

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting August 20, 2018

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Fred Ventresco,  
Bob O'Brien, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Reviewed minutes of meeting from August 7, 2018. Minutes approved with revisions and will be signed next week.

Highway Dept. updates:

They are working on Tolland Road, excavated areas and will continue to repave those sections. They have used 52 tons of blacktop so far on this project. The repairs have been delayed due to the weather. The Cold Spring Road repairs are progressing and should be on time. The heavy rains from this past Friday and Saturday caused washouts on most dirt roads. They continue to repair them. Brian received a complaint about the deep edge on the repair patch on Tolland Road. He asked Bob to better mark the areas with signs. Bob will do this. He did mark the patches with orange paint but will add more signs. Street signs for Chestnut and Gremler roads are in and will be installed.

The repair on the Rugg Bridge will begin tomorrow morning. The warranty has been extended by 3 years due to the problems with the decking. The installer and engineer will meet with Bob at the bridge and Bob will be there to oversee the repairs. Brian reviewed the contract and has concerns that if the repairs fail that the retainer is not enough to cover the cost of the complete repairs. Fred and Brian constructed a letter seeking a timeline, meetings and guarantees on the repair work. This resulted in a 3 year extension on the guarantee. The cost of the repairs will not impact the town. The company Composite will not cover detail work, per Bob we will not need police detail, he will place signage and use the detour that has been in place. Kathy Jacobs questioned what process will we use to follow up on the guarantee, Brian responded that they will do an annual review of the bridge and not wait until the end of the guarantee.

Mark provided an update on the Chapter 90 paperwork that was signed last week. They were for project requests for S. Beech Plain Road and gravel.

Steve Rubenstein stated that last month he asked for a large pothole to be repaired on Town Hall Road, it has not been repaired as of this date and is causing a hazardous situation. Bob responded that he will fix it tomorrow.

Barbara Cormier commented on the driveways that washed out onto Route 57 that clogged the storm drains. They are supposed to have a paved apron, which is a requirement on the driveway permit. She would like the zoning code enforcement officer address this.

Bob asked about culverts at the end of driveways that are clogged or collapsed. He would like to compose a letter to each homeowner to address this issue. The culvert is the responsibility of the homeowner. Bob and Fred will work on this. Discussed payments of culvert replacements if the financing is a hardship for the homeowner. John Burrows reviewed the MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant that addresses some of these issues.

Discussed a date for a special town meeting. We will have the meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2017. Some of the articles will be the funding for the Rugg Bridge (Route 57), bylaw allowing the use of Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, adopt the Stretch Energy Code and a transfer of funds to the Yanner Park account from the Yanner Park Stabilization account. There may be more articles added.

George presented and reviewed a draft of the bylaw "Allowing Use of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations". It is required in order to apply for the Green Community Designation. If we meet the deadline with all the required criteria we will be eligible for \$150,000 in the first year. Kathy Jacobs stated that the Planning Board did not want to be involved. Anina Carr responded that she is offended by Kathy's comments and further explained the need for the bylaw. The Green Team is doing all the hard work for the Planning Board and will then pass it over to the Planning Board to follow through on the rest of the requirements. The bylaw will allow companies to bypass the special permitting process only on pre approved town owned land. Discussion followed on private land versus town owned land. The town retains the right to permit or deny any development. Brian has concerns regarding the bonding of any project, he wants to make the bylaw addresses upkeep and removal. George responded that it is addressed in the original Solar Bylaw.

There will be a public hearing to further discuss the bylaw.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the draft of the "Allowing Use of Large-Scale Ground –Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations" bylaw.

George presented the Stretch Energy Code which is also required for the Green Community Designation. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the draft of the Stretch Energy Code.

Discussed the need for an alternate representative for the Berkshire Regional Planning Comm. The alternate was Roger Kohler who is now the chair of the Planning Board which makes him the main representative. They now need an alternate. We will re address in two weeks hoping someone comes forward and wants to be appointed.

Bob reviewed the MVP Grant (Municipal Vulnerabilities Planning) initiative committee. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to appoint Robert O'Brien, Bogart Muller, Ralph Morrison, Mike Morrison, John Burrows, Paul Gaudette, Mark Newman and Jeff Bye.

There will be informational meetings required. They will follow the open meeting law requirements.

Discussed the Yanner Park Committee. Brian stated that we only received letters from 2 people wishing to be appointed. We will need letters of interest from the rest of the people. Discussed the number of members for the committee. Dolores explained that it should be an odd number. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to appoint Adam Brown and Kathy Jacobs to the Yanner Park Committee.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to have a maximum of 7 members for the Yanner Park Committee.

Brian asked Adam to think about funding needs before the special town meeting.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to appoint John Skrip to the Broadband Committee.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to table item #9.

Discussed the Capitol Improvement timeline. Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to table item 10 until a committee can be formed. So far there is only one person interested in being on this committee.

George addressed the unmarked town vehicles. Most of the highway and fire department vehicles are marked but none of the police vehicles and two highway department vehicles are marked. All selectmen agree we should have at least one of the police vehicles marked. George will draft a policy and present to the department heads to review.

Selectmen's updates:

Mark continues to follow up on broadband. Crocker Communications has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the FCC to be spend over a 10 year period.

George has been working on the Green Communities designation and bylaws.

George thanked Larry Dwyer for all his research and compiling the information for the solar bylaw.

Bob gave an update on the highway garage. The asbestos has been removed, core samples will be taken tomorrow. The equipment will start to arrive and the cleanup work can progress.

Alex Bowman is concerned about Broadband, he would like to know when we will have it. Brian has been discussing with Jeff Bye to revisit Fiber Connect.

Barbara Cormier asked about the status of the campers. Dolores responded that we are waiting for a list of exactly who is in violation from the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer.

Discussed having another assistant building inspector. Fred will address this with the building inspector.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and sign warrants

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Mark Newman

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Brian O'Rourke

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George Riley

