

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 19, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Alton Town Hall

=====
Chairman Hussey convened the meeting at 6:00 pm, present were the following members of the Board and staff:

David Hussey, Chairman
Stephen McMahon, Selectman
R. Loring Carr, Selectman
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Chairman Hussey led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda

L. Carr asked to add "Walk-about Through Public Buildings" to the agenda. L. Carr motioned to accept the agenda as amended and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gilman Home Community Assistance Program

Mark Blanchette, Chairman of the Gilman Home, spoke about the history of the home. He discussed the use of the home for caring for the elderly, per the last will and testament by Oliver Gilman. He reported that a disbursement committee was formed to help administer funds to the elderly in the town of Alton. The assistance will include fuel and utility services in the future. Applications will be available at the Town Hall and can be mailed in for review and approval. S. McMahon asked about the funding of the assistance program, and M. Blanchette explained the trust fund that was set up by Mr. Gilman.

Highway Department – Stockbridge Corners

Ken Roberts, Director, Alton Highway Department, spoke about the upgrades and changes proposed to the Stockbridge Corners/Route 28 intersection. He spoke about the replacement of a few culverts and paving. He noted there would be no trees cut in the project. The public hearing for the work the state will be doing was held last week at Prospect Mountain High School. At the corner of Valley Road/Stockbridge Corner Road there has been flooding in the past but a culvert will be replaced to help to keep this from happening. He explained that the road would be shut down for good until the culvert has been replaced and then the road would be opened once the project was completed. He spoke about other details of the project, such as re-setting shoulder lines, grading, paving, and other details. He presented plans and drawings to the meeting attendees.

Peter Ferrell commented on the area and stated it had become a heavily populated area. He spoke about the traffic increase in the area and noted that there was limited sight distance at the intersection. He spoke about the double line in the road and asked it to be put back once the paving was completed because he felt it helped with drivers' awareness.

Lawrence Tilley spoke about his concerns with speeders on the road and safety issues. He felt that widening the road would only make this issue worse.

Ken Roberts stated the issues with speeding can be brought to the police department. He noted that the road was classified to be suitable for six-ton load limit for trucks. There will be more speed limit signs posted and the road is a thirty-five mile-per-hour road. He spoke about some of the discussions and decisions the Selectmen will have to make concerning the double lines in the road. There was discussion about the truck weight limit posting on the road.

Places Mill Road Bridge

Ken Roberts spoke about this history of Places Mill Road Bridge and the need for the rebuild.

Bob Durfrey, Engineer, DuBoise and Kane, presented the study and report of the Places Mill Bridge. He reported that the state will reimburse the town for eighty percent of the project. The bridge is sixteen and one-half feet wide and is considered a narrow bridge. He noted that it is posted for three tons. The bridge does not have the flood clearance that it should have at this time, per the DOT. The site is relatively remote and has low traffic volumes. There is an old stone dam near the bridge, which is of historic significance, so there will be no impact to the dam with the bridge replacement.

B. Durfrey presented three possible designs for the bridge. He spoke about the dimensions of the bridges and options that could be considered for the bridges. He spoke about the construction, road closure, and cost. The cost of the bridge would be between \$520,000 and \$540,000, depending on which design was chosen. He recommended the arch design should be chosen.

There was a question about when the measurement of the bridge was taken, especially at the bottom of the stream to the bottom of the bridge that is currently in place. B. Durfrey explained that the measurement was taken from the bottom of the stream.

Ruth Larson asked about the cost issues and the aesthetic issues with the bridge. She spoke about her concerns with speed on the bridge/road, and asked why the current bridge could not be repaired/upgraded. B. Durfrey stated that upgrading the bridge would not be cost feasible to bring it up to the current requirements. He presented photos from other similar projects for R. Larson to review. He spoke about the guardrail recommended for the bridge and noted that the bridge would be continued three feet beyond where it was set now.

Cindy Miller noted that the bridge would be widened by twenty-four feet and asked if the road would also be widened by that same amount. B. Durfrey responded that the road would taper at that place. C. Miller noted there was a pink marker on a tree and asked if that is where the road would taper. B. Durfrey explained that marker was just a placemark and not a tree to be cut or a place where any changes would be made in the road.

Ruth Larson asked if the proposed guardrail would interfere with a driveway near the bridge and B. Durfrey explained that it would not. She asked about truck tonnage that would be allowed on the bridge and B. Durfrey explained that it would be compliant with a seventy-two ton truck, which would be like a fully-loaded logging truck.

L. Carr motioned to proceed with the pre-cast arch bridge and S. Hussey seconded the motion. L. Carr stated he would like to review some of the aesthetic issues. B. Durfrey explained that preliminary design would be presented to the DOT and then after the final design was done, then they would review their choices for guardrails and other options. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Carr motioned to recess as the Board of Selectmen and to re-convene as the Board of Health. S. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Health convened at approximately 6:53 pm.

Board of Health

Tom Varney, Varney Engineering, presented the request for a septic waiver for Map 35; Lot 55. The proposed leech bed would be in a right of way off Route 28-A. There was discussion about the current placement of the well on the property and the current septic. D. Hussey spoke about the number of bedrooms in the house and noted that the septic design was for just two bedrooms. L. Carr noted that there were three bedrooms in the house. D. Hussey felt that house should be considered to be a two bedroom house and there should be something in writing from the owners. T. Varney explained that this would be the only state-approved septic in the area and noted that owners are only at the camp from May – September. This septic system would not be polluting the lake. There was discussion about the options for septic systems for this lot. L. Carr suggested that the Selectmen should table this request until after their seminar with the DES next week.

L. Carr motioned to table the request until after May 10, 2010 and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Carr motioned to recess as the Board of Health and to re-convene as the Board of Selectmen. S. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Health convened at approximately 7:25 pm.

Town Administrator's Report

E. Russell Bailey reported on a schedule change for a car wash to be done by a group from the school, that had been approved by the Board at a previous meeting.

E. Russell Bailey reported that the Alton Business Association would be setting up activities for children at the B&M Railroad Park for Old Home Day. He asked the Board if there were any objections and noted this would not conflict with activities planned by Parks and Recreation Department. There were no objections.

E. Russell Bailey reported that one of the two trash compacters that had been approved for the landfill was being installed. The old compactor will be replaced.

There was discussion about the application for special events and the upcoming road race.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Meeting Minutes

L. Carr motioned to approve the meeting minutes from April 5, 2010 and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Carr motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the April 9, 2010 workshop and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on Land Use Items as Recommended by Town Assessor

L. Carr motioned to approve the timber tax warrant, 2010-2011 intent to cut timber, gravel tax warrant, 2010-2011 gravel intents, Veteran's credit, disabled exemption, elderly exemption, and 2009 abatements. S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Host Grant

E. Russell Bailey spoke about the \$750 grant payroll award to participate in the 2010 New Hampshire Lakes Association Lake Host Program. There will be a monitor to check boats entering the lake for milfoil.

L. Carr motioned to approve the request for Lake Host and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Russell Bailey noted that Milfoil Committee has requested to have seven members. L. Carr motioned to approve the request of the milfoil committee to increase the number of members on the committee to seven members. D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Boat Museum Request

The New Hampshire Boat Museum requested to use the Alton Bay Town Docks to hold the 34th Annual Alton Bay Boat Show on Saturday, August 14. L. Carr motioned to approve the request made by the New Hampshire Boat Museum as presented and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Workshop

There will be a workshop for the Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. L. Carr motioned to have a senior member of the Board of Selectmen chair the meeting and D. Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State/Town Recommendations

D. Hussey motioned to discontinue town standards set backs on septic systems and to go with the state recommendations set by NH DES set backs and if they do not meet the standards of the state they need to come back to the Alton Board of Selectmen before they send it to the state. L. Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Head Update

There will be a Department Head Update on May 10, 2010.

Public Input #2

Raymond Howard asked about the set-back requirements.

Non-Public Session

D. Hussey motioned to move the meeting into non-public session to discuss matters covered under RSA 91-A:3,II (a) (c) and (e) and S. McMahon seconded the motion. The Chairman polled each member who voted in the affirmation and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting moved into non-public session at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis
Recorder

Minutes Approved: May 19, 2010