

## MINUTES

### SELECTMEN'S MEETING TOWN HALL

August 16, 2021  
6:30 PM

---

#### ATTENDEES:

Leon Rideout, Selectboard Chair      Shane Beattie, Selectman      Troy Merner, Selectman  
Town Manager, Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson      Michael Nadeau      Department Heads  
Members of the public      Phlume Media

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Selectman Leon Rideout.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Police Chief Tim Charbonneau reported that the Department is extremely busy. He stated the Block Party and Road Race were very successful, he is getting ready for the Fair and their new Officer, Kyler Kenison, will be graduating from the Academy at the end of the week.

Fire Chief Randy Flynn stated things were operating as usual. Fire calls have been picking up and the Fire/EMS Departments are also preparing for the Fair. Leon Rideout asked about the Ambulance that was being serviced at the North Country Ford. Chief Flynn stated they are waiting to get a part for the repair.

Recreation Director Eli Vincent explained they are finishing summer programs and preparing for the pool to be closed. The pool carnival will be held the 17<sup>th</sup> and he feels the season has been a success. The soccer season is quickly approaching and he is hopeful a tournament can be held this year.

Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson explained Library Director Barbara Robarts was unable to attend as she is covering at the Library but she did not have anything to report.

#### APPOINTMENT:

None.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the August 2, 2021 meeting minutes.

#### **Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the August 2, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- Fire Warden Services bill was signed based on the number of campfire permits issued by the Wardens in Town.
- The Application for Reimbursement for Federal and State Forest Lands was signed. Lucy Wyman asked what the amount of reimbursement was. Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson stated he was not sure but knew it was not a lot. He would have an answer at the next meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **ATV's on Town Roads:** Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson explained that in the past the Selectboard would annually approve opening certain Town roads for ATV travel. It has been a few years since that has occurred and there is question as to whether any are open. Since Northumberland shut down the route between the two Towns there is no place for riders to go. Leon Rideout did confirm that the ATV Club is supposed to come every year and he agreed it had been at least two years. Chief Charbonneau stated the intent of opening the roads was for Lancaster to be connected to Ride the Wilds but that is not possible with the closing of some of Northumberland's trails. Shane Beattie asked if the Town still had an active club. Chief Charbonneau stated he was not aware of one. Mr. Rideout stated opening the roads was not for people to take rides around Town but to connect to the other trails. Ms. Wyman asked if the signs would be taken down if the streets were closed and Chief Charbonneau answered yes. Mr. Rideout stated that when the Club comes to seek permission it is usually a Public Hearing. Mr. Merner explained he was dealing with issues of ATV use on Town roads in other communities like Stark and Dummer. Ms. Wyman felt there was ATV use in other parts of the County and didn't think it had to be everywhere. Communities could be known for other things to bring more options. Mr. Rideout felt the only option for trails in Town would be utilizing the Railroad ROW.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to close all Town roads to ATV use until such time as there is an active ATV Club and trails connecting Lancaster to other parts of the County. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- **Appointment to Conservation Commission-Sam Mayne:** Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson explained the Conservation Commission voted to recommend Sam Mayne to the Commission. Commission Chair, Racheal Stuart, was present and stated Mr. Mayne is a wildlife biologist who has worked for NH Fish and Game and his appointment will fill the final vacancy on the Board.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to appoint Sam Mayne to the Lancaster Conservation Commission with his term expiring in 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- **Letter from Tim More requesting retroactive solar exemption:** Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson explained a PV solar system was placed on Weeks Estate land on Weeks Road in 2020. After the project was completed the Estate neglected to apply for a solar tax exemption for the current tax year claiming to not be aware Lancaster offered it. After finding out after the application deadline they submitted an application hoping it would begin for the current tax year. Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson stated that when he issues building permits for solar systems he includes a tax exemption application so the system owners are made aware and can apply at that time. He did so for the Weeks project. Mr. Rideout stated the deadline was passed so the requirements for approving the exemption were not met. Ms. Wyman asked if a variance could be issued allowing for the exemption. Mr. Rideout explained the RSA does not allow for variances and requires applications to be submitted in a timely fashion. Mr. Beattie agreed stating the deadline was missed for this year. Mr. Savage asked why there is a need for paperwork, why isn't it an automatic exemption. Ms. Stuart explained

it is not a big process as she had to do it. Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson stated the RSA is pretty clear on the process and it wasn't followed for this request.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to not approve the solar exemption for the Weeks Estate for the current tax year and to reconsider the request for next year when it is appropriate. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**INFORMATION:**

- NHDOT letter re: Lancaster Highway Block Grant Aid-Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson stated the Town received the estimated amounts to be provided for the next round of State Block Grant Aid.
- Building Permits
  - Alec Cassady-Single family home on Buffalo Road
  - Guy Consoletti-Deck construction at 20 High Street
  - Brooke Eastman-Martin-Outdoor kitchen at 72 Portland Street
  - David & Aline Chasseur-Single family home on Garland Road
- Zoning Board Notice of Decision-Approval for Use Variance for Granite State Land Holdings & AB Aggregates for partial placement of an asphalt mixing plant in the Agricultural Zoning District.

**Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3:**

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to go into Non-Public Session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II(e)-consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Roll Call Vote.**

**Shane Beattie: Yes**

**Troy Merner: Yes**

**Leon Rideout: Yes**

**Motion carried.**

**Board left the room to enter non-public at 7:10PM.**

**The Board reentered public session at 7:18PM.**

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session. Roll Call Vote.**

**Shane Beattie: Yes**

**Troy Merner: Yes**

**Leon Rideout: Yes**

**Motion carried.**

**Other Business:**

Alan Savage spoke about the Planning Board based on his attendance at the last meeting. He stated they need to have more members as they almost did not have a quorum and he thought there were improprieties such as the Chair of the Planning Board not agreeing with an opinion of a past Conservation Commission Chair. Ms. Wyman was at the same meeting and stated she did not agree with Mr. Savage's assessment. Mr. Savage stated a local Conservation Commission can approve a wetlands permit in an emergency. He also felt asking question about his business during a Board hearing was not appropriate. Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson stated he did not agree with Mr. Savage's opinion of the meeting. Mr. Savage stated the Planning Board needs more diversity.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson announced that he hired someone to fill the Land Use Coordinator position. He stated it will be Robin Irving and she will start on September 20. She was working for the Town of Northumberland and he feels she will be a great asset to the Town.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:27PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin S. Gaetjens-Oleson

Board of Selectmen                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Rideout

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shane Beattie

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troy Merner