

Stratford Select Board Meeting Minutes

Aug 12, 2024

Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 PM

Select Board present: Clayton Macdonald, Charles Goulet, Harry Juergens.

Others present: Suzanne Goulet, Cassie Eilert, Andrew Berstein (virtually).

Meeting called to order: 3:32 PM by Macdonald

APPOINTMENTS:

Cassie Eilert & Andrew Berstein for Kearsarge Energy: Clayton introduced Kearsarge, noted having a personal interest in the matter and recused. He appointed Harry to the chair during his recusal.

Andrew presented a slide show describing Kearsarge Energy and its history. Asserted that Kearsarge is an independent company that holds its projects as long-term assets. Said Kearsarge consistently meets its tax obligations and described advantages to the Town and of a PILOT plan. Discussed various options under a PILOT plan, esp. regarding land use change. Said that Kearsarge uses US manufactured materials, local labor, and provides other economic, social, and educational benefits and programs. Described the proposed Stratford project and noted that the Town and landowner will be named in a letter of credit for end-of-life dismantling and restoration. Said that the installation would not involve any hazardous materials. Suzanne noted that a public hearing is required before the Town can approve a PILOT plan. Also noted that the project will yield upgrades to local electric grid infrastructure.

Suzanne:

Reported that the person whose dog has been digging on the Common has been told to control that behavior. The fence construction issue on the Hollow Pavilion and playground continues to be delayed due to lack of certainty about boundary corner locations, will contact Library Hall again. Erosion along Bog Brook that threatens both a dug and a drilled well was noted and possible sources of assistance are to be forwarded to the landowner.

Select Board:

Juergens: Malcolm Tileston submitted a complaint about a culvert under his driveway on Egan Rd that is plugged. He said that he has a verbal agreement with the Town that in exchange for storm drainage onto his land, the Town would maintain that culvert. Discussed the need to verify that agreement, and if true, then the Town should meet the obligation. Also noted that such verbal agreements are poor practice and this agreement as well as similar future agreements should be written and recorded. Noted a complaint from Mark Allyn concerning the lack of maintenance on Farnsworth Rd. A letter of response will note that the Board is well aware of the situation and is currently working on developing a program of Town road maintenance that will address that and the other pressing road issues. Discussed a hazardous condition on McMann Rd and the temporary measures to remediate; noted the need to act quickly when such situation arise, but also the need to communicate these acts to all Select Board members. Discussed availability of FEMA funding for permanent repairs at 5 locations around town.

Goulet: Reported that the old Transfer Station baler is fully operational again, drainage around the building has been improved. Discussed the letter to Jim Dias

concerning his rocks in the Percy Rd. ROW.

Macdonald: Reported more work on NH town road budgeting data to aid in deciding Stratford's best way forward. Discussed the continuing receipt of road questionnaires, which Kitty will collate, and the need for another road's workshop in a few weeks to prepare for budgeting and to prepare the Town for potential sticker shock.

Manifest: Macdonald/Juergens, approved 3/0 to sign for 07/30/2024 & 08/05/2024.

Signed Documents:

Reservations - Hollow Pavilion 09/01/24, birthday party; Town Hall 09/29/24 birthday party; Hollow Pavilion 07/19/25, family reunion.

Raffle Permit - Common Pavilion, date TBD.

Letter to Sharon Corbeil for Roland Baldwin fund.

Building Certificates - Solar Panel installation at 938 US Rt 3

Old Business:

Noted DES paperwork for Big Rock Campground stating it's in compliance.

New Business:

Approved the minutes for the meetings of 7/1 & 7/29, Macdonald/Juergens 3/0.

Noted the report on the timber volume cut in Nash Stream.

Reminders: CPCNH informational meeting 09/03/24 @6:00 PM.

Toxic fire suppression foam to be removed for recycling 08/28/24.

Roland Baldwin Fund: Discussed and approved an application, Macdonald/Juergens, 3/0.

Adjourned: 5:13 PM, Macdonald/Goulet 3/0.

Minutes prepared by: C. Macdonald