

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 4, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm at Conway Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers noted that they would be adding the following:

- 11a. The Brown Church Festival (5/20/23)
- 11.b. Old Car Club Nights (Mondays from 5/29/23 through 9/18/23)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION TO LUIGI BARTOLOMEO

Mr. Weathers recognized Luigi Bartolomeo for his 24 years of service on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

He presented him a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Bartolomeo accepted the honor, but said that he needed to acknowledge Phyllis Sherman who was a driving force on the ZBA for so many years.

He stated that any citizen who feels the urge to give back to their community should do so through the vehicle of public service.

He noted that it can be the most rewarding work.

DISCUSSION OF E BIKES ON REC PATH

Chris Meier from the MWV Trails Association appeared before the Board to discuss the upcoming opening of the Recreation Path.

He explained that because they utilized a CMAC grant, there are restrictions on how the path can be used and what can be used on it.

He explained that all motorized vehicles are prohibited with the exception of class 1 e-bikes.

Mr. Meier explained that class 1 ebikes are pedal assist bikes that are limited to 20 mph.

He noted that the MWV Trails Association Board had voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Selectmen make a formal motion allowing the class 1 ebikes.

Mr. Meier explained that class 2 bikes can go up to 35 mph and class 3 bikes go much fast.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that CMAC stands for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality.

Mr. Colbath asked if they had a plan for enforcement.

Mr. Meier stated that the plan is signage and anticipated compliance of community members.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to allow class 1 ebikes on the Recreation Path. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the MWV Trails Association Board had voted unanimously to recommend that only dogs on a leash be allowed on the Recreation Path.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to allow only dogs on leashes on the Recreation Path.

There was discussion regarding if they should use the word “animals” instead of dogs.

It was determined that the word “dogs” were fine.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that looking forward, if someone was to apply to hold a special event on the recreation path, in accordance with the CMAC grant, they cannot close the path for private use.

In the future they would need to decide whether to hold special events that would not require the path to be closed to the public.

After some discussion, Mr. Colbath suggested that the MWV Trails Association make a recommendation to approve any proposed special events on the recreation path.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to authorize the MWV Trails Association to have to approve any special event proposed for the recreation path. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Andrew Smith appeared before the Board.

He explained that they are currently fully staffed.

He noted that there had been an ad in the paper to fill a truck driver position that had been vacant, but that one of the Parks crewmembers had moved into that position and they had hired a new Parks crewmember.

Mr. Smith added that finding someone with a CDL license has been difficult.

Mr. Colbath wondered if they have a plan in place for employees coming on in the future to work to get a CDL license.

Mr. Smith explained that they used to be able to get a CDL permit, but now they require classroom lessons.

He noted that it can cost between \$5,000 to \$6,000.

He added that the State has some program through the tech schools that they could look into further.

Mr. Smith noted that the lights on Pollard Street are completed.

The audit of the lights in Town Hall is waiting for one more price from a local contractor.

They had the bid opening on the boat ramp reconstruction and it had been awarded to LA Drew.

They are waiting for October to complete the work.

There was discussion regarding the Town being asked to look into repairs on the dam.

Mr. Smith also noted that they are due for an inspection of the dam.

Mr. Smith explained that they had a truck that was due to be replaced and he will be coming back in front of the Board for a formal vote.

Mr. Smith noted that they are in good shape for the fuel budget.

He added that the elevator at the Town Hall Annex has been installed.

Mr. Smith explained that they had ordered a recreation van over a year ago, however, the price has now increased to \$66,000.

Mr. Smith noted that he believed there was enough money to cover it in the Capital Reserve Fund for Recreation Vehicles.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to use up to \$17,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Parks Vehicles for the purchase of the Recreation Van. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith noted that this summer they would be paving on the North South Road so to expect closures and delays.

Modock Hill was scheduled for full construction this summer as well.

Also on the schedule was the replacement of the brick sidewalks in some of North Conway Village.

Mr. Smith stated that the bids were due next week for this season's paving.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Channel 3 MOU with Fryeburg
- b. Channel 3 MOU with Bartlett
- c. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 225-50
- d. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 243-21
- e. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 242-1
- f. Notice of Intent to Excavate on Map/Lot 244-16
- g. Notice of Intent to Excavate on Map/Lot 238-1
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 202-212
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-77
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 234-12
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-79.010
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 268-112
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-101
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.093
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 202-84
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.3
- q. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 250-84
- r. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.254
- s. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 250-69
- t. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.094
- u. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.045
- v. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 247-62
- w. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.091
- x. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-152

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the documents listed above in a through x. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 4/6/2023
- b. Payroll dated 4/6/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the AP Manifest and Payroll dated 4/6/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. TriTek Events Steven Siller Tunnel to Tower Foundation (7/8/23)
- b. North Conway Community Center Tuesday's Farmers Market (6/20/23-10/3/23)
- c. Friends of Conway Rec Annual Softball Tournament (6/23/23-6/25/23)
- d. The Brown Church Festival (5/20/23)
- e. Old Car Club Nights (Mondays from 5/29/23 through 9/18/23)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the special event applications as listed above in a. through e. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 3/28/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adopt the regular minutes from 3/28/2023 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman noted that the Recreation Department would be holding their mobile Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

Also, their Grand Re-opening would be on April 16, 2023.

Mr. Eastman explained that he had sent an email out to the North Conway business community regarding the upcoming discussion on April 18, 2023 on bathrooms.

There had been a request to change the date as the 18th was the same day as the business expo.

Mr. Eastman suggested May 2, 2023.

Ms. Seavey stated that after all of the hard work put in by the Bathroom Committee, she wanted to make sure the Business Community was in the sandbox with all of us.

Mr. Colbath noted that it is also unknown whether the ski museum bathrooms would be open this year.

Mr. Eastman noted that he had talked to Sheila Duane to encourage that they are an active player in these discussions.

Ms. Seavey noted that no one stepped forward before when they were looking for ideas and funding.

Mr. Eastman noted that Chief Mattei would like to give the Board of Selectmen a tour of the Police Department at 2:30 pm on April 18th, 2023 at 2:30 pm in order to look at the need for space.

Mr. Eastman noted that they are having trouble getting someone to take the minutes for the Budget Committee.

He noted that they have increased the pay range to \$22-\$25.

He stated that the Town cannot make people apply.

Mr. Eastman stated that they have offered the option of allowing the minutes to be taken from a video.

He noted that he reached out to the NHMA to see if they had any suggestions.

There was discussion regarding how the Budget Committee wanted their minutes done verbatim and how that was less appealing for most people.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau wanted to take a minute to reiterate the importance of voting for the ESAA article as the airport is not just important for Fryeburg.

He explained that between 60% and 75% of traffic in and out at the airport end up in Conway.

There is also a large number of medical flights, angel flights and pet transportations that happen at the airport.

Mr. Thibodeau reiterated that when the tragedy happened in Jackson, because of the airport, six people received organs.

Ms. Seavey stated that it is such a little bit of money that the Town gives for all that they get.

Mr. Colbath agreed with Ms. Seavey.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA would be meeting on April 19, 2023 and they had a very full agenda.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board has not met.

He added that he had a conversation regarding outdoor dining with Town Planner Jamel Torres and he is going to look into what other towns have done.

Mr. Weathers noted that the Conservation Commission meets on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

He stated that the Saco Swift Advisory Committee is putting together a new corridor management plan and a survey was available on Sacoswift.org.

Mr. Weathers encouraged everyone to go out and vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mr. Lefebvre noted that as a private citizen, he appreciates the Board's comments regarding the Budget Committee minutes.

He stated that it would be a good idea to wait until the reorganizational meeting on April 26, 2023 occurs to talk about procedures with the new Chair prefers.

Mr. Lefebvre noted that he agrees that \$12,000 is peanuts for what the Town gets in return from the airport.

He thanked the Board for the performance of their duties over the last year.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked where they stood regarding PFAS.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted Mr. Gagnon had applied for a grant, but the RFQ for engineering has not been written year.

Mr. Steer asked about the Eastern Main Street Project.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that they had a meeting with DOT on Monday and there is a new Project Manager at DOT.

They are currently working on getting the request in for an eminent domain hearing which would not occur at least 6 months to a year out.

He noted that DOT has 6 people dealing with 300 projects.

Mr. Steer wondered if the Board should consider allowing other Towns to utilize the amenities such as the recreation sites in Town in order to keep them wanting to continue their contracts with the Conway School District.

Mr. Eastman stated that it is his opinion that the Selectmen do not get involved in the realm of School District business.

He explained that he is from Albany and they are talking about potentially withdrawing from the School District but they also pay to be able to utilize the Transfer Station and Recreation Services.

It is his belief that the Town of Conway should not subsidize for any other Town.

He added that other Towns have beaches that only their residents can utilize.

Mr. Eastman stated that while some people say, “we are all in this together”, that is not true.

No other Town's contribute to the expenses of the Recreation sites like trash removal.

Mr. Porter stated that he felt this was a School Board issue, not a Selectmen issue.

At 5:25 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC RSA 91-A:3 II (C) TAX MATTER

At 5:33 pm the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to seal the minutes from this non-public session as divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective and . The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 5:33 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary