the sidewalks would eventually have the roots rip up the sidewalks and could they be planted along the edge of the vacant lot. Mr. Samson stated that the lot was owned by several people and they will reach out to them with the suggestion.

Barry Crawford stated that it wasn't the salt that killed the trees it was Dutch Elm disease. He further stated that there must be some kind of tree that will live, other towns have them and they are growing fine, maybe we need better soil. Mr. Samson stated that some of the other towns that have trees do not have the amount of traffic that goes through our town, we are a main route for Routes 2 and 3. What we put in for trees we want to make sure that it doesn't undermine the sidewalk.

Mary Benford asked if once the sidewalks are done could there be some flowering trees or smaller ones put in. Mr. Samson stated that they have to consider the size of the tree and the effect that it will have on the business that it is near.

Maureen Truland asked if the business owner would have a yes or no on the issue. Mr. Samson stated that it would depend on the situation.

Lucy Wyman stated that snow removal is always a matter of "will to do it" or "not to do it". It is all about preparation, there are reams of information on how to plant and how to take care of them. Mr. Samson stated that in the case of the base, the opening is not much more than what is there now. Ms. Wyman stated that businesses come and go and they wouldn't have any say in where the trees are to be planted. Look at the school and Ice Pond Village, there are no trees, no shade anywhere. She also stated that the people didn't know what was going on.

Leon Rideout stated that the sidewalks will be completed this year. The town will continue to look into what tree will be the best to plant on the sidewalk. It was asked how to let the people know what is going on in the town, who makes the final decision. It was stated that any issue of concern will be put on the agenda and in the paper, the town cannot telephone everyone to let them know what is going on, it is up to the people to involve themselves.

Don Williams stated that the sidewalk should be taken care of first and then decide what to do with the trees. He also asked if they could have tubs with flowers in them on the street. It was asked if the tree in front of Simon the Tanner would be taken down and the answer was no. It was also stated that no one takes care of the flowers when they have the tubs.

It was asked if the sidewalks would be completed and when. They will be done as soon as possible and also the Dow Fund stated that planters cannot be put out. Mr. Samson stated that we need to take care of one thing at a time, first the sidewalks and then the tree issue.

It was stated that the agenda for the meeting was not on the Town website and that not all of the meetings are on either. It was stated that the employees in the Town Office are busy and sometimes things don't get on as soon as possible. It was asked how to get people involved, things are done on really short notice. Leon Rideout stated that the Selectboard meetings are every other Monday, in case of a Monday holiday, and the agenda is posted in the Town Office and at the Library.

Tara Giles stated that it is up to the town employees to keep the people informed. Town should have a liaison between the businesses and the Selectboard. It was also stated that the line of

communication is always open between the people and the Board.

Lucy Wyman stated that she had asked to see a plan of the Summer St. project and no one seems to have one. Again there are no trees being replaced along the ball field and ones were taken down with no one asking any input. It was also stated that there is a rumor that there will be some clear cutting done in the Wilder Cemetery with no one being asked about it. Mr. Rideout stated that there are some trees that need to be taken down and they are looking into it. Mr. Samson stated that Geo.M. Stevens had contacted the Town Office regarding some trees that are leaning and could fall onto their building as well as the little church that is there. Mr. Samson also stated that Ms. Wyman has told people that he does not like trees that is why the town is dragging their feet on the issue, Mr. Samson stated he does like trees and has many on his own property.

Ms. Wyman asked why the Cemetery Committee was not notified of this and Mr. Rideout stated that the Committee needs to tell the Selectmen when they are doing things also, such as planting trees in the cemetery. This property belongs to the Town and they are looking into funding for the project. It was suggested that the Trustees of the Cemetery be put on the agenda for the next meeting. It was asked who was looking at what trees to come down and were told a professional.

Charlie cotton stated that he liked the sidewalks and as for the trees was there a particular date, spring or fall for the planting. This will be taken care of when the sidewalks are done.

### **Old Business:**

Review and approve the minutes of the May 7, 2018 meeting.

**A motion was made by Leo Enos and seconded by David Stickney to approve the minutes as written. A vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Department Head Updates: None

Signing of various paperwork:

Abatements: Cubb Properties	\$5,968.00
Large leak that did not go to sewer. Northern Valley Church	\$1,113.75
Leak in winter – took average. Richard MacKillop	\$ 300.00
Abate ½ due to frozen pipes.	

Fireworks Permit:

Ray & Cynthia Addario For July 1 & 4, 2018.

**The Board signed the above paperwork.**

### **New Business:**

Appointments:

Shane Beattie as an alternate to Planning Board.

Ted Joubert as the new Health Officer.

**A motion was made by David Stickney and seconded by Leo Enos to accept the following appointments. A vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Veterans Tax Credit:

Ron Germain - approved. He qualified.

### **Information:**

Building Permit:

Northern Ridge Properties  
23 Blackberry Lane

Permit #18-007

Construct a 28' x 48' single story home with walkout basement.

NHDES – Wetlands Permit #2017-01774. Information regarding AB Excavating Inc.

Noting that there was nothing further to come before the meeting a motion was called for to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Leo Enos and seconded by David Stickney to adjourn. A vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.**

**Respectfully,**

**Sandra E. Doolan – Clerk**

**Approved:**

**Board of Selectmen  
Leon Rideout – Chairman**

**Leo Enos**

**David Stickney**