

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, September 30, 2013

The Selectmen first met at the Freedom Community Park at 6pm.

Present: Neal Boyle, Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., Mark McKinley, Pat Hatfield and several citizens.

A review and discussion was held regarding the option for the use of the old tennis court and skating rink. A survey had been sent out via email and these suggestions will be taken in consideration prior to a final decision by the board. Hatfield did inquire about removing part of the fence at the rink so that the teachers could view the children better during recess. She will also get input from the teachers on what their suggestions might be.

The board next moved to the Town Office for the remainder of their meeting.

Present: Neal Boyle, Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., Selectmen; Road Agent Scott Brooks; Karen Hatch, Justin Brooks, Fire Chief; Town Administrator; and several citizens.

Meeting opened at 6:45pm. Manifests were signed and general mail was reviewed.

The board met with Laurell Farinon and Becky Nason regarding Brookside Lane. Farinon stated that she was unable to attend the meeting on the 7th and had requested a meeting this evening; she thanked the board for this change.

Letters had gone out to the abutters of Brookside Lane stating that the town could not expend town funds on private lands due to an unfounded complain of water runoff.

The letter also stated that they would be willing to maintain a portion of this road if the owners were to turn it over to the town. Farinon stated that this was not an unfounded complaint and explained the water coming from the town lot which had created a gully 40øup Brookside Lane from Village Road. She also showed on a map a tree line that was no longer there and stated that the town had cut their trees. She also said that she is not open to the town taking over the road she just wanted to see the runoff problem corrected.

The Fire Chief spoke and said that during heavy rains the water comes from land of others above the last retention pond on the town lot. He had done a site walk during one of those rain events. Farinon still believes that the water at the lower end of the lot goes across the grass swale to Brookside Lane and she suggested a cape code berm to replace a berm that had once been there. Nason also made several comments regarding the current and past condition of the road.

The road agent spoke and explained the history of the town lot through the years. He also used the aid of the site plan map in showing the areas of runoff past and present. He stated that if we were to receive 2ö of rain in 20 minutes that is when you would see any water in Brookside Lane from the town lot.

Over the course of the summer all Selectmen have been to the site to view their concerns.

Farinon questioned why there was cutting done of their property and Babb responded that this was due to running the utilities to the new Public Safety Building.

Babb went on to explain the condition of the road prior to the start of the site renovations of the town lot. He said that the road had just been large rocks; and Farinon agreed with that. He went on to explain that 2ö crushed gravel and been placed on the roadway several times is what is now washing away.

Babb explained what is being proposed to rebuild the road correctly and maintain it year round if it was town owned. Farinon thanked him for a better understanding of what the town was proposing and thanked all the other town officials present.

After another brief exchange Boyle asked that they meet with the other abutter about the offer on the table and get back to the board with their decision.

Boyle asked for public comment which there was none. Moved to department head updates and the Road Agent reported that they were getting ready to start the culvert next Monday. The road will be down to one lane and portable traffic signals were going to be used. Project should take about three weeks.

Justin Brooks reported that the volume at the transfer station is typical for this time of year which is down from the summer months. Moving on to Fire Department Brooks spoke briefly on the issue of several towns suing for reduced county tax as they have their own dispatch centers. Babb will be attending a meeting on this next Monday.

Hatch gave an update on the Mill Pond right of way. The abstractor is still doing deed research on this and hopes for some resolve soon.

After a review of the Conservation Commission meeting minutes Babb made a motion to veto the vote of the FCC to change the Stewardship plan proposing a rotating member for Forest Advisory Committee meetings; this was in the Stewardship plan to create continuity in membership and avoid having to reeducate new members on a monthly basis, seconded by Day; voted yes unanimously.

Boyle next brought up the issue of the Stephen Lane sign that has been stolen. The residents on the road would like the town to pay for a new sign and pole. The Road Agent explained that the town made a one time purchase of signs and where this was a private road they would be responsible for the costs. They could order the sign through the highway department and they would install but the expense would be theirs not the towns. Boyle made a motion not to purchase these items, Day seconded; so voted.

Babb next reported on the cell tower site. Brett Buggeln of Tarpon Towers informed Babb they he was in negotiations with a local contractor to clean up the big pine and brush and to correct any deficiencies noted on the Klumb reports.

Boyle made a motion to enter non public session at 8:10pm under RSA 91-A:3 II(c)

Returned to open session at 8:25pm. The board then returned to non public at 8:31pm and returned to open session at 9:03pm.

The board had received an email request from the Conservation Commission Chairman asking for the removal of Robert Hatch as voted by the commission.

Day made a motion to reject the recommendation of the FCC to remove Rob Hatch from the FCC, seconded by Babb; voted yes unanimously.

The board returned to non public under the above named RSA at 9:05pm returned to open session at 9:21pm and meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Neal E. Boyle

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.