

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
May 3, 2021
(Approved - May 17, 2021)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

V. MacDonald announced the following:

Until Further Notice: To keep our members and staff safe, and to comply with RSA 91-A, the State of Emergency, and Governor's Orders, restrictions on public gatherings, The Town of Alton is moving from "in-person" meetings to "remote audio participation meetings". To remotely attend the meeting (audio only) visit our website: www.alton.nh.gov for telephone access and remote access instructions listed under News and Announcements on the home page or telephone the Selectmen's Office 603-875-2113 or 603-875-0229 between 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM for the Dial-in Code and Meeting ID for each Selectmen's Meeting.

V. MacDonald led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Virgil MacDonald, Chairman
Paul LaRochelle, Vice Chairman
Reuben Wentworth, Excused Absence
Bob Holt, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the agenda and B. Mitchell seconded. B. Holt asked if there would be any Non-Public tonight. L. Dionne asked under what letter he would like to go in under. B. Holt stated that he would like to go in under "a". P. LaRochelle amended his motion to include Non-Public and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

Announcements

None

Submission of Public Comments - Questions - Concerns

- Response to Public Comments

To: Alton Board of Selectmen
CC: Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator
From: Scott Kinmond, Public Works Director
Re: Response to Mr. Shea's & Ms. Blanchard's Communications to the Board of Selectmen (4/20/21)
Date: April 21, 2021

Dear Honorable Board,

In reviewing the letters received by the Board of Selectmen, from Mr. Richard Shea, of 84 Roberts Cove Rd and Ms. Penelope Blanchard of Powder Mill Rd. I have prepared a response to both communications below:

Richard Shea, 84 Roberts Cove Rd:

After meeting with Highway Manager Ken Roberts, during my orientation I learned that the second phase of Roberts Cove Road, was contingent upon future funding. In review of the plans, it appears that the survey work has been completed, but that the engineering for the drainage would still need to be completed. In reviewing the road with Mr. Roberts, and we both agreed that

there are sections of the roadway which will need to have some closed drainage engineering. It does not appear that a contract for engineering services has occurred, although the survey work was performed by Eckman Engineering, LLC of Portsmouth, NH and I would recommend that we obtain a proposal for engineering of the drainage, and any necessary permitting. We will also need to conduct some borings to determine the subgrade and ledge depths. I would list this road as a priority over Lily Pond Rd., due to the number of properties which are accessed via Roberts Cove Rd.

I was advised by Mr. Roberts that Lily Pond Road was next on his reconstruction list, and would be fit in as funding allowed. I would recommend that as funding allows.

Penelope Blanchard, 238 Powder Mill Rd:

I have reviewed the "Notification Form" dated 4/7/21 from Ms. Blanchard regarding her concerns of heavy truck traffic on Powder Mill Road. I would recommend we investigate resources available to conduct traffic counts with vehicle classifications. This will assist in determining the vehicle road usage. I will check with Chief Heath to see if the PD has a resource or equipment. If the Town is a member of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) they could assist with this resource.

- **Keith DeRosa**

Dear members of the Town of Alton Board of Selectmen and The Conservation Commission,

I am writing to inform you that there are proposed changes to the Bear Pond Area and its surroundings by the Powdermill Skimobile Club and, I believe, the Southeast Land trust (SELT). These clubs allegedly intend to construct new trails, which will utilize the town roadway that the Bear Pond Residences use year-round to access their homes. Myself, along with most of the homeowners, are concerned that we have not been formally notified or alerted to such activities, discussions, or proposed plans by the club(s) or the town. We are also concerned that added stress to a small, quaint twelve-acre pond will have a negative impact on our lifestyle and comfort, as well as become a detriment to the area.

We use Marsh Hill Road as it starts on the New Durham side of Merrymeeting Lake and travels uphill toward Gilman Corner in Alton. Along the way Bear Pond Road (which is our "driveway") branches left at a steep uphill paved grade toward the pond. The Bear Pond residents spend their own time and money continually maintaining the road(s) as needed, as these are Class 6 roads not maintained by New Durham or Alton. It is also necessary for us to spend considerable time plowing and maintaining the road during winter months in order to access to our homes. If a Skimobile trail is added to Bear Pond Road, it would make that effort more difficult.

I myself built a small camp in 2004, lot 71. I finally did this project after 40 plus years spending summers and winters on the lakes in the area. Since 2004 I have been lucky enough to purchase lots 69, 70, 72 and most recently lot 76, which was a town auction sale about two years ago.

Most, if not all the homeowners have written confirmation that we have access to the "Common Area" (lot 81) as described in our deeds (formally as "Pine Crest Acres"). This common area is apparently owned by the town of Alton, though that may need to be reviewed to confirm. Currently there are a couple of boats and a sun canopy stored at the shoreline and we park our cars at the lot above, for which there is only space for two vehicles maximum.

Over the years, and most recently due the stress of the Covid 19 pandemic, we all have seen much more activity on the pond along with new homes being built on Powdermill Road, whose residences also have access to the pond. Additionally, foot traffic and vehicular traffic has increased significantly. Recently more trash, diapers, camp-fires and human waste has had to be cleaned up by myself and other homeowners. Additionally, there have been a number of vehicles, ATV's and dirt bikes that have treaded heavily and greatly disturbed the gravel and hot top along the road.

Myself and my fellow neighbors along Bear Pond Road have always been cordial and friendly to any visitors who have passed by our places to go fishing or take their dog for a walk. These types of activities have never been an issue. We do understand this is a right-of-way. We feel that any additional attention or advertisement by the Skimobile club or SELT or any added trail systems would be disastrous to our road, our home values, and the already crowded pond, which has limited parking and shorefront to begin with.

We would much like the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience and discuss the issue in order to satisfy our needs. While I have tried to write a descriptive account of our thoughts, we have much more information that should be reviewed with you. We can arrange to meet you at the areas in question if that would better help you understand our concerns.

Your thoughtful consideration of our concerns is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Keith A. DeRosa
71 Bear Pond Road

617 549-9682
Keithaderos@comcast.net

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like them to take a ride up to look at it and talk to any other people there. V. MacDonald agreed. The items being stored on the lot need to be looked at as well.

V. MacDonald read a response from the Conservation Commission:

On second thought, let's not get excited just yet. I called SELT and talked to Debbie Goard, who is the land steward for New Durham. SELT has no property or holdings in the Marsh Hill Road area, has not had contact with Powder Mill Snowmobile Club, and is not doing any road construction on Marsh Hill Road. I then talked with Mike Gelinas of PMSC. The club is making a new trail from Merrymeeting Lake to Devil's Den, which crosses Marsh Hill Road. Mike told me that the spring runoff was running down the middle of Marsh Hill Road, so they are doing some grading to get the water off of the road. This project is just getting under way, and there will be more work and clean up over the summer.

*How do you wish to proceed?
Gene*

L. Dionne asked if they would like to set a workshop date. V. MacDonald asked if it could be set up with the residents of the area. He stated that it would be good for late afternoon like 5/5:30. G. Young stated that he would meet them up there when a date is confirmed. Discussion ensued over different concerns with the area.

V. MacDonald read an additional email from Mr. DeRosa:

We (the abutters) appreciate that there are no plans for a Snowmobile trail on Marsh Hill Road, however the reason this was brought up is that there are survey tapes right at the bottom of Bear Pond Road originating at the top of Mt. Bet, which leads us to believe the PMSC wants to access the Pond as well. We are concerned why this is needed.

Additionally, we would still like the letter I sent to go on public record with the Con/Comm. and selectmen regarding the other items within the letter specifically Bear Pond Road access, The pond itself, and the issues we are having with higher use, trash, fires, potential for Milfoil (I neglected to mention earlier), etc. which we feel could have a negative impact on our properties.

Is it the intent of the committee to still file the letter possibly before the next meeting slated for May 3rd?

Thank you again for your help.

Keith DeRosa

71 Bear Pond Road

Appointments

Old Business

1. Highway Department - Loon Cove Road - Red Listed Bridge

S. Kinmond remotely joined the meeting. V. MacDonald asked if he had a chance to look at the bridge. S. Kinmond stated that he did. He has done some research with NH DOT relative to the latest inspection. He has been in contact with a contractor. The contractor should have a price to S. Kinmond by Wednesday. V. MacDonald stated that it needs to go out to bid. S. Kinmond stated that he would just give the Town a rough estimate.

New Business

1. Highway Department - 2021 Fleet Vehicle Purchase

S. Kinmond remained on the line. He presented a memo that is requesting to purchase a 5500 series pick up truck and up-fit with central hydraulics, a dump body, front plow, wing plow, and spreader body. He would also like to modify the current fleet vehicle which is a 2020 5500 to add central hydraulics to it and a wing and sander. It

would maximize efficiency of the Department. V. MacDonald asked if the price included the wing and sander. S. Kinmond stated that the break down gives the price.

B. Mitchell made a motion to have it put out to bid and P. LaRochelle seconded. B. Mitchell asked if it had to be a Dodge. P. LaRochelle stated that it does not as long as it is three bids. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

2. Highway Department - Request to Establish Facebook Page

S. Kinmond remained on the line. He stated that Social Media is the communication tool of today. He would like establish a Facebook page for the Highway Department. It would be set up as a non-comment Facebook page.

B. Mitchell made a motion to let the Highway Department start a Facebook page without comments and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

3. Conservation Commission - Grant Proposal - Eastern Brook Trout Stream Restoration Initiative

G. Young approached the table. He stated that he is here tonight seeking forgiveness. He recently learned that if they wish to apply for a grant that they are supposed to get the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Belknap County Conservation District came to the Conservation Committee about two weeks before the grant was due. He is looking for permission to have Belknap County Conservation apply for the grant. He stated that a rare orchid is found on this property.

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow Conservation Commission to put in for the grant and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

4. Conservation Commission - Plan for Stockbridge Corner Parcels Map 5 Lots 73 & 74

G. Young remained at the table. He stated that these parcels were taken by the Town for taxes. There was a motion at the time to proceed with giving the property over to Conservation. He stated that he got in touch with the Town attorney who informed him in order for the Conservation Commission to take control of the land, properly and permanently, they need to submit a management plan. He stated that the plan is complicated by Prospect Forest Enterprises holding timber rights. V. MacDonald asked L. Dionne to look into if Prospect Forest Enterprises should still hold the timber rights to the lots. G. Young stated that he spoke to the owner and he is willing to give the Town the right of first refusal. B. Holt stated that on the last paragraph of the first page mentioned different lots.

V. MacDonald made a motion to accept the management plan for Lot 73 and 74 Map 5 from Conservation and have it sent to the attorney for a conveyance deed to take ownership of it and B. Holt seconded. G. Young stated that it needs to be management and control. V. MacDonald changed his motion to accept the Forest Management Plan for Lot 74 and Lot 73 Map 5 and convey the rights over to the Conservation board and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

Selectmen Reports

B. Holt stated that he had one concern. He had two residents question him about wearing a mask in Town Hall. The question is do we have the right to mandate masks be worn in Town Hall and he is in favor of it. He stated that he called the chief. He did state that one person mentioned going to court.

B. Mitchell stated that he had people come to him about the parking on Jesus Valley Road.

P. LaRochelle stated that they weren't able to have a Water Bandstand meeting because of the weather. He was informed last Friday from the State for the Marine Patrol and got approval and will get a commit for the water ski show. He stated that they just had their first meeting for the Tiny Home Committee. They selected officers. The Master Plan Committee had narrowed it down to one person.

V. MacDonald stated that the Conservation Committee is getting ready to do Hurd Brook restoration.

Town Administrator Report

L. Dionne presented a memo from the Solid Waste Department in reference to the compactor repairs. She asked the board for permission to allow the Superintendent to speak to them. S. Simmonds remotely joined the meeting. He stated that he is looking for approval to get the compactors repaired. The floor and ram is worn. Every spring these are serviced and checked out. Last year they were fine. They are 11 years old. They need to be repaired as soon as possible. The cost is \$17,235.00 which will come from the Recycling Revolving account. He spoke to the owner of the repair company and it would be approximately \$25,000.00 each to replace them. B. Holt feels they should have something in writing from the company as to what they are doing and the price.

B. Mitchell made a motion to approve \$17,235.00 to Atlantic Recycling for repair of the compactors and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

L. Dionne stated that the next item is that the Governor declared May 2-8 as Municipal Clerks Week. V. MacDonald asked if a plant can be bought for their office. L. Dionne stated that she will take care of it.

L. Dionne stated that the next thing is an upcoming vacancy in the Selectmen's Office. There will be interviews on May 12th.

L. Dionne stated that she is looking for a workshop date in regards to the Personnel Policy review. P. LaRochelle stated that it can be anything other than Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. It is the consensus of the Board that Tuesdays would be best.

Approval of Minutes

April 20, 2021 - Regular

B. Holt made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 20, 2021 as presented and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

April 20, 2021 - Non Public

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Meeting, April 20, 2021 as presented releasing none and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes B. Mitchell, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

Consent Agenda Approval

B. Holt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted on May 3, 2021 and P. LaRochelle seconded.
Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. LaRochelle, yes P. Wittmann, yes
V. MacDonald, yes

1. **Assessing Department**

ADMINISTRATIVE ABATEMENTS

HULBERT; MAP 8 LOT 49-228; 228 FOX TROT; \$223.50
BOGGIS; MAP 8 LOT49-56; 56 FOX TROT; \$25.50
SCOTT; MAP 19 LOT 8-2-32; 1439 WOLFEBORO HIGHWAY #32; \$218.50

Annual Contract Renewal - Whitney Consulting Group, LLC, April 30, 2021 through December 31, 2021

2. **Highway Department - Conditional Hire**

Full Time Truck Driver, David Stephens \$18.17 per hour effective 5/16/2021

3. **Appointment Request**

Milfoil Committee - Thomas Diveny - 2 Year Term expires 3/31/2022

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

- Joseph S. Haas - ConVal Case

L. Dionne stated that her recommendation is to deny the request. The Town of Alton is not in the ConVal School District and this has already been discussed with the Board in June of 2019. It is the consensus of the Board to deny the request.

V. MacDonald moved at 7:14pm to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3,II,a,d. B. Mitchell seconded.

Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Holt - yes
B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

Non-Public Session

B. Mitchell moved at 7:38pm to exit nonpublic session. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Holt - yes
B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

V. MacDonald moved to “not divulge” the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would render the proposed actions of the board ineffective. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Holt - yes
B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:40pm to adjourn. V. MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

R. “Virgil” Macdonald, Chairman

Paul E. LaRochelle, Vice-Chairman

Reuben L. Wentworth, Selectman

Rossiter R. “Bob” Holt, Selectman

Brock Mitchell, Selectman