

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2013

6:00 PM

1 Monument Square

Alton, NH 03809

Approved: October 7, 2013

R. Loring Carr convened the meeting at 6:00 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:

R. Loring Carr, Chairman
Cydney Johnson, Vice Chairman
David Hussey, Selectman
Marc DeCoff, Selectman
Robert Daniels, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Approval of the Agenda

David Hussey made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. R. Loring Carr added under Old Business #3 Work Force Coalition appointment decline by Robert Daniels and #4 Smart Growth, Lakes Region Planning Commission.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Appointments

Old Home Day Discussion:

Based on prior discussions, notices were sent out to several groups within the community and Kellie Troendle was asked to attend to discuss ideas of modifying and/or expanding Old Home Day. Kellie was called on as a staff member, responsible for Old Home Day to answer questions and concerns.

Roger Sample ABA and Chris Racine, Chair, ABA along with other executive members of the Board were present.

Roger Sample voiced concerns with changing the date and it should remain the same. Another concern is there is a lull between the parade and the fireworks which may be an area that needs to be looked at.

Robert Daniels noted that it conflicted with other towns and the need to be aware of other abutting communities and their activities.

Chris Racine, ABA needs to have dates ASAP for planning purposes.

Cydney Johnson inquired about the consistency of the date with Kellie Troendle responding that it has always been the 2nd Saturday or 2nd weekend in August with the Fire Department being the founders and the road race has been held for 21 years or longer, people plan their vacations around Old Home Day.

Roger Sample reiterated that the date works, leave it as is and put the concentration on quality which is what brings the people out.

Kellie Troendle mentioned that the big attractions and music in the parade need to be paid and according to Chris Racine, in the past through various events and dues the ABA has raised the money and paid the fees for the people who have participated.

A local resident indicated to Roger Sample that funds would go on the ballot. Cydney Johnson mentioned that he was referring to a Petition Warrant Article and that the Town Administrator would be able to help with that.

Cydney Johnson asked about the lull between the parade and the fireworks with Kellie Troendle noting that following the parade there is an outdoor bingo at 4:00 PM with the entertainment (concert) following around 6:00 PM until approximately 9:00 PM. Chris Racine mentioned that there was a good crowd and possibly the entertainment could announce that there would be fireworks to follow to keep the people at the Bay.

There were other events discussed such as the Firemen's Chicken BBQ, the possibility of a water ski show and the campground could possibly do something.

Chris Racine mentioned offering the non profit organizations in town to set up booths and sports teams with a dunking booth or something that would attract the people and synchronize the timing of the fireworks with the music.

Roger Sample mentioned a penny sale which would bring in the people. This might have been put on by the Lions Club or could have been the Police Association.

Cydney Johnson would like to see the date remain the same with the more things being brought into the Bay, the more it brings people to the businesses.

Chris Racine noted from feedback that the ABA has received in the last few years that everything seems to be down at the Bay, perhaps there should be other events prior to the parade to benefit and help the uptown businesses; this all takes manpower, with the feedback from residents about everything

being at the Bay and we don't want to make that split, how can we draw it throughout town. The B & M Railroad Park was mentioned, possibly a kickoff on Friday and maybe the parade on Sunday afternoon but it all takes manpower, which we are lacking.

R. Loring Carr asked if it was best to have the fireworks on Old Home Day or moving them to Labor Day; looking for thoughts from others.

Roger Sample stated that consistency is best, just leave things as they are and Chris Racine suggested an area of improvement would be to have heavy publicity, flyers around town, website posting and announcements at meetings as ways to promote the event.

Duane Hammond, President, Alton Centennial Rotary Club along with 3 or 4 others from the club in attendance, we are strongly committed to the community and offered adding someone to represent the club on the planning committee; give him a date and he will rally the troops.

Cydney Johnson asked Kellie Troendle if it would be putting too much on her, if there are interested organizations out there to contact you and help to coordinate with the ABA and to be the point person as Parks and Recreation Director. Kellie was in agreement with this. Manpower is what is needed to get things accomplished; the more people you have, the more contacts you have.

Barbara Howard suggested a dunk tank with some town officials or a horseshoe tournament among town departments so that people get to know their officials. Raymond Howard suggested some type of a water competition possibly a kayak race for different age groups.

Chris Racine questioned Kellie if there was a committee that puts this event on? Kellie responded "No, that's why the event went down to one weekend, at one time there was an Old Home Day committee and I believe town appropriated funds for that committee to do a parade and the week long activities but it just disbanded. The Parks and Recreation Department did not want to see this dissolve so we do the road race and craft fair, keeping the core events and the town appropriated money for the fireworks, being much smaller the department was able to manage with all the ideas that have been brought forward I would need bodies as there is not one more thing physically that the department could do to manage the activities".

George Feeney representing the Rotary Club mentioned as a thought, that the Christian Conference Center has a Harvest Day and possibly those events could be incorporated into Old Home Day to share some ground. Roger Sample made mention that they have in the past offered their services.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to keep date the same and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

None

Selectmen's Committee Report

Robert Daniels reported that the budget committee met and has a need to fill a vacancy with a deadline of September 30, 2013.

Town Administrator's Report and Updates by E. Russell Bailey

A note was received from the Fire Chief stating that they had a small load of metal from cleaning around the fire station and wanted to know if the Fire Association could turn the metal in and use the proceeds towards the last payment on the air cots.

Dave Hussey made a motion to approve and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

A donation of \$1,000.00 was made last year to B & M Park and it was requested by the donor that if there was any money unspent that it be redirected to purchase crosswalk signs. There is approximately \$700.00 and the signs are \$250.00 each. This is the same gentleman that is donating the one for the crossing at the Conference Center. E. Russell Bailey recommended considering redirecting at least \$500.00 towards the purchase of the crosswalk signs.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to redirect \$500.00 from that donation towards the crosswalk signs and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

A report from the engineer on the landfill needs to be given to DES with all the actual test results from the monitoring wells. Need approval from the Board to get the report out.

David Hussey made a motion to get the report out and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Also, in reference to the landfill, talking with the engineer they would like to out there by Oct 9th to drill the two (2) additional monitoring wells.

The wood removal at the Dahl property is just about complete. This weekend they should be knocking down the houses and then coordinating the removal of the debris within the next thirty (30) days. The granite foundation may need to be stored at Highway or the Transfer Station. David Hussey mentioned that the granite foundation could be sold and could go out to bid.

The Senior Center Committee has approached me several times. A memo was sent to the Trustees of Trust Fund regarding the Clough Morrill Fund. I met with them regarding assistance with the Senior Center project with two major items to be done, the kitchen rehab and the 36x36 building addition. The Trustees have agreed to provide between \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 towards the Senior Center project.

The Eastside Restroom has been paved with nothing but positive feedback and they will fund the paving that was done this year.

The B & M Park Freight Building, the folks with Habitat for Humanities are not moving forward with their project but I would like to see pursuing doing something to the building for the public and to make the park more attractive. Not using the funds at this time; but know that it is available. I would like to put together a plan of action for that building for improvements and bring it back to the Board based upon an evaluation of the building, as there are some points of concern with the foundation and footings. Looking at the septic system for the Town Hall, I would like to include the engineering for possibly tying that building in, for future use of a bathroom facility. David Hussey asked about purchasing the land and using it for a new septic. If the existing Police Department facility can handle the additional load from Town Hall then it would be just the additional piping as it is not having a heavy load and the septic designer would need to look at it for possible future use with the freight building. R. Loring Carr noted that this was authorized at the last meeting to put the line down on the plan.

Marc DeCoff made a motion to allow the engineer to look into adding the freight building into the septic system for the Police Department and Cydney Johnson seconded with all in favor of the motion.

A letter of thanks was received from the Echo Shores Association in West Alton for keeping the West Alton Station open. This will be an issue next year as the lease is up and I don't have an answer as to the willingness of renewal at this time.

The transfer station is preparing the specs for finishing the roof for C & D area that will cover the shingles and metal and there is no lighting at all up there and it needs to have lighting. The low quote is from Brooks and it will come out of the site improvement account. Two (2) quotes were received one for LED lights and the other for 250 Watt lights the lower bid has more powerful lights. Scott Simonds is recommending Brooks.

David Hussey made a motion to approve the bid for Brooks for the Transfer Station with the LED lighting in the amount of \$3,650.00 and Marc DeCoff seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Public Input I

Raymond Howard approached the Board that recently we got a grant or something from the state to look at all the roads in town for signage. Signage was installed on Coffin Brook Road at Middle Bridge where the road was lifted a foot and when you approach it heading towards Route 140 on a rainy night there are six (6) signs there and it causes a total “yellow out” on your windshield you can’t see the bridge anymore and it has created a safety situation. You need to go there at night and the six (6) tri-glow signs that are blinding. Ray spoke with Ken about it and he will probably come to you about having the state look at it and feels that it is a safety issue.

Approval of Selectmen’s Minutes

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, September 9, 2013 and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 4-0-1 with David Hussey abstaining.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session I, September 9, 2013 releasing #1 and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 4-0-1 with David Hussey abstaining.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session II, September 9, 2013 and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 4-0-1 with David Hussey abstaining.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Non Public Session II, September 9, 2013 releasing #1 and #3 and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 4-0-1 with David Hussey abstaining.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session III, September 9, 2013 and Marc DeCoff seconded. The vote was 4-0-1 with David Hussey abstaining.

Old Business:

Road Reconstruction Status Update

The Highway crew is currently on Bowman Road; it took longer for the tree cutting therefore they won’t be done until the end of September or the first few days of October. Highway will be moving over to Depot Street and beginning the drainage.

We will be delaying the Monument Square, Old Wolfeboro Road Intersection and sidewalks projects until spring of 2014; spoke with the new owner of a business where the sidewalks are and verbally they are very agreeable to the plan and the easement. I have the plan from the engineer for the sidewalks and curbing and will be getting that bid out in late fall, early winter, with work to be done in the spring based on weather conditions and it is critical to get it done as before we get into the busy season.

Marc Decoff questioned if there is a list of roads that maintenance has been done on and what has been done. E. Russell Bailey will need to get together with Ken. David Hussey also requested this list.

2013/2014 Budget Updates

For the 2013 budget we are holding our own with another issue to be discussed later. I will be putting out a memo to the Departments to hold a line on spending unless necessary. We have had two (2) departments with vehicle maintenance that has been killing us. I would like to get into the fall season a bit better with voicing that it takes an average of \$5,000.00 a weekend for snowstorms, and not knowing what the weather will bring it would be good to have a reserve.

The 2014 budget books are provided to you with the first meeting this week. The cover sheet gives you an overview of the budget and gives percentages and actual dollar changes by departments. The schedule is set; Robert Daniels has a conflict with the Sept 30th date with Lakes Region Planning Commission. Cydney had a conflict with October 3rd and didn't have a problem with it remaining the same and Marc DeCoff has an issue with Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There is not a lot of leeway as the budgets need to be ready for the Budget Committee. It was decided to move the September 30th date to October 1st; move the Fire Department to October 8th and move Parks and Recreation to October 3rd. The dates are now September 26th, October 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th and 14th.

Work Force Coalition

R. Loring Carr mentioned an email regarding Work Force Housing Coalition from Robert Daniels in reference to it being a great idea but it should have been talked about first as there are concerns about not fully understanding what would be expected with formal meetings, minutes, etc. Cydney Johnson mentioned it would be similar to what Pat Fuller had previously initiated; meetings with other towns to try to overturn the school funding/donor town issues. There is a representative that is trying to fight this issue. R. Loring Carr noted that there are so many questions that have come up in the ZAC meetings and as Paul Monzione said "a lot of this is arbitrary and it needs to be challenged", we are totally different than other towns and with a one size fit's

all law. David Hussey thought that it should be challenged and it is a great idea to have a committee to see what can be done and if there is an interest within the public to do this, a warrant article could be written, if there is an interest then it will move forward. There have been a lot of newspaper articles and we need to take control of this as it is not a take it or leave it situation. We need to protect the Town of Alton. There is an indication that we are already meeting the needs of Work Force Housing. David Hussey stated why not make it so strict for them that they can't get it done and R. Loring Carr thought that the only way to fight this is to take it to court and get it thrown out. Arguing amongst us and it is not going anywhere. R. Loring Carr asked Bob if he was going to go with it. Robert Daniels is already working on the subject and will give it some thought and is not sure that he wants to have this connected to the Select Board. R. Loring Carr stated that it is really the Planning Board's and David Hussey agreed. It will be the Planning Board's warrant article.

Smart Growth, Lakes Region Planning Commission

An email regarding smart growth was received by Robert Daniels, we were included on a draft of the annual report of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, the sentence reads under local services for FY 2014, "*Conduct a Smart Growth Assessment for Alton, with support from the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation*". I have asked about this previously and it was something we were thinking about doing and decided not to do. E. Russell Bailey talked to the Planner and it is a Planning Board area because it is used for their master plan development and they are elected and have their own statutory authority. David Hussey stated "that we as a Select Board are supposed to remain autonomous when it is a Planning Board issue; we are not even supposed to get involved". Robert Daniels mentioned that we are approving grants that are associated with the Planning Board and E. Russell Bailey noted that it wouldn't be a grant for us it would be LRPC grants so you wouldn't be approving anything, the money would go directly to LRPC and it is a private fund and there is no government funding. Robert Daniels mentioned that the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation gave 5K to LRPC last year and should Alton be included with this annual report and was this okayed by the Planning Board or just the Planner.

Robert Daniels made a motion to have LRPC remove that sentence until we find out what this is all about. E. Russell Bailey questioned this decision as it really is a Planning Board decision and they haven't made a decision yet and David Hussey thought it would be in the Planning Board's jurisdiction. Cydney Johnson questioned why the concern? David Hussey stated that they would probably come before the Planning Board and the word in there is "intend", the discussion ended.

There was no second.

New Business:

Halloween, Trick or Treat Hours

Marc DeCoff made a motion to move the hours for Halloween to 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and David Hussey seconded with all in favor.

Public Input II

Barbara Howard approached the Board stating that someone just said that the Work Force Housing is a federal mandate: are you all in agreement with that; you don't believe it is; you don't think HUD is involved? R. Loring Carr responded "no" to all questions and "I think that it is state legislation RSA: ___" Barbara Howard: driven by the federal government? R. Loring Carr: "I don't know who drove it, I wasn't involved in the discussion and that is what Bob is going to find out, who is involved and how that law got put in place". Barbara Howard continued: as a citizen who is at the bottom of the totem pole the only recourse I have is to come to you and to the other Board's in this town, you are our elected officials; you represent me as a citizen. When I write a letter I try to get the word out and have other people see what is going on and I think that all of the articles are important to have because we all need to know everybody's opinions. It is your role to push back at the county and state. We come to you and it is a ripple effect so it starts at the bottom and it goes out and out. FYI at meeting last Wednesday's night it was disclosed that this is a federal mandate and I made an analogy by the thought process behind Work Force Housing; you are going to have builders come in and say I really want to do this but I really can't afford it, so therefore you need to make a special exception. Once Work Force Housing is in I want to start a transportation company to provide affordable transportation to everybody that is getting Work Force Housing, I can't afford to buy the bus, so who is going to guarantee me that I can have my business and purchase a bus to provide affordable transportation. It is never going to end, it is a giant Pandora's Box that is being opened and it is being crammed at us from every angle and you know accepting grants and allowing people to use our name to promote their cause when we don't know about it yet. I don't think that's right. We can't trust what people are saying anymore. We have to be diligent and we have to do everything that we can to protect our town and I feel that's what is happening here and I applaud anybody that is supporting that effort to push back because if we don't push back collectively, where are we, we are no longer citizens we are peons with no rights". David Hussey responded "we also have to push back with restrictions if we don't put restrictions in we've got nothing to control it". Barbara Howard: "I agree with you on that and I agree with what you said, make it so difficult." David Hussey: "I agree with it 100% and that's all I've been saying about Work Force Housing, we have got to put restrictions or we are going to get steamrolled". Barbara Howard: "Simultaneously, we can also say we don't want it and push back, push back, push back". David Hussey: "the

way you say you don't want it you make it so hard that they can't do it, simple as that. But with that point it's still a good idea to go up above and have our representatives say no the state doesn't want it and that is where we need to fight it real hard". Barbara Howard: "That's where the other towns are ho-humming and nobody dares to take that bold step by entering into a lawsuit so if we have to be the trendsetters and leaders in this, let it be, I say more power to us, just food for thought". R. Loring Carr: "I think you have to realize it is not this board that is going to change this RSA; it is Jane Cormier and those people/representatives that have to do something about it down at the state. You can complain to us all you want, we don't have the power to vote it out". Barbara Howard: "So, does this board recognize that those leaders need your support and that they have more confidence moving forward if they know they have the support of the town Selectmen and Planning Board and their constituents". R. Loring Carr: "I can't see how they cannot see it from what I have seen in the audience that keeps coming every time we have Work Force Housing. We are going to have another meeting Thursday; I can imagine this room will be packed again". Barbara Howard: "And Wednesday it is at the Gilman Library at 6:00 PM". R. Loring Carr: "The ZAC is meeting Thursday". David Hussey: "Let me ask this, if we wanted to could we as a town write a letter to our reps and say that this is a huge issue and we would like it addressed". Barbara Howard: "I make a motion you do that, please". Marc DeCoff: "We can have Russ draft a letter". David Hussey: "There you go, Russ likes drafting letters".

Non-Public Session

R. Loring Carr made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3,II(a) personnel (c) character/reputation and (e) claims/litigation and David Hussey seconded with all in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary