

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
July 13, 2020
Approved – July 20, 2020

Chairman Wentworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and K. Roberts, Highway Manager led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Reuben Wentworth, Chairman
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
Paul LaRochelle, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

R. Wentworth announced:

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. There continues to be no Public Input at this time. If you wish to have something read into the record, please call the Selectmen’s Office at 603-875-2113 or 603-875-0229 or email the Selectmen at selectmen@alton.nh.gov, or mail a letter to the Board of Selectmen at PO Box 659, Alton, NH 03809. Your comments, questions or concerns will be read at the next available meeting and answered at that meeting or the next available meeting.

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle requested amending the agenda adding to New Business #7 Route 28, Cemetery Complaint and #8 SUP NH Paddleboard Company.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and V. MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Announcements

None

Submission of Public Comments - Questions - Concerns

- Jonathan Downing - Harmony Park Wall

R. Wentworth read the following into the record as submitted by Jonathan Downing:

After much consideration Steve Childs and I took a poll on June 26, 2020 on the “Alton Bay Community Group”. The conclusion was overwhelming ...for over 100 people responding that the wall as planned needs a better solution.

We are requesting the following:

#1 STOP ALL WORK.

#2 Form a five person Committee to make recommendations to the BOS on how to render a better Solution.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Jonathan H Downing, Architect

R. Wentworth asked for clarification of what the Alton Bay Community Group is; clarified a Facebook Page. Discussion ensued amongst the Board members. V. MacDonald suggested they put a Warrant Article in front of the people if they want the wall changed let the people vote on it. B. Holt voiced concern of the project not being finished to date. P. LaRochelle agrees with B. Holt the need for getting this done. P. Wittmann feels that enough time has gone by for getting the project complete; suggested to put pressure on GMI to complete the project.

V. MacDonald made a motion to not write another check to GMI until the Town receives a signed Engineering print from them.

Further Discussion: Once the cease and desist took place and work stopped then they move onto their next project and now the Town has to wait for scheduling availability. There was a reason for GMI pulling their equipment. R. Wentworth called upon K. Roberts, Highway Manager to speak on the subject. A request for the next agenda is to vote on a signed Engineering Print. R. Wentworth voiced he has no problem with the wall, it has grown on him and agrees with V. MacDonald to finish the project. If there were 3000 names on a petition it might have more credibility which would be more than half of the registered voters of the Town. There has not been any further feedback and the last thing that is needed is another committee. It is unfortunate that GMI has not been back to finish however it is their busy season with reasoning explained and understood as a contractor with the cease and desist being ordered by the Town. If people want this changed then they should petition the Town putting an amount of money within the petition to tear down what is in place and replace with a rock wall. K. Roberts explained the circumstances from GMI's standpoint. They are trying to squeeze this project into their schedule. It is unfortunate that we put a stop to the work in the springtime. The Highway Department has done the best they can to clean and secure the area. The wall was engineered when it was raised due to the encountered ledge; it was approved by Michie Corp. when the rip-rap was placed in front of it. V. MacDonald still feels an engineered print should be in the Town's possession. K. Roberts commented that the private wall will be at least 75-days for the permitting process. It is the consensus of the Board that they do not agree with the submission with reservations voiced by B. Holt.

R. Wentworth made a motion to deny the request by Jonathan Downing to stop all work at Harmony Park and forming a 5 person committee to make recommendations to the BOS and V. MacDonald seconded.

Further Discussion: B. Holt stated he would be voting against this, feeling that there was not enough discussion. There is still the issue of the project not being complete. A committee might be able to get things done. This project was compared to other projects within Town.

The motion on the table was called. Roll call vote:

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

R. Wentworth requested that a letter be sent to J. Downing informing him of the denial.

Appointments:

None

New Business:

1. Water Bandstand Committee - Water Bandstand - DES Permit

P. LaRochelle met with Cindy Balcius, Stoney Ridge. This is for the State permitting fees for the Water Bandstand for the crib work.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the request to withdraw \$400 from the Water Bandstand Capital Reserve Fund for the Water Bandstand Committee and seconded by P. Wittmann.

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

2. Highway Department - Tree Removal Bid Recommendation - Range Road

The results of the three (3) bid were stated \$47,000, \$24,900 & \$46,000, concerns with the difference in pricing were questioned by K. Roberts. He met with Belknap Landscaping Co. who assured him that they will have a crane on the job. The work will be followed closely. There is no question on Belknap's part regarding the job at hand; they fully understand and will stand by the job and K. Roberts explained the job expectations to them.

B. Holt made a motion to approve Belknap Landscaping Co., Gilford, NH in the amount of \$24,990 for the Tree Removal Bid on Range Road estimated time September 15th (date changed to July 20th) as presented and V. MacDonald seconded.

Further Discussion: K. Roberts noted that the date has been moved up to July 20th.

The motion on the table was called with the date change. Roll call vote:

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

3. Highway Department - Easement - Depot Street Spur

The Easement was presented from NH Electric Coop and Union Telephone Co. for the spur off Depot Street. The ROW area was questioned for the poles.

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

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

4. Highway Department - Avery Hill Road - Water Issues

K. Roberts stated, that when the road was rebuilt in 2006 no ditch lines were installed due to an existing stone wall with the previous owner maintaining the area. Since, the property has sold. Erosion as well as wheel ruts are beginning in the roadway. Stone ($\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$) has been placed and everything has been cleaned up. A ditch line was placed with satisfaction from the property owner. K. Roberts informed the Board that previously the Highway Department wanted to ditch that whole side of the road however the previous property owner would not allow which is why it was not done. This area will be monitored over the next couple of months. It was recommended that L. Dionne send a letter to the homeowner informing them of the remedy.

The consensus of the Board was to send a letter to the homeowner informing them of the outcome. Roll call consensus:

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

5. Grounds & Maintenance - B&M Railroad Park - Trail Parking

Photos and a memo from K. Troendle, Grounds and Maintenance and an email and letter from J. Dever, Code Official were provided to the Board regarding parking at the B&M Parking Area behind Village Pizza. Private Parking signs have been placed on Town property showing that they are reserved for private use. The poles were originally placed to keep people from parking on the Town's property. K. Roberts suggested installing a guardrail from the fence to Old Wolfeboro Road. V. MacDonald would like to see Public Parking signs placed.

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow K. Roberts to remove all signage currently in place, add a Public Parking Sign for the Town of Alton per order of the Selectmen and place guardrails and seconded by P. Wittmann.

Further Discussion: B. Holt questioned the Public Parking; sign versus signs; it would be one (1) sign. The signage that is being removed can be picked up at the Highway Department as a courtesy to the owners of the signs.

The motion on the table was called. Roll call vote:

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

6. Bay Parking (Selectman B. Holt)

B. Holt has had some complaints regarding parking in the Bay area, especially on the East Side. He is currently investigating fines with other Towns. He will bring this forward at a later date; postponed.

7. Route 28 , New Riverside Cemetery Complaint

P. LaRochelle has received some complaints regarding the New Riverside Cemetery grass being burnt asking why the sprinklers are not on, why it looks like a gravel pit and that things have not been done recently. R. Wentworth asked L. Dionne to contact the Cemetery Department to see whether there is a problem with the water at the location. It is believed that there are just sprinklers and hoses. P. LaRochelle brought forth the Engineering that was discussed last year. This is something that is being worked on but has not happened yet. K. Roberts had previously put a list together when previously discussed of what needs to be done, a bid package will need to be put together and presented to the Board for approval. After the previous meeting, landscaping and seeding was done, money was needed by a Warrant Article then the COVID situation came into play so nothing has been done. The biggest concern is the grass being so dry. R. Wentworth asked L. Dionne to contact the Cemetery Department regarding the water issue. B. Holt mentioned he had brought this up at various meetings over the years and was told it would be taken care of. This was a project that the previous Cemetery Trustees brought forward then the Highway Department got saddled with it. Gravel was taken from the area with more that can be taken for road use. K. Roberts talked about the potentials, the ledge, probing, borings, loam, etc. There is still a lot of good material at the location which may be needed onsite. It will be beneficial to hire an engineer to get their thoughts on getting this moving. Bid Specs will need to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review.

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with bid specifications (RFP) by submitting to the Board for review. Roll call consensus:

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

8. SUP NH Paddleboard Company

P. LaRochelle informed the Board that this issue was brought to his attention by a couple of people. The company is located in the building formerly known as the Blue Jay. There are two (2) issues; placing orange cones directly on the sidewalk which doesn't allow people to pull in to get into the Post Office. Recently they have been utilizing the public boat ramp to launch the paddleboards. R. Wentworth suggests that this should be turned over to J. Dever, Code Official and the Planning Department to look into it further. It would be good to have a letter of concern written to the Board for further resolution.

It was the consensus of the Board to turn this over to J. Dever, Code Official and the Planning Department. Roll call consensus:

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

R. Wentworth suggested and recommended that people should be writing letters to the Selectmen or submitting it to the Town Offices.

Old Business:

1. No Parking Scenic View - DOT Response

A letter from DOT was received for No Parking Zones along Route 11 in the vicinity of the Mount Major Parking lot. An email was provided to the Board from the Police Chief.

V. MacDonald made a motion to allow the State to put up the No Parking signs along the guardrail sections of Route 11, Mt. Major area and have the Police Department guarantee enforcement and P. Wittmann seconded. Roll call vote

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

At this time, Jack Savage, President, Society for the Protection of NH Forests remotely joined the meeting. R. Wentworth informed Mr. Savage that he would like to set up a time to meet with the Forest Society to discuss the trails, litter, parking lot issues at Mt. Major and other trail locations. The Forest Society has some of the same concerns as the Board does; these are not easily resolved. The Town Administrator will contact the Forest Society to set up a time for a meeting.

2. Roberts Cove (Select Chair R. Wentworth)

V. MacDonald actually has concerns about access to Lake Winnepesaukee from the Roberts Cove Beach area. There was a snow fence placed there all winter. K. Roberts was invited to join the discussion. The Easement is specific and K. Roberts read the sign that is posted at the area. The post is removed in the winter months for access to the lake. Access has not been denied, they are allowing access to snowmobiles and bobhouses. L. Dionne noted that there is a set of minutes that was provided to the Board from November 9, 2015 which answers exactly the question and goes along with the Easement. Again, in the minutes of June 1, 2015 it reflects that snowmobile are allowed access through the area. R. Wentworth stated that unless you can find a safe way for vehicles to access without destroying the area then it will remain as it is. Rights are not being taken away.

Selectmen Reports

B. Holt had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle met with the Water Bandstand Committee discussing the August 22nd Ski Show (rain date August 23rd) following the EMT guidelines. There will be a band playing on August 14th on the Water Bandstand.

P. Wittmann will be meeting with the Old Home Week Committee on Wednesday. The Car Show will be on August 16th and possibly the Fire Department BBQ on August 15th which would make up the weekend and could be considered an Old Home Weekend. As far as the EMT meeting all looks good for the Committee for the Car Show, Food Trucks and live entertainment. ABA may be involved with the food trucks.

V. MacDonald had nothing to report.

R. Wentworth noted that there were budget expenses provided to the Board in their mailboxes through the month of June. He encouraged the Board to review for discussion at next week's meeting under New Business. In addition, the Town Administrator will have revenue expenses on property taxes. It is his understanding that they are exceeding what is normal at this time. The Board should look at the budget expenses and revenues to voice their concerns. Last week at the EMT meeting it was discussed to include within each department's budgets for items for cleaning, etc.; Parks and Recreation does the bulk of it. It will be expected that the budgets for general supplies may be increasing. EMT is looking into masks.

Town Administrator Report by L. Dionne

L. Dionne has nothing to report.

Approval of Minutes

July 6, 2020 - Regular

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Session, July 6, 2020 as presented and P. Wittmann seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, abstain
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

July 6, 2020 - Non-Public

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Session, July 6, 2020 as submitted sealing #1 & #2 and P. Wittmann seconded. Roll call vote:

B. Holt, yes P. Wittmann, yes P. LaRochelle, abstain
V. MacDonald, yes R. Wentworth, yes

Consent Agenda Approval

P. Wittmann made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted on July 6, 2020 and P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

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

1. **Assessing Department.**
Timber Tax
D'Angelo, Wolfboro Highway, 8-44 / 8-45, \$1,399.32
2. **Solid Waste Department.**
End of Probation, Paul Levesque, Gate Attendant, \$14.41/hr. to \$14.66/hr., effective 05/18/20.

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

None

Non-Public Session:

None

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM and P. Wittmann seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. Jarvis

Mary K. Jarvis
Recording Secretary