



Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
5:00 pm

Board: R. Gil Rand, Charyl Reardon, Scott Rice

Staff: Judy Welch, Ethan Recco, Kevin Millar, Cathy Riley

In-Person Public: Bill Waterhouse, Rex & Cheri Caulder, Michael Donahue, Patrick Griffin, Helen Jones, Jim Chesebrough, Mark Sellingham, Robert Stahler

Zoom Participants: Manu Chopra

Call to Order

Charyl called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Approve & Sign Minutes/August 9, 2022

Scott motioned to accept the minutes of August 9, 2022, Selectmen's Meeting. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Charyl abstained.

Approve & Sign Minutes/August 23, 2022

Scott motioned to accept the minutes of August 23, 2022, Selectmen's Meeting. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Gil abstained.

Mark Sellingham/Meriam Woods/Tripoli Road

Mark Sellingham followed up on a meeting regarding the conservation easement on the Meriam Woods property located off Tripoli Road. He noted that there was a list of items that needed to be addressed, and he wanted to make sure they were being tracked. Mark wondered if the piece of property next to Meriam Woods was part of the conservation easement.

Jim Chesebrough, Secretary to the Conservation Commission, points out that the Conservation Commission is in charge of managing this property. Jim stated that he has met with Mark and others at the trailhead. Jim stated that the Conservation Commission will be having a zoom meeting with the Town's Counsel on Thursday of this week, September 22, at 10 am. Gil will be acting as the Select Board representative.

Jim feels that after researching everything, it is a separate piece of property and will not be under the jurisdiction of the deed from Meriam Woods. Jim hopes to have more information after the meeting with the Town's Counsel.

Jim is aware that some climbing clubs have come in and put signs on trees, removed dead trees from trails, put pitons on the climbing rocks, and created maps that show hiking trails within this parcel of land. They have also left ropes and other things. The question is, how do we legally stop them? He is hoping to get some answers to questions as to what the status of the roads are, whether state roads or class 4

WCC is going to work with Town Counsel to see what can be done to remedy the situation. They plan to post the land as part of the Meriam Woods, owned by the Town of Woodstock, as a conservation easement.

With more information on Thursday, WCC will have specific items that need to be done. After the meeting on Thursday, Jim needs to contact the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests because they are the ones who will get the land if the town does not maintain it according to the deed. Laura thought we needed to make them aware of what was going on to keep them informed, but she asked Jim to wait until they met.

Mark asked how long it takes to find out if it is a Class 4 road.

Charyl noted that hopefully, we will have more answers after Thursday's meeting and can bring that to the next meeting.

Michael Donahue/Select Board Meeting Rules & Procedures

Mike Donahue addressed the Board on rules and procedures regarding public participation. He feels it is too restrictive, limits civic engagement, and scares people away. Mike doesn't understand why someone has to be added to the agenda to ask a question. He stated that many people don't want to appear on the agenda or don't have time to contact the office to be added to it.

Mike feels the public might have a simple question to ask but can't if they are not on the agenda. For example, he wonders why there is an officer at meetings now.

Chief Millar said he would like to answer the question and replied that he was there because he was interested in getting to know the town's people. He said that he spends more time in these towns than his own. He encourages other officers to attend and notes that no one is being forced or asked to attend; they want to be there.

Gil stated that there is no reason why the agenda can't be tweaked a little bit.

Charyl replied that she feels that it does not limit civic engagement.

Mike again stated that not everyone is comfortable coming to a meeting. Chairperson Charyl replied that if they do not come to the meeting, how will questions be asked? She also stated that there are benefits of having questions on the agenda so other community members can see items and want to weigh in, so they may attend the meeting.

Rex Caulder added that he agrees with Mike.

Mark Sellingham also added that he agrees with Mike. He feels the public would be better served with a more open forum.

Patrick noted that the school board did the same thing. Patrick feels that the public has the right to address elected officials and should be able to do that.

Charyl stated that the Board would take the recommendation under advisement, discuss it with the Town's Counsel, and revisit the discussion back to the next meeting.

Street & Parking Ordinances & Waivers

Charyl stated that they had met with Town Counsel to review the Vehicle Parking, Use of Public Streets and Sidewalks, Street Parking, and Public Vendor Ordinances. Revisions were made and it was determined that the Street Parking Ordinance and Public Vendor Ordinance was unnecessary and could be combined into the Vehicle Parking and Use of Public Streets and Sidewalks.

Handouts were provided to attendees.

Vehicle Parking

Charyl motioned to accept the Vehicle Parking Ordinance as presented. Gil seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative. Scott abstained.

Patrick brings up Item A which states "No person shall park a vehicle on either side of Main Street between the hours of 1 am and 6 am. Any violation shall be towed away. And asked if this meant with no violation orders or parking tickets.

Charyl stated that that's the way it has always been.

Judy stated that the part about "at owner's expense" was just added yesterday by Mike Welch.

Chief Millar added that, yes, when the word "shall" that it means that it is what they will do.

Patrick wondered if "may" should be added instead, as he feels that they should be issued a ticket first.

Charyl brought up the sign and ordinance should be cohesive, and that the sign down in the municipal lot she believes says anyone that parks in the center or along the river shall be towed.

Judy remarked about the signs on Main Street, and believed that they do say the vehicle "will be" towed at owner's expense.

Patrick then asked Charyl what is defined as Main Street. He was wondering if it was from the bridge or the fire house, all the way to Alpine. Charyl replied that it is down under E, "where US route 3 crosses Lost River Road to the Alpine entrance". Gil then clarifies that it is from the traffic light to the Alpine entrance.

Patrick assumes it would be for the business area, but there are residents that are south of that and people that live there are parked on the street overnight.

Charyl stated that the board can pull the language in E that defines Main Street into Section A and pass it by counsel or ask what is needed to define what Main Street is.

Gil added that the "may be towed" should include a parking violation and/or may be towed, in cases of multiple violations.

Charyl stated that it should be keeping folks from parking there within those hours, so if they know they will be towed, it will hopefully prevent them from being towed. She feels that if they are towed on the first violation, then hopefully they will not be repeating the offense.

Patrick then asked if there were signs posted that it is a tow zone, to which Charyl replied yes.

Chief Millar added that it is mainly for street sweeping, line painting and snow removal so they are not concerned about issuing citations, but they are very concerned that if there is an obstruction, that they need to remove it.

Charyl feels that it should be left at "shall be towed" so that it gives police the authority not to have to contact or give a citation before towing. She also suggests that maybe saying "will be" would give more freedom, and Chief Millar said he would be happy to help play with the wording. He also referenced item "G". Charyl suggested that they will work on it and bring it up at the next meeting.

Scott feels in general that there should be a way to make exceptions in examples of hardship cases.

Adding to the rest of the discussion, Bill asked a question about Item C, regarding the delineation lines which is with Counsel as well. He stated that back before the RSA, the road has been used for travel and pedestrians for 20 years. Prior to 1968, it was considered a "highway", so it seems to him that the words "between the delineated lines" makes him wonder what is the source of the location of those delineated lines. He also added that in regards to the status of it now, if it does come back that in fact it is a highway, then they will be addressing it again.

Charyl stated that she will circle that item and also work on that with Chief Millar to confirm the delineated line question.

Bill asked if Laura spoke on the lined delineations and wondered if there was information as to what School Street is. Charyl replied that she will circle that because she doesn't see it on the ordinances. Bill then wanted to verify that it is in reference to RSA229:1, in which Charyl replied yes.

Gil motioned to rescind the earlier motion to accept the Vehicle Parking Ordinance. Charyl seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative. Scott abstained. Discussion was tabled.

Application for Waiver of Vehicle Parking Ordinance

Following the Vehicle Parking Ordinance was the Application of Waiver of the Vehicle Parking Ordinance, intended to address any possible hardships.

Charyl motioned to accept the Application of Waiver of the Vehicle Parking. Gil seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative. Scott abstained.

Judy stated that she noticed on the application that you need to adjust the municipal parking lot 1 and lot 2 to match the application.

Charyl asked if that was a reference to Vehicle Parking. Judy replied yes, stating no more than 72 hours; on the application, it says overnight. She feels the waiver should be changed to match the ordinance. Charyl agreed, and that has also been tabled.

Charyl motioned to rescind the earlier motion to accept the Application of Waiver of the Vehicle Parking Ordinance. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Scott abstained. The discussion was tabled.

Use of Public Streets & Sidewalks

Charyl opened discussion on the proposed revisions to the Use of Public Streets & Sidewalks Ordinance.

Chief Millar first brings up an incidence of soliciting. A person with a "hungry" sign was getting a lot of attention on the 93 offramps. The police found out that there was a warrant out for his arrest and that he, in fact, was not hungry, and the food he received actually went into a trash bag, and he also had a lot of money on him. If it wasn't for his open container and EBW, he wasn't sure if they would have been able to do much about it. He felt that if the Board were to add in the section such as soliciting such as looking for donations or handouts, then there would be something they could do to help those folks move along. He added that the person may have picked the area because of the Highland Games.

Patrick wanted to verify that he was talking about panhandling, and Chief Millar confirmed. Patrick added that the board might want to check with the legal aspect of that and referenced a case in Massachusetts, Chief Millar added it was Concord, which enacted an ordinance, and said they should look into it, as it may be something to be added.

Charyl added that yes, and they would bring it back to Laura.

Gil mentioned that the word "busking" might need to be added regarding musicians who sit down with a guitar case and play music and ask for donations. Gil said that he had been approached about that before and that they asked permission to use the gazebo at Soldiers Park. He said yes to them because they weren't out in public and made very little money. He feels that the word should be added to the ordinance.

Scott questioned where the public's freedom stops as far as being able to do things and brought up some religious folks who were set up at Cascade Park. Charyl said that that was off the street and sidewalk. Scott has no complaints since they just stand there and they don't bother people. Chief Millar added that the person he was talking about had a warrant out for his arrest for lewd behavior, which is what he is trying to curtail, and he would be happy to have a conversation on that.

Charyl said yes, and asked if there were any more comments on that one. With no comments, it was tabled for the next meeting.

Jim then stated that he did not see where it mentioned deadlines or when you have to apply for this, and said busking could also be a trombone player, and if he were to fill out one of the applications on Sunday morning, and then when the Chief came up to him and said that he could not do that without permission, and if he replied that he applied for permission and no one has gotten back to him. Jim felt that wording might be added to give a time frame.

Charyl agreed and will also look at that, and Jim clarified that he meant to give them a length of time and had to wait for the next Selectmen meeting in which they would get a yay or nay. It does say permission for which the time period is sought, so you would have to outline the dates.

Jim thinks, "In order to have a timely address of this application, you must file two weeks before." He also asked if it was something that would have to wait for the board and not something that could be done at the town office.

Charyl replied that it must be at a board meeting, and words should state, "recommend applying two weeks or more before."

Gil asked if it had to be decided at a meeting or could the back office take care of the application and turn it down in three days instead of waiting two weeks. He stated that a lot of busking is more impromptu,

Charyl said that they would have to ask the attorney because she thinks they come to Judy just like the applications for weddings at Cascade Park. Judy added yes unless there is a waiver involved. Charyl decided to add that to the questions for Laura.

Application for Permission to Use Public Streets & Sidewalks and/or Engage in Door-to-Door Sales

The item has been tabled.

Street Parking

Charyl also requested to have them tabled because they don't want to rescind them until they get the new ordinances in place.

Patrick wanted to add regarding the ordinances. He asked if ordinances needed to be approved by the town. He stated that selectmen make regulations, but he thinks that ordinances have to be approved by the town.

Charyl and Judy both stated no. Judy noted that if they are related to the street or vehicle parking, there are certain things that the selectmen can approve in the Selectmen's meeting, and this is one of them. Patrick then said OK and that it was just wording for him. He said yes, he agrees that the Selectmen can regulate parking.

Public Vendors

Public Vendors was tabled.

Accept Donations/Woodstock Firefighter Fund

Woodstock Firefighters/Lobster Fest Fundraiser/\$7951.06

The Woodstock Fire Department presented the Board with a gift from the Woodstock Firefighters Lobster Fest in the amount of \$7,951.06, to be deposited in the previously established Woodstock Firefighter Fund. Gil made a motion to accept the gift of \$7951.06 from the Woodstock Firefighters, and requested that the Trustees for Trust Funds deposit it into the Woodstock Firefighter fund. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Woodstock Firefighters/T-Shirt Sales/\$133.00

The Woodstock Fire Department presented the Board with a gift from the T-Shirt sales in the amount of \$133.00, to be deposited in the previously established Woodstock Firefighter Fund. Charyl made a motion to accept the gift of \$133.00 from the Woodstock Firefighters, and requested that the Trustees for Trust Funds deposit it into the Woodstock Firefighter fund. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Approve Check Requests/Woodstock Firefighter Fund

Melissa Sabourn/Lobster Fest Supplies/\$1339.39

Gil motioned to approve the check request for \$1339.39 payable to Melissa Sabourn for Lobster Fest Supplies. This money is to be withdrawn from the Woodstock Firefighter Capital Reserve Fund. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Old/Other Business/Brought forth by the Board

Charyl asked if Gil or Scott board members had any other business and both replied that they did not.

Public Participation

Charyl asked the Public if there was anything else to add and that there were still some agenda items that would be addressed at the next meeting.

Mark brought up the application for the waivers. He stated that back when he was chasing the noise ordinance, there was a request that someone wanted to shoot at their house, put in an application, and wanted to do it that Saturday. On the waiver, they had to wait two weeks to get a response as to whether they were approved or not. He feels that it just seems like it is too long of a wait for the requests to be processed.

Charyl stated that is why they will meet with the attorney to see if the waivers have to be in a meeting or if it can be done earlier.

Gil then remarked that it falls in the same category as the busking item and any waiver application and agreed that two weeks is cumbersome. Charyl also agreed.

Helen then asked if she could ask a question about anything that she wanted. Charyl replied that she could but would have to wait for an answer at the next meeting. She agreed and then had several questions about the Avery property, water, and sewer.

Charyl asked if she wanted to send an email on those questions, but Helen wanted to speak about them at this time.

Helen asked about the new property that was purchased and was curious as to when the old property (fire station and town garage) will be going up for sale. Charyl replied that they are working on that. Helen stated that she thought that when they approved purchasing the property at the town meeting, the money that was used from the sale of the two other properties was going to offset the cost. She asked if we were able to pay off the loan early, and Scott replied yes.

Helen's next question was regarding the back part of the property. She noticed that cars are parked on that property and other equipment during races. She wondered if we have an agreement with the race track in case somebody gets hurt on the property. She was concerned if there was coverage for that or will the town be liable. She also wonders what is the town's intention on that piece of land down the road since there is equipment on the property. She wanted to know if the land was being rented.

She also asked if we are building the salt shed now, and Scott said that they are. Helen then asked if it is something that is going to last 30 years, to which Scott also replied yes, and told her that the funds that have been added to the capital reserve account over the last few years for a new salt/sand shed. Judy added that it was originally going to go on the old dump road.

Helen's last question was regarding the new water and sewer. She has no problem paying for the water and sewer separately. However, she was asking how it actually works. She stated that in a town meeting, they voted to put an X amount into the water and sewer trust fund. She asked how the townspeople who do not have water and sewer are figured out.

Charyl clarified that the capital reserve that was set up for water and sewer is built into the base rate, and that is how it funds the capital reserves. She also explained that basically, the \$5 per gallon that you are paying for the water is what covers your operating expenses for the water.

Helen then asked about the condition of all our water and sewer lines are in. She was concerned that it should not be taken out of anyone's taxes.

Gil stated right now the oldest line is down in lower Woodstock on Route 3, and will probably be the next one to be looked into to be replaced. Helen then asked if we have money set aside, so people don't get this on our sewer and water tax sewer fees to cover that down the road, and Gil said that it would have to be bonded.

Charyl then stated that they are trying to get a grant.

Helen was also wondering if, other than being bonded if it will go on residents' bills. Helen is also wondering how much of the capital reserve is already for that project.

Scott stated that they just got two great grants, one for \$70,000 and one for \$30,000, and they are doing a capital assessment project on both the whole water system and the whole wastewater system that will stretch the town out for 10 or 20 years.

Patrick asked whether the town had a sewer capital reserve, and the board replied yes. He also wanted to clarify whether people that do not get water or sewer through the town are still paying into the water and sewer fund.

The Board stated that they will get it all sorted out by the next meeting and that this is a good reason why they need a little bit of time to get some figures to give to people.

Helen made a statement that she didn't mind doing the Public Participation at the end, knowing there won't be an answer immediately.

Jim Chesebrough commented that when the Selectmen agreed to appoint him as a representative to the Pemigewassett River Local Advisory Committee, he didn't realize what an important position it would be. Although our town has not experienced the development issues that people downriver have been experiencing, such as the Owl's Nest and the Pemi Campground, it appears that it may be in our future.

The person developing the Owl's Nest had purchased the White Mountain Golf Course in Ashland and also been trying to purchase the Jack O' Lantern. The first attempts did not work out. He feels that it is important because when a golf course or other development along the river gets the property, they are immediately trying to take river water to build irrigation ponds, recreation ponds, and beaches.

He stated that yesterday, the town received the notice that the Pemigewassett River Corridor Management Plan is being revised and that a meeting will be held on September 27th at 7 pm on at the Pease Public Library in Plymouth. It is an informational meeting and invites people from communities on the river and town officials to attend it.

Mike Donahue then asked about the sand and salt shed and when and how it was going to be built, to which Scott replied that he should have some good ideas at the next meeting. Chary agreed that it would be addressed next week.

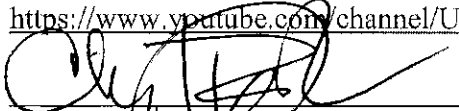
Adjournment

Charyl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 pm. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

The public could participate remotely over Zoom by going to www.zoom.us, using the Zoom App on a cellphone, or on a landline calling **1-646-558-8656 Password: 003948** and entering **Meeting ID: 935 0216 8673 Password: 003948**.

Those wishing to hear the recording of the whole meeting may access it by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxMH7OFC8H3KqBhYHsBr53g>



Charyl Reardon, Chairman

October 4, 2022
Date



Scott Rice



R. Gil Rand

