

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

August 7, 2017

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: August 21, 2017

Cydney Johnson convened the meeting at 6:01 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following members and staff were present:

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman, excused absence
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
John Markland, Selectman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectmen, excused absence
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Approval of the Agenda

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with one amendment, moving Item #1 under Old Business, Lakes Region Tourism Association before New Business as an accommodation and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements:

- Old Home Week Events will begin on August 12th and continue through August 20th. Fireworks are scheduled for August 12th at 9:00 PM with a rain date of August 13th.

Appointments:

Employee Recognitions

The following employees were recognized for their promotions to new positions and thanked for their support to the Town; they were presented with a letter. It was noted that some employees were not in attendance due to prior commitments or work schedules.

Highway Department

Warren Dahl, Assistant Mechanic to Lead Mechanic
Brian Boisvert, Truck Driver to Light Equipment Operator
Jack Housel, Light Equipment Operator to Heavy Equipment Operator

Police Department

Bill Tolios, Corporal to Sergeant
Philip Hunter, Patrolman to Corporal
Ryan Heath, BS in Criminal Justice

Fire Department

Amelia Sweezey, Firefighter to Firefighter with Certificate/EMT
Greg Trombi, Firefighter/Advanced EMT to Lieutenant/Advanced EMT
James Brown, Firefighter/Advanced EMT to Lieutenant/Advanced EMT
John Dillon, Probationary Student Intern to Firefighter
Justin Kantar, Lieutenant/Paramedic to Captain/Paramedic
Kyle Latino, Firefighter to Firefighter/EMT
Kyle Russell, Firefighter to Lieutenant
Patrick O'Brien, Lieutenant/Advanced EMT to Captain/Advanced EMT
Ryan McQuade, Firefighter/Advanced EMT to Lieutenant/Advanced EMT
Shane Warren, Firefighter/Advanced EMT to Firefighter/Paramedic

Milfoil Committee Update

Ted Carl, Chairman and Bill Mannion, member of the Milfoil Committee were present to give a status update from their committee. Ted read the following:

THE MILFOIL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN 8-7-17

Ted Carl, Chair Bill Mannion, Comm. Member

In 2008 the Alton Selectmen authorized the creation of the committee with the primary movers being Jon and Nancy Downing and the late Paul Richardson. Jon Downing chaired the committee from 2008 until I became chairman in October of 2011. The current committee consists of myself, Bill Mannion, Pam Martin, Sally Ferbert and Greg Basanti. While not members of the committee now, Jon and Nancy Downing are still a major source of local knowledge for us.

WHAT IS MILFOIL? (sample provided from Minge Cove)

THIS is myriophyllum heterophyllum or better known as variable milfoil. It is a non-native plant, and a monoculture plant, which means it, forms dense growths and crowds out most other good native plants. It is fast growing, and likes sandy or silty lake bottoms in relatively shallow water with access to plenty of sunlight. Bits and pieces of milfoil can root and produce seeds that multiply very quickly.

WHERE IS IT IN ALTON?

Historically, our normal spots are Smalls Cove, Minge Cove, Woodmans Cove, Sandy Point, Rand Cove, Alton Bay South, Parker Marine, Robert's Cove, and the Merrymeeting River. Of our 8 inhabited islands in Alton, which are Rattlesnake, Sleeper, Cub, Treasure, Moose, Ship and Little Barndoor and Barndoor, we have only seen milfoil in one small area off Barndoor Island.

HOW IS IT ERADICATED?

We use two methods to control milfoil. One is called DASH, which stands for Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting, which is like using a large shop vac to pull milfoil, strain out the plant thru screens and return the water to the lake. This year we had 20 days of diving starting June 26th and thus far have harvested close to 4500 gallons of milfoil, mostly from Rand Cove and Merrymeeting River.

The second method is applying a herbicide called Navigate which is one of 3 different formulations of 2, 4-D the New Hampshire DES has tested and found to be most target specific on milfoil. This process is tightly regulated by the state and is performed by a licensed contractor approved by the state.

The state performs a survey of Alton's water each spring and specifies which method should be used in each area to be treated. We receive detailed maps with GPS coordinates for each spot to be treated.

We have a unique challenge in that we can only DASH the Merrymeeting River south of Parker Marine due to the proximity of the Levy Park and Jones Field town wells. Yet, DASH work in the river has reduced the milfoil tremendously in the past 5 years.

WHO PAYS FOR IT?

We started the year with just under \$15,000 in our fund, the voters approved a \$21,000 warrant article, and we anticipate State of NH grant funding of \$12,600.

Expenses for 2017 are estimated to be \$23,750 for diving (DASH) and \$11,500 for herbicide for a total of \$35,250. We would anticipate a 2018 warrant request in the \$21,000 to \$22,000 range.

WHAT IS THE LONG TERM VIEW?

We are in much better shape than many towns in that our milfoil growth is being reduced each year and we now have a good understanding on where to look and how to treat. We have two new committee members this year, which is healthy and Kellie Troendle gives us great support from the staff standpoint.

Alton will never be milfoil free, but we can maintain and contain the problem. Milfoil is not an indication of any problem with the quality of our water. In fact, our water quality in Alton Bay is remarkably good based on 32 years of data. Water clarity has improved over those years, the measures of chlorophyll (plant life) have remained stable, and levels of phosphorus are at the levels they were 15 years ago. Alton Bay is rated excellent in all categories.*

*Source: UNH Cooperative Extension 2015 Sampling Highlight Records for Station 25 in Alton Bay.

Phil Wittmann commended the Committee on a job well done.

Cydney Johnson inquired if the Committee was involved with the Cyanobacteria Committee. Ted responded that Bill has attended their meetings however it is not their charter but they have an interest in it.

John Markland inquired if the Lake Host Program was still in use. Ted responded that this is the first year they are not due to the lack of people to fill the positions. It has been so effective in the past that there were only two (2) trailers with incident the year before. Bill noted there were 357 boats inspected last year with no incidents discovered; people are educated. This is not a dead issue and can be revived in the future if necessary.

Budget Committee Update

Roger Nelson, Chairman of the Budget Committee was present to give a status update on the Committee stating that there is no update because there currently is nothing transpiring; budgets were voted on in March and are taking their normal course. He further stated we will do our due diligence in the 2018 budget sessions. We have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers and take it very seriously, looking at every line item to be sure that the taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely, appropriately and where they should be for needs not for wants.

Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)

None

Old Business:

Lakes Region Tourism Association

Amy Landers, Executive Director of the Lakes Region Tourism Association (LRTA) was in attendance to give an overview of the Association. Amy stated that the LRTA has been in existence since 1936 and is the oldest tourism association in the state, with a mission to promote the Lakes Region and Central NH Regions, in state, out of state and internationally in order to bring visitors to the region and have a positive economic impact on businesses. Roughly, 18 years ago our relationship began with Alton with an outside kiosk. She noticed that your Chamber of Commerce wasn't able to stabilize and be part of the community so she offered to run the Visitor's Center. From mid-May to approximately the end of October Thursday's through Sunday we have a paid staff member available to answer questions about Alton, Parks and Recreation and/or special events that might be taking place in Alton as well as in the region. It is a non-profit organization, funded by membership dollars, advertising sales, grant writing; we continue to try to sell sponsorships. Everything we bring in is to market the region. Their brochure (provided) outlines the tools and strategies that they use in order to market the region. We look at and turn to the businesses to see where we are needed most. Amy offered to be available for questions for the Selectmen that were not at the meeting tonight by either a phone call or a by whatever means it takes.

Phil Wittmann questioned if the Association was involved with the State Board of Tourism. Amy replied that they partner with the Division of Travel and Tourism, Discover New England, Lakes Region Chamber and White Mountain Attractions to spread the dollars that are brought in. We work very closely with the Division of Travel and Tourism to look at the current marketing plan, where the test markets will be, and testing new markets each year. We piggyback and share that information to obtain the best value from our marketing.

Amy was thanked for her overview presentation.

New Business:

Approval; Hawker & Vendor License Application, Twice as Nice Ice dba Little Jimmy's Italian Ice of Alton

At this time, Patricia Torriero approached the Board to discuss her request for a Hawker and Vendor License. She explained that her cart is very retro, about the size of a shopping cart. Knowing that permits were discontinued years ago, she is urging the Board to issue a permit to her. Cydney Johnson stated the reasons for discontinuing the permits were from a liability insurance standpoint from our insurance company. We need to follow the advice of our insurance company. Ms. Torriero understands but feels that she would not cause any accidents with traffic, has her own million-dollar insurance policy and she plans on helping the Alton Food Pantry with a stock the shelves at Hannaford which would be for every non-perishable donation that is made you would get a free Italian Ice. She is looking for suggestions for her next step in obtaining permitting. Cydney voiced that it would be the Board voting to change the policy and it would not be fair for the three (3) Board members of a Board of five (5) members to do so tonight. In addition, Cydney cannot speak as to what the

policy for Hannaford's is. Liz Dionne stated that a permit is needed and to follow the town's ordinance referring to page 2 section 5. There is no issue on private property it just cannot be done on Town property. John Markland also referred to duplicative services. The Board has no problem with private property.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the Hawkers and Vendors License for private property use at Hannaford's only.

Further discussion transpired: three (3) approvals are necessary: State, Town and Property Owner.

John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval; Special Event Application, Alton Fireman's Inc, Chicken BBQ

Ryan Ridley was available to answer any questions. This is a typical BBQ.

John Markland made a motion to approve the Special Event Application for the Alton Fireman's Association Chicken BBQ for August 19, 2017 and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval; Catch Basin Cleaning, 3 Year Bid (2018, 2019 & 2020)

John Markland made a motion to approve the Catch Basin Cleaning 3-year Bid (2018-2020) as recommended to Hartigan, Middlesex, VT and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval; Stone and Gravel, 3 Year Bid (2018, 2019 & 2020)

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the Stone and Gravel 3-year Bid (2018-2020) as recommended to Green Oak Realty for all stone and GMI Asphalt for $\frac{3}{4}$ Crushed Gravel and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval; Winter Sand Bid, 3 Year Bid (2018, 2019 & 2020)

John Markland made a motion to approve the Winter Sand 3-year Bid (2018-2020) as recommended to GMI Asphalt, LLC and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

Approval; Sale of Surplus Items

A list of the high bidders for the surplus items was provided to the Board.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to accept the Sale of Surplus items as presented and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Committee Reports

Phil Wittmann reported on the Old Home Week Committee meeting from July 24th. There will be one more meeting the night before the Block Party to be sure everything is in place for the events, which includes: Block Party, Parade, Poker Run, Dog Show and the Ice Cream Sundae Buffet.

John Markland reported that there was no need to report on the Milfoil Committee as Ted Carl just gave his status update.

Cydney Johnson noted that the Cyanobacteria Committee met on August 27th. We do have signs of Cyanobacteria in Alton however; they are not as bad as New Durham. Pat Tarpey from the state was present at the meeting and gave a very detailed analysis and overview. The next step would be to develop a watershed plan with an estimated cost of approximately 60K. The Merrymeeting Association has already committed 10K, they are asking the Winnepesaukee Association to contribute 10K, New Durham will be budgeting 20K and they are asking Alton to budget for 20K to have the watershed engineered and put in place. There are many benefits to natural watershed vs other options to rid the lake of this bacteria. Our lake is the number one resource and we need to be very careful about not overlooking this matter. Cydney is requesting that we budget the 20K to support the watershed and she would like to be able to go to the next meeting and voice Alton's support. The Board is in agreement to support the request.

Town Administrator Report by Liz Dionne

Road Reconstruction, Public Infrastructure Funds Received

Special legislation was recently approved; SB38 which was to give to the municipalities an extra one-time road reconstruction money in the amount of \$165,571.33. A list from Executive Councilor Joe Kenney was provided to the Board showing the statewide awarding of monies. Because the amount we are receiving is over 10K the governing body will need to hold a Public Hearing, which will be arranged in the near future. Ken Roberts will be recommending the best use for the money. This can be used for town roads, sidewalks, bridges, parking areas, culverts and bike lanes. This should not be used to purchase equipment. Our annual road reconstruction funds that are received from Highway Block Funds for the current year is \$195,702.19 this amount offsets the 950K on the Warrant Article which is stated within it and required by RSA 32:5. Ken will have a recommendation either at the next meeting or at the following meeting.

Bay Hill Road; discussion on future drainage

A couple of weeks ago there was a severe storm that came through the area. Bay Hill Road received some significant damage; the Highway crew was called out, working until about midnight repairing the washouts. Photos were provided to the Board. Ken Roberts will be

coming to the Board with a possible plan concerning a different type of closed drainage system. Ken Roberts stated that this was previously brought to the Board and voted out; it would be in the best interest of the Town to use this type of closed system. This was in place prior to 1993; it would only be on one (1) side of the roadway. A cost estimate will be provided by the next meeting.

Keno Warrant Article

The State recently approved legislation concerning the gambling game Keno. As an FYI; a business owner in Town has contacted Liz regarding starting a petition for such. If a municipality wants to have Keno in their Town it has to be placed on the ballot as a Warrant Article.

Old Home Day Parade Participation 8/12/2017 @2:00 PM

There is a request for Board participation in the Old Home Day Parade. The Board was polled:

- Cydney Johnson, Out of Town
- Phil Wittmann, Needs to give it some thought
- John Markland, Unknown at this time

Availability for Awarding the Boston Cane 8/22-8/25

The Boston Post Cane needs to be presented to Mr. Wollett, we are looking for participation for such. The date has not been set yet but will be sometime between 8/22-8/25, timeframe: 6:30/7:00 PM, availability is:

- Cydney Johnson, evening, no 8/22
- Phil Wittmann, evening
- John Markland, unknown

Mary will get back to the Board with a definitive date, time and location.

Approval of Minutes:

July 17, 2017

John Markland made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, July 17, 2017 and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

John Markland made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session, July 17, 2017.

Cydney Johnson amended the motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session, July 17, 2017 releasing #2 & 3 and John Markland seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval of Consent Agenda

John Markland made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Approval; Highway Department Full Time Secretary: Conditional Hire, Keri Gordon, \$15.18 per hour.

Public Input II *(limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)*

None

Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

- Scott Williams and Brian Marinelli; Solar Farm Site Plan

Liz Dionne recommends that the request for some sort of Solar Farm on private property be heard by the Board for a five (5) minute appointment.

John Markland voiced that he thought that the Board made a decision at the last meeting that we did not want to promote businesses at meetings. Liz responded it was her belief that the property owner and the solar company may want to ask the Board for the town government with its buildings to participate in a solar array as far joining like a membership type of thing. Cydney Johnson voiced getting involved with a private resident. John Markland voiced thoughts of jumping the gun, maybe put the panels up first then talk about it. Liz Dionne stated it would ultimately be the Board's decision and elaborated on a typical process. This would be just a discussion for the process and the options that are being offered. This is the second resident that is working with a solar company who has offered to different government entities (schools) participation. If you are going to do this you need to be sure that you feel comfortable with it. Cydney voiced concerns that this maybe should be presented to the Planning Board first before coming to the Board; it seems a bit premature. John feels that the last request was denied and feels that this should follow. Phil Wittmann is curious and asked Liz for her recommendation. Liz recommends that they be heard for a five (5) minute timeframe.

Phil Wittmann made a motion to approve the discretionary request for appointment and schedule them for a future meeting. Cydney Johnson seconded for further discussion.

Discussion: Cydney again voiced she feels it is premature. There was no other discussion. The motion on the table for granting the appointment was called. The vote was 1 approved; Phil Wittmann, 2 opposed; John Markland and Cydney Johnson. The motion to approve failed.

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment

John Markland made a motion to adjourn and Phil Wittmann seconded with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary