

## ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes

May 24, 2021

(Approved - June 7, 2021)

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Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:03 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](http://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, Selectman  
Bob Holt, Selectman  
Brock Mitchell, Selectman  
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

#### Announcements

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.

#### Agenda Approval

V. MacDonald stated that he would like to add under Old Business, #4 Pavers down in the Bay, #5 Town Hall Air Conditioners, #6 Community Center, and #7 Personnel, and the Wall down in the Bay under New Business. V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| P. LaRochelle, yes | B. Mitchell, yes  |
| V. MacDonald, yes  | R. Wentworth, yes |

#### Submission of Public Comments - Questions - Concerns

- R. Loring Carr

*Public Input: Alton Selectmen Board Meeting May 17, 2021*

*I wish to thank the Board for reading my public input on May 10<sup>th</sup> which was withheld from the Selectmen's meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the former board chairman's response clarified his previous conflicting answers to my simple question. A Board member asked how a letter dated 3/24/21 addressed to the Board was answered by the EMT and sent out without the entire Board's knowledge? (refer to the board meeting video)*

*The then chairman answered at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting that the Board had directed the Town Administrator to respond to the public input letter. Now at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, he corrected his previous statement and that he directed the Town Administrator to answer the public input question without the boards' knowledge.*

*Furthermore, during his explanation of missing information, his derogatory comments directed at me of calling an unfair foul and the "level of water in a glass"?...should be seen by the other four selectmen and the public for what it is - deflection. Please be assured I will continue to help the Board to provide a higher level of service to the Town of Alton.*

*Yours Sincerely,*

*R. Loring Carr  
Alton resident  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

- Amy Smith

Good Afternoon,

*I read the minutes from the 20 April 2021 Selectmen's minutes and while I do not know Ms. Blanchard I also live on Powder Mill Road and she is correct about speeding truck traffic. There are many large trucks on the road and many of them do speed.*

*I will also agree with Selectman Mitchell that everyone's perception of things can be different I disagree, however, about the large truck comment that there is 'no way someone is speeding with that type of equipment behind their vehicle'. Considering the speed limit on Powder Mill Road is 30 miles per hour, travelling 45 miles per hour is well within the mechanical capability of a large truck hauling equipment and also 50% faster than the posted speed limit. The trucks can and do speed.*

*That being said a thank you to the Selectmen and Chief Heath, I have noticed an increased Police presence on Powder Mill Road and am hoping that coupled with the radar sign will slow drivers down.*

Respectfully,

Amy Smith

B. Holt enters the meeting.

- Richard Shea

Richard Shea  
84 Roberts Cove Rd  
Alton NH  
5/19/21

To the Alton Board of Selectmen:

*I watched the Public Hearings at your 5/17 meeting regarding proposed restrictions to the use of Bay Hill, Old Wolfeboro and Stockbridge Corner Roads. It was readily apparent that attempts to hold such hearings using a combination of remote sites and Zoom participation to receive public testimony was very confusing for all concerned. I applaud the Board for recognizing this and tabling the hearings until a future date when the public can attend in person. In addition to the difficulties in communication, it appeared that holding 3 separate hearings in quick succession on very similar issues resulted in considerable overlap of testimony.*

*Given that Bay Hill Road with its 20% grade and sharp curves is clearly the road which would most benefit from the proposed restrictions on vehicle weight and truck usage, I would like to request that the Board schedule the continuation of the hearing on that road only as soon as public attendance to meetings is allowed. I believe that would lead to positive and needed action by the Board. The other 2 roads could then be addressed at a separate future meeting. This might serve to eliminate confusion and overlapping testimony.*

Thank you.

Richard Shea

## Appointments

None

## Old Business

1. NH Solar Garden - Master NH Land Lease Option Agreement - Membership Agreement - PILOT

R. Wentworth asked if they are looking for approval of this tonight or just questions on the contract. L. Dionne stated that hopefully it will be approved. She needs to check with Attorney Sessler on the PILOT Agreement. It may need to have a public hearing on just the PILOT. Where we own the land, it may not be necessary. R. Wentworth stated that he does not feel comfortable with making a decision tonight. He would like to look at it for a week and review it and come back with questions. B. Holt agrees with R. Wentworth on this issue. He has reservations on this project. P. LaRochelle asked if the Board reviewed this last year. L. Dionne stated that they had. C. Fenner from NH Solar Garden joined the meeting remotely. He highlighted areas of the contract. M. Redding remotely joined the meeting. He explained who would be responsible if the cap on the landfill would get damaged. R. Wentworth stated that last year they were supposed to come back before us with the plans. It sounds like it is still in the first stages. C. Fenner stated that they need to have a signed agreement before they can act on the Town's behalf. P. LaRochelle suggests tabling this until everyone has a chance to read it further. There are many concerns with the solar array being on top of the capped landfill. L. Dionne stated that if we look

into powering the Landfill with some of the power it changes the whole scope of things. It then becomes a PPA. That would significantly affect the Group Net Metering Membership Agreement which is the rebate.

B. Mitchell made a motion to table this until it can be looked over further and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

|                   |                    |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| B. Holt, yes      | P. LaRochelle, yes | B. Mitchell, yes |
| V. MacDonald, yes | R. Wentworth, yes  |                  |

## 2. Highway Department - Wood Chipper Bid

S. Kinmond joined the meeting through Zoom. He explained the packet before them with the memo and bid results. V. MacDonald asked why there are two different prices. S. Kinmond stated that the larger amount includes the extended warranty.

B. Holt made a motion to approve the recommendations to purchase the wood chipper from MB Tractor and Equipment for \$55,521.00 and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

|                   |                    |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| B. Holt, yes      | P. LaRochelle, yes | B. Mitchell, yes |
| V. MacDonald, yes | R. Wentworth, yes  |                  |

## 3. Powder Mill Road

R. Heath remotely joined the meeting. V. MacDonald read a memo from Chief Heath. B. Mitchell asked how many of these vehicles that were stopped were big trucks. R. Heath stated that he knows for sure that at least one and possibly two. The majority of the vehicles stopped were passenger cars and not large commercial vehicles. R. Wentworth asked if it was done for seven consecutive days or was it done sporadically. R. Heath stated that it was done sporadically. Continued enforcement and presence will make a difference.

## 4. Pavers Down in the Bay

R. Wentworth stated that there are some dipping of the pavers in the Bay from Shibley's towards the Community Center. We have talked about it for four years and the sidewalk is still uneven. This might be a good time where there is no road reconstruction to go down and look at it. He would like a plan brought back to the Board to see if it is something that the Highway Department can handle. S. Kinmond rejoined the meeting remotely. He wanted to let the Board know that K. Roberts and himself did view that site. They did talk about the curbing needing to be set in concrete and re-aligned. He is not a huge fan of putting the bricks back in place. They are a high maintenance item. He would like to explore other alternatives that would be a lower maintenance and safer walking surface. R. Wentworth stated that he would be opened to other ideas but ultimately it is the Board's decision.

## 5. Wall Down in the Bay

S. Kinmond remained on the line. P. LaRochelle has questions about the wall in the Bay that was damaged. He asked what the status was on the repair. S. Kinmond stated that he spoke to K. Troendle and originally he was going to have the Highway Crew do the repair on the wall. K. Troendle did say that she was going to have B. Berry do the repair as she feels he is quite capable. He will check with K. Troendle and see what the status of this is in the morning.

## 6. Town Hall Air Conditioners

P. LaRochelle stated that last year it was discussed about the air handlers outside of Town Hall. They need to pick up the ball on that again and see if they can get that done.

## 7. Community Center

P. LaRochelle stated that the Alton Bay Community Center last year needed a little bit of work done. The building does need to be scrapped and painted. Railings need to be replaced. Deck boards that need to be replaced. The roof needs to be thought of as well.

8. Personnel

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow the Town Employees to be able to come in front of the Board and talk to us if they have a problem. As it stands now, they don't dare to talk to us. If employees are leaving, then we should be able to bring them before us for Exit Interviews. R. Wentworth stated that we are not stopping any employee from coming before the Board. V. MacDonald stated that we are. R. Wentworth stated that if there is a grievance than there is a policy for that and a chain of command that needs to be followed. B. Mitchell seconded the motion. B. Mitchell asked what if it is the top of the ladder that are disagreeing. R. Wentworth stated that if all procedures were followed and the Department Head was denied than the Town Administrator would be called on the carpet. B. Mitchell stated that he knows for a fact that a letter was brought forth that someone wanted a Public Meeting and nothing ever came of it. B. Mitchell asked if the other four Board member received a letter. None of the other members had. R. Wentworth stated that he feels that this discussion belongs in Non-Public Session. R. Wentworth stated that he believes that this is in reference to an employee that B. Mitchell is close to. B. Mitchell stated that he is not voting on anything. He is only bringing up a topic that should have been brought up.

New Business

1. Fire Department - Inflatable Donation

J. Beaudoin joined the meeting through Zoom.

V. MacDonald made a motion allow the Fire Chief to give back the 9' boat and accept the 12' boat and B. Mitchell seconded. V. MacDonald asked if the 12' boat was in good shape. J. Beaudoin stated that it was. It is a very nice looking boat. We have put it in the water and floated it. It holds air. It is going to make a difference in the smaller ponds having more personnel. The 9' boat was a good try but just a little small for what we are doing and is unsafe. Roll call vote:

|                   |                    |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| B. Holt, yes      | P. LaRochelle, yes | B. Mitchell, yes |
| V. MacDonald, yes | R. Wentworth, yes  |                  |

2. Fire Department - Snowmobile Return

J. Beaudoin remained on the line. He explained that in 2009 the Association donated two snowmobiles on a trailer. With the airboat for the ice and the six wheel UTV with the tracks, the snowmobiles have become obsolete. We can do so much more with the other vehicles and much safer. He would like to return the two snowmobiles and trailer back to the association.

B. Mitchell made a motion to allow the Chief to return the snowmobiles and trailer and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

|                   |                    |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| B. Holt, yes      | P. LaRochelle, yes | B. Mitchell, yes |
| V. MacDonald, yes | R. Wentworth, yes  |                  |

Selectmen Reports

B. Holt had nothing to report.

R. Wentworth had nothing to report.

B. Mitchell had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that the Water Bandstand Committee met this past weekend. They went out and inspected and cleaned the entire Water Bandstand. It is in good shape. The woodwork is still good. They have to repaint the deck and touch up some of the paint.

V. MacDonald had nothing to report.

**Town Administrator Report**

L. Dionne stated that she had one item tonight. She would like to ask the Board to allow the Public Works Director to speak in regards to a request to use the Cemetery Departments mini excavator. S. Kinmond remotely joined the meeting through Zoom. He stated that he contacted the Town Administrator earlier today regards to seeking permission to utilize the Cemetery mini excavator. We are working on Powder Mill Road tomorrow and prepping areas for paving before Memorial Day. The request comes because normally we have a great relationship with the Water Department but they are involved tomorrow with opening up an area for their road project at School Street and Church Street. L. Dionne called Attorney Sessler today on this. In this particular case it is equivalent to a swap of services. The Town Attorney said if you want to approve that you may. If you choose not to that is fine too. Discussion ensued about some of the concerns with approving this.

R. Wentworth made a motion to allow the Public Works Director to use the Cemetery excavator for the purpose of use on Powder Mill Road for the Highway Department in lieu of services that the Highway Department had given to the Cemetery Department over the last month and P. LaRochelle seconded. V. MacDonald stated that they need to take a good look at that trust. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes                      P. LaRochelle, yes                      B. Mitchell, yes  
V. MacDonald, no              R. Wentworth, yes

**Approval of Minutes**

May 10, 2021 - Regular

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 10, 2021 as presented and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

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

May 10, 2021 - Non Public

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public May 10, 2021 as presented releasing #1 only and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

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

**Consent Agenda Approval**

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

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

**1. Assessing Department**

**LAND USE CHANGE TAXES**

DUHAIME & COVEL; MAP 8 LOT 3-8; 64 INGALLS TERRACE; \$6,800  
KLEIN; MAP 15 LOT 15-10; RIDGE ROAD; \$6,850  
DOWNING HOMES LLC; MAP 15 LOT 15-20; RIDGE ROAD; \$6,950  
LUTI; MAP 15 LOT 15-21; RIDGE ROAD; \$7,500  
KLEIN; MAP 15 LOT 15-22; RIDGE ROAD; \$7,450

**TIMBER TAX**

74 VALLEY ROAD LLC; MAP 6 LOT 37-7; DOBBINS WAY; \$558.17  
LETOURNEAU; MAP 12 LOT 42; OLD WOLFEBORO ROAD; \$783.84  
HEATH; MAP 10 LOT 26-1; ALTON MOUNTAIN ROAD; \$24.33

KANE; MAP 8 LOT 14; YOUNGTOWN ROAD; \$4,944.14

**ADMINISTRATIVE ABATEMENTS**

RIMBAUD; MAP 54 LOT 11-7; ROGER STREET; \$40  
STONE; MAP 19 LOT 8-2-1; WOLFEBORO HIGHWAY; \$13  
MCCUSKER; 19-8-2-69; WOLFEBORO HIGHWAY; \$106  
DUCHARME; MAP 65-17-38; LOCOMOTIVE DRIVE; \$53.81

**2. Grounds & Maintenance Department - Conditional Hire**

Maintenance Laborer, Jarrett Moline \$13.42 per hour effective 6/14/2021

**3. Police Department - Conditional Hire**

Part-Time Police Officer, Jason Russell Leavitt \$20.67 per hour effective 5/24/2021

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

- Michael Fruin

L. Dionne stated that she recommends 5-10 minutes for this appointment.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the request of Michael Fruin for 5-10 minutes and B. Holt seconded. R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and B. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

|                   |                    |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| B. Holt, yes      | P. LaRochelle, yes | B. Mitchell, yes |
| V. MacDonald, yes | R. Wentworth, yes  |                  |

**Non-Public Session**

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:48pm to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3,II,c (reputation). R. Wentworth seconded. Roll call vote:

|                    |                     |   |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| V. MacDonald - yes | P. LaRochelle - yes | R. Wentworth - yes                        |
| R. Holt - yes      | B. Mitchell - yes   | <u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u> |

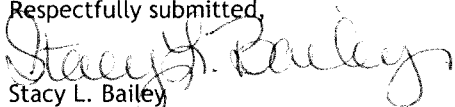
V. MacDonald moved at 8:10pm to exit nonpublic session. R. Wentworth seconded. Roll call vote:

|                    |                     |   |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| V. MacDonald - yes | P. LaRochelle - yes | R. Wentworth - yes                        |
| R. Holt - yes      | B. Mitchell - yes   | <u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u> |

**Adjournment**

V. MacDonald moved at 8:11pm to adjourn. P. LaRochelle seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy L. Bailey  
Recording Secretary