

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

July 26, 2021

(Approved - August 9, 2021)

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

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

Agenda Approval

V. MacDonald added #3 4 Pine Street Update to Old Business. R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

- The Public Participation Policy applies to all Selectmen meetings. A copy of it is on the back of each agenda, posted in this meeting room, and on our website.

Approval of Minutes

July 12, 2021 - Public Session

B. Holt made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021 Public Session and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

July 12, 2021 - Non-Public Session

V. MacDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021 Non-Public Session releasing none and B. Holt seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Line 5 under Item #1 and V. MacDonald seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Fire Department

Lieutenant to Firefighter, Kyle Russel, \$16.29 to \$14.67, effective 7/20/2021

Captain/AEMT/FF1 to Captain/AEMT/FF2, Patrick O'Brien, \$21.64 to \$21.89, effective 5/25/2021

FF/AEMT to FF/Paramedic, Matthew Johnson, \$16.86 to \$20.36, effective 6/2/2021

Paramedic, Mark Beetz, \$18.36 to \$18.61, End of Probation, 8/5/2021

2. Assessing Department

Land Use Change Taxes

West Alton Marina, LLC; Map 17 Lot 27; West Alton Marina Road; \$70,000

Lot 17-11 LLC; Map 17 Lot 11; West Alton Marina Road; \$7,410

West Alton Marina, LLC; Map 61 Lot 1; Mauhaut Shores Road; \$80,550

Public Hearing - 6:05 PM

6:05 pm - Old Wolfeboro Road from Main Street to Route 28

V. MacDonald opened the Public Hearing for Old Wolfeboro Road at 6:05 pm.

Dave Hussey approached the table. He asked what part of Old Wolfeboro Road this was. Is there any procedural way why the Board decided to shut a road down. Are there any procedures. He was possibly for shutting it down until this weekend. Took

him a half an hour to get from his house to the circle. Took him 15 minutes to get from the post office to the circle. He went over to the Legion and it took him 45 minutes enough for him to turn around and go to Old Wolfeboro Road down Coffin Brook Road and went the back way to his house. We are going to throw more traffic on that circle. It doesn't even make sense. I can see no tractor trailers going that route. He can't see shutting down all the locals so they have to go through the circle on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and spend all that time in the circle. I couldn't get someone to bring over stone dust. He couldn't make it through the circle. That is his reasoning for Old Wolfeboro. He can see tractor trailers but not the local boys being shut off that road.

B. Mitchell asked how many people here are for shutting the road down. There is one. R. Wentworth stated that his feeling for shutting it down is mostly for tractor trailers. Equipment carriers coming down and tractor trailers do not belong on there. Car carriers do not belong coming down Old Wolfeboro or going up it. They can't tell him that it is easier going up that hill than going to the circle. He is not against all trucks. Some of these town roads are neighborhoods now. They are not just country town roads anymore. P. LaRochelle stated that he agrees with both R. Wentworth and D. Hussey. There is no need for 18-wheelers coming down that short section of road and trying to make a left hand turn in traffic and going almost on the curbing. B. Holt stated that they would have to discuss what the signage would be to make it legal. We would have to get the Police Chief to come in and tell us what would be legal that can be enforced.

Joe MacDonald approached the table. He has lived in this town most of his life. Why do you want to post Stockbridge Corner Road. V. MacDonald stated that we are not on that road yet. We are doing Old Wolfeboro Road. J. MacDonald stated that years ago this discussion came up at Town Meeting and was decided then any road that was fixed in the Town of Alton from that point on would be fixed for all traffic. You people are the ones that changed that section of Old Wolfeboro Road by closing off one entrance. It is not a safety issue if the road is put back the way it should be.

K. Roberts approached the table. We have a problem. If that was done by the Town way back when not to rehabilitate roads but rebuild the roads. He explained what is done when rebuilding roads. Most of these were never dug up so the sub-base was never changed. We can't afford that. Just rehabbing a road is about \$1.2 million a mile. The Town never rebuilt a roadway, they rehab the surfaces and the drainage. They are not designed for heavy hauling.

J. MacDonald approached the table again. When he was a kid it was discussed at Town Meeting. You don't need to scrape out every road. You can't say that road is coming apart because of heavy haulers.

D. Hussey approached that table again. Did he just hear that all the roads that were put in are sub-standard. V. MacDonald stated that they are not substandard they are rehabbed.

Scott Williams approached the table. The roads that the Town rebuilds are a different road than if he were to build. Not all roads have been rebuilt to that specification. It met the criteria that the Board put forward.

V. MacDonald closes the Public Hearing at 6:17 pm.

V. MacDonald stated that they should seriously look at changing the corner at the bottom. R. Wentworth stated that he doesn't think they would get the site distance from the State.

P. LaRochelle stated that they need to talk to the Chief about proper signage that can be adapted on the short section of Old Wolfeboro Road from Route 28 to Main Street. See if you can change it to certain vehicles like 18 wheelers and discontinue the use of 18 wheelers using that road.

### Old Business

#### 1. Assessing Department - 2020 Abatement Recommendations

Robb Jutton approached the table. He stated that he has two abatement applications. Neither one of which supplied their information on time therefore they are both denied. They are very simply McDonalds who was asked to supply financial information. They don't like to share their financial data. They said they needed to close their dining room for some period of time during COVID. He doesn't recommend to approve that. The other one is a gentleman who scheduled an appointment and couldn't make it and then never made contact to re-schedule. In light of that had assumed that his assessment was pretty fair. There is nothing else to do. The information was not supplied to the Assessing Office timely.

V. MacDonald made a motion that they deny application Map 21 Lot 1-4, 141 Clay Point Road and Map 26 Lot 11, Golden Arch LTD Partnership, 15 Homestead Place and R. Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### New Business

#### 1. Highway Department - Decommissioning 2006 Dodge Pick up

S, Kinmond approached the table. There was a minimum set on Municibid of \$1,000.00 and there were no bids. He is requesting to lower the minimum to \$500.00. V. MacDonald asked how bad of shape the truck is. S. Kinmond stated that it is pretty bad.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to lower the minimum bid to \$500.00 and rebid it on Municibid and R. Wentworth seconded with all in favor of the bid.

### Town Administrator Report

L. Dionne received three premium holidays from Primex on the three insurances with them. The first one is Unemployment Compensation insurance \$5,748.33. The second one is for Property and Liability insurance for \$25,083.04. The third one is the Workers' Compensation for \$60,290.75. Due to the state of emergency there were fewer claims on all of them.

L. Dionne stated that this coming Wednesday at 1:00 in Gilford is the monthly meeting for the consortium for the Atlantic Broadband franchise.

### Public Hearing - 6:35 PM

#### 6:35 pm - Bay Hill Road

V. MacDonald opened the Public Hearing for Bay Hill Road at 6:35 pm.

George Sands approached the table. He stated that he almost got killed two weeks ago coming out of his driveway. He had put up a hidden driveway sign that was taken down by the Town. He doesn't understand why another one wasn't put up. It is a dangerous place to come out of. There is a public walkway across the street that goes down to the beach. There are kids that go across the road. He suggests putting up a crosswalk. He ordered a mirror to put on the pole in order to give him a chance to pull out of the driveway.

Dave Hussey approached the table. He thinks pretty much everybody that is here was at the same meeting. They all have no problems shutting Bay Hill Road down.

Teddy Grass approached the table. He has a son that comes to see him during the weekends. Summertime it is horrible. The intersection in front of the Dockside. There is no speed trap or bump or no light. His son who is 7 and has autism will go wherever he wants to go at the drop of a hat. There should be a sign at the top of the hill and at the bottom of the hill. These signs aren't working.

Joe MacDonald approached the table. If you put signs on the road put them out on the highway not on the road.

Dave Hussey approached the table again. He would like to clarify the reason why that road was built the way it was it because they met with the DOT.

Joe MacDonald approached the table again. You could probably alleviate half the problems with that turn if you made it a one way.

Ken Roberts approached the table. Originally when the road was built it went in both directions. The steepness going to the right. There was originally it was designed as a "Y" at the bottom.

V. MacDonald closes the Public Hearing at 6:44 pm.

P. LaRochelle stated that going back to when the signs were taken down they were taken down prematurely. They definitely need to put back a sign for Blind Driveway. That should be going up tomorrow. He would also like to see a weight limit put back on Bay Hill Road. A six-ton weight limit, No Thru Trucking, and Do Not Use in Inclement Weather from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like to talk to the Chief and see if a crosswalk can be painted across the road and to the stairway.

R. Wentworth stated that the crosswalk would need to be ADA compliant and you might have to move it up a little because of the sight distance.

P. LaRochelle stated that the Speed Limit sign needs to be put back up as well.

R. Wentworth stated that there needs to be more traffic enforcement on that hill. It should be in the morning and in the afternoon. He would like to know the RSA and how low you can go with the speed limit on a road by State Statutes.

V. MacDonald made a motion to have the Police Chief do some traffic enforcement for morning and afternoon, sign for local traffic only up on the edge of the highway, 6-ton load limit sign, and have the Public Works Director add a Blind Driveway sign and look into the crosswalk what can be done and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

### Old Business

#### 3. 4 Pine Street

S. Kinmond approached the table and gave an update on the progress of 4 Pine Street. The home owner has a company in that have installed dehumidifiers, and will go in to vacuum, assess the cardboard boxes and see if things need to be transferred into new boxes. The drainage has been fixed.

### Selectmen Reports

B. Holt stated that the Old Home Week booklets are out.

R. Wentworth had nothing to report.

B. Mitchell stated that the rose bush was found in a pile of gravel and returned to the homeowner.

P. LaRochelle had nothing to report.

V. MacDonald stated that Conservation is getting ready to re-do Hurd Brook.

**Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)**

Scott Williams approached the table. He stated that the triangle at the Huggins building needs a mower as well as around the Alton Beach sign.

Dave Hussey approached the table. He asked if there is anything happening with the cemetery. He noticed that there were some people there. R. Wentworth stated that there was money set aside a year ago. The pandemic hit and put a halt to things.

**Public Hearing - 7:05 PM**

**7:05 pm - Stockbridge Corner Road**

V. MacDonald opened the Public Hearing for Stockbridge Corner Road at 7:05 pm.

Dave Hussey approached the table. He asked if this meeting is being done properly in the right venue. According to what he has read you cannot close a road going down into another county. You have to have a meeting with the other town. Why are we shutting it down or de-classifying it. According to the State you cannot declassify without shutting the road down. There has to be a reason for it. I can't see this being a safety issue. You really need to have a public meeting with the Town of Alton and the Town of New Durham. R. Wentworth stated that there was a letter sent to the Town of New Durham last year. The Town of New Durham stated that they would have a Public Hearing.

Joe MacDonald approached the table. He disagrees with Selectman Wentworth. Doesn't understand why they want to force more traffic to the circle. It's a mess as it is. If people on that road are worried about their kids then maybe they should keep them in their yards. The roads are wide enough for trucks.

Dave Hussey approached the table again. When we built those roads there was never any restriction on them. We built them to spec. That is what the public paid for. You are interfering with commerce that is against the law.

Ken Roberts approached the table. You need to talk to the Public Works Director to see what it will cost you to rebuild the roads every 10 years. A lot of people are getting away from the traffic circle because DOT is set up in the traffic circle and they are ready to pull you right into the State shed.

Dave Hussey approached the table again. RSA states that you can't shut it down.

Andrew Morse approached the table. Us truck drivers in town pay taxes on vehicle, State, IRS taxes, over weight taxes. We use them as cut off roads to pits.

Joe MacDonald approached the table again. When you force these trucks to take longer routes everybody that is paying taxes to have their land in this town, you are making them to cost more to have work done. They judge what they charge for a load by how far they have to go.

Dave Hussey approached the table again. He is not for shutting the road down at all. The local boys can at least haul may be a compromise. Why do we have to punish the local boys.

Bob Gordon approached the table. Where does it end. When are other roads going to shut down. You won't be able to go anywhere.

V. MacDonald closes the Public Hearing at 7:19 pm.

R. Wentworth stated that he never said that they would stop you from working on the roads. If you have a legitimate job on the road you will be able to go up and down that road with no problems. His main concern is Stockbridge Corner Road is not a through road for tractor trailers.

P. LaRochelle stated that there was a traffic study done on that road and Powder Mill Road and most of the traffic speeding was from locals.

V. MacDonald stated that it is more of the complaints that they are getting than a safety issue.

B. Holt stated that these roads are built to travel on. Are we going to limit it to just cars only. Tractor trailers he can understand on this particular road.

B. Mitchell stated that he doesn't think they should shut them down. He is okay with Bay Hill Road. Everybody pays taxes and everybody is in danger when they go outside. He will not vote for closing the roads down.

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to see the local contractors continue to use the road. There is an issue with tractor trailers down some of these roads.

R. Wentworth made a motion to limit no tractor trailers on Stockbridge Corner Road from the Town of New Durham line to Route 28 and Valley Road pending New Durham's authorization and P. LaRochelle seconded. The vote was 1 affirmative (RW) and 4 against, the motion failed.

#### Appointments

None

#### Old Business

2. Highway Department - Municipal Trail Parking Area - Alton Mountain Road

S. Kinmond approached the table. This was tabled at the last meeting for more information. V. MacDonald asked how much is being filled. S. Kinmond stated that there is an area about 100 feet that needs to be filled in.

The general consensus of the Board is to have the work done.

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

None

#### Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

None

#### Non-Public Session

R. Wentworth moved at 7:35pm to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3,II,a,b,d,e. V. MacDonald 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>

R. Wentworth moved at 7:57pm to exit nonpublic session. B. Mitchell 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 to 'not divulge' the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board, or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. 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

R. Wentworth moved at 7:35 pm to adjourn. B. Holt seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey  
Recording Secretary