

**Town of Northfield
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Northfield Town Hall
21 Summer Street
Northfield, NH 03276
June 5, 2007**

Minutes

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Brown and Sel. Shepard. Chairman Bluhm called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Also present Steve Adams and Joyce Fulweiler.

I. Northfield Police Chief:

The Board of Selectmen announced the promotion of Acting Chief and Lieutenant Stephen P. Adams to Police Chief. Town Clerk Cindy Caveney administered the oath of office.

II. Public Appointments:

- A. Polly Mills Fife, David Colter and Ginny Timmons, representing the Northfield Recycling Committee, provided an update on the committee's activities promoting the benefits of recycling. The Committee received a donation to purchase recycling containers to be placed at public facilities to make recycling more visible and asked if the Highway Department could be responsible for collecting the bags. Suggested sites were the Library, Police Station, Town Hall, Little League Field, Pines Community Center, Arch Park, Sandogardy Pond, and Winnepesaukee River Trail. Following discussion, the Board was in agreement that they support recycling and will obtain Mike Summersett's input prior to making a final decision on the containers.
- B. Property owners on Hodgdon Road were present to inquire into the status of the cease and desist order issued to 186 Hodgdon Road. They expressed frustration that the property is still being used as an auto repair business. The Board explained the legal process and stated they would let the property owners know when the court has assigned a hearing date.
- C. Gary Claremont, co owner of a mobile home located in Soda Brook Cooperative was present to ask about the process for tax deeding. He no longer resides in the home but retains an ownership interest. The Board explained that they would be consulting with legal counsel regarding the disposition of properties for non-payment of

the 2004 tax liens. The Board agreed to notify him if the decision is to auction the trailer for payment of back taxes.

- D. Sally Robert informed the Board that a number of citizens have inquired at the police station regarding the Alan Hanneford property on Bean Hill Road. The Board explained that the Town has filed a cease and desist order and will ask the code enforcement officer for a status report.
- E. David Colter brought to the Board's attention his concerns regarding traffic at the intersection of Hodgdon Road and East Pleasant Street. Following discussion with the Board and the Police Chief, the Chief will meet with Mike Summersett and report back to the Board with a recommendation for signage and pavement striping.

III. Police Department:

- A. Chief Adams reported that Lisa Martin has provided estimates for tree removal at the Sandogardy Pond Brook. Damage was as a result of the April rain event. He will submit the estimates to FEMA to request funding for the project.
- B. The Board reviewed and commented on the Town attorney's changes to the draft of the sex offender ordinance. A public hearing was scheduled for June 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. There was discussion concerning a resident's request that the Town notify residents when a convicted sexual offender resides in Town.
- C. The Board discussed adopting an ordinance to limit the number of yard sales to two per year per property owner and to enforce pet owners to curb their dogs. The Chief will provide sample Town ordinances for the Board to review.

IV. Town Administration:

- A. The Board reviewed the results of the site walk for Phase II of the Winnepesaukee River Trail conducted by the Louis Berger Group, the Town's contracted engineer for the project and Rick Silverberg of the Winnepesaukee Trails Association. The Board provided clarification on a number of issues that will be communicated to the engineers so that they may commence the survey and preliminary design of the trail.

- B. The Board was informed that tax bills were mailed this week.
- C. The Board received a status report on the properties to be tax deeded for non-payment of 2004 tax liens. The Board agreed to send letters notifying the property owners that the Tax Collector has given the Selectmen a tax deed and they will have one last opportunity to pay before the Board records the deed and disposes of the property. The Board agreed to contact Attorney Mayer regarding the process of taking two mobile homes located in the Soda Brook Cooperative.

V. General Business:

- A. The Board reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll.
- B. The Board reviewed general correspondence.
- C. Motion by Sel. Brown, second by Sel. Shepard to accept and place on file the minutes of the May 8, 2007 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Vote unanimous.

Motion by Sel. Shepard, second by Sel. Brown to accept and place on file the minutes of the May 22, 2007 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Vote unanimous.

Motion by Sel. Brown, second by Sel. Shepard to accept and place on file the minutes of the May 29, 2007 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Vote unanimous.

- D. The Board discussed purchase orders and reaffirmed the Board's policy that a majority vote of the Board is required to approve and sign purchase orders.
- E. The Board discussed the Town's net assessed valuation. In the past, the Town has experienced a 2.5% to 3% increase in growth. For 2007, the valuation only increased by 1.24% that may have an impact the projected 2007 tax rate. The Board will review estimated revenues and expenses vs. actual at the end of June.
- F. Sel. Brown requested the use of the Town vehicle for Monday, June 25th for the Planning Board members to attend the LRPC annual meeting.

VI. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**Town of Northfield
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
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June 19, 2007**

Minutes

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Brown and Sel. Shepard. Chairman Bluhm called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Also present Steve Adams, Joyce Fulweiler and Mike Summersett.

I. Public Appointments:

- A. Mr. Morris Capriole, Shaw Road was present to inquire into the status of proposed improvements to Shaw Road. Shaw Road is scheduled in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2008 (\$150,000) and 2009 (\$50,000). The Board explained the Capital Improvement Plan process whereby the CIP Committee prioritizes all Town projects and equipment purchases. The Town annually appropriates \$200,000 for all road improvements. The CIP committee makes recommendations to the Selectmen and Budget Committee which may or may not be included in the budget that goes before Town Meeting for adoption. The Board cautioned that even though projects may be scheduled in the CIP, budgetary constraints could result in the projects being moved out to later years. The Board suggested that he attend the CIP committee meetings this fall.
- B. Jim Bouchard, Quantum Construction Consultants was present. The Town's attorney has scheduled a meeting with the Town's engineers to conduct a site visit on Cornerstone Road, Thursday, June 21st at 9:00 a.m.

II. Meeting with Legal Counsel:

The Board recessed the regular meeting to meet with Attorney Scott McGuffin to discuss the status of cease and desist orders on properties located at 186 Hodgdon Road, 299 Cross Mill Road and 806 Bean Hill Road.

III. Public Hearing:

Chairman Bluhm reconvened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and opened the public hearing on an Ordinance Regarding Registered Sex Offenders Residency Restrictions. Copies of the proposed ordinance were made available. This ordinance applies to any person who has been convicted of the crime against a person under the age of 18 and as a result, is required to register for life. The individual cannot reside within 2,500 feet of a school, licensed day care facility, or public park. The only exception would be if residency were established prior to the effective date of this ordinance. The penalty is a violation and the ordinance allows the Town to seek injunctive relief to require compliance.

The Chairman opened up the floor to questions and comments from the public.

Janice Lindbloom spoke in support of the ordinance.

Kevin Waldron spoke in support of the ordinance and asked if the Selectmen were adopting this ordinance because Franklin and Tilton did, also, why isn't this ordinance being voted on at Town Meeting. The Board explained that the Board has been working on this for over a year, they were waiting for the State legislature to adopt the law, when this didn't occur, they felt this was a very important issue to be addressed now instead of waiting until Town Meeting.

Keith Murray asked if this ordinance is legal. The Board responded that anything can be challenged in court.

A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union asked if she could answer Mr. Murray's question and the Chairman stated that after residents from Northfield have had an opportunity to speak.

David Court expressed his concerns that this type of legislation does not prevent the problem.

Lisa Swancott asked how the ordinance would be enforced. Chief Adams explained that convicted offenders are required to register with the local police department within five days of moving into a community. At that time, they will be shown the map and if they are residing within 2,500 feet of the restricted areas, they are required to move. The Board added that there is quite a bit of area in Northfield outside of the restricted area.

Greg Hill asked the Board when would this ordinance be adopted and the Board responded they would vote after the public hearing.

Tilton resident Pat Clark spoke in opposition to the ordinance and presented information from other states that he had researched. This type of ordinance does not really make children safer. It has the tendency to make sexual offenders not register.

Barbara Kershin, representing the American Civil Liberties Union provided statistics from various studies to support her position that this type of ordinance provides a false sense of security; it does not prevent the problem and it undermines rehabilitation. This ordinance has exposure to a number of legal challenges – it's unconstitutional because it imposes a penal condition after they have already been punished; it is questionable if Town's have the authority to adopt such restrictions; restrictions are not consistent between jurisdictions; it violates an individuals right to travel and form family relationships in a community. These ordinances are driven by fear and it is not good public policy. The Board responded that the ordinance is for the safety of the children. It limits a sex offender's exposure to children.

David Court stated that the best way to protect children is by knowing their neighbors.

Janice Lindbloom spoke again in support of the ordinance.

Greg Hill asked if this ordinance precludes the Town from sending out ordinances and Chief Adams responded no.

There being no further public comment, the Chairman closed the public hearing at 8:20 p.m.

Motion: A motion by Sel. Brown, second by Sel. Shepard to adopt the Ordinance relative to registered sex offender restricts as written and presented at the public hearing, with an effective date of June 19, 2007.

Vote: 3-0, motion adopted unanimously.

IV. Public Appointments (cont).

Lisa Swancott provided the Board with an update on the Skateboard Park. They have \$17,000 for the project. Construction will not begin until after Old Home Day Weekend. The Highway Department will help to prepare the site.

V. Highway Department:

Mike Summersett asked if he could go ahead and get bids for his road projects because he heard rumors that the Board was cutting back on

hiring and projects. The Board stated not at this time but they would be reviewing the budget and expenditures as soon as June is closed out.

The Board approved his requests to hire a truck driver/light equipment operator to fill a vacancy; to make application to the State as a fleet inspection station which will save over \$1,200 per year; and to swap loam for loam screening, screened loam to be used on Town projects.

There was discussion of driveway culverts as part of the Knowles Farm Road reconstruction project. The Board approved the project. There are two driveways that need culverts and one driveway culvert that needs to be replaced. The Board discussed sending a letter that property owners are responsible for paying to have their culvert replaced. The Board agreed to develop a culvert replacement policy citing the RSA's and Town regulations but allow for hardship cases, i.e. the property owner can set up a payment plan.

The Board discussed recycling and decided that the Highway Department will not be able to pick up the recyclables at the various public places due to the amount of time required for pickup and sorting the items which is most time consuming part of the process. The Board also discussed the recycling improvement budget and determined that there are no additional funds available in this year's budget for any new recycling projects. It was suggested that if there are any particular projects or ideas that the Committee has for next year that they address it through the regular budget process which starts with the Selectmen in September.

The Board discussed the TNLL request to have the highway department replace the bleachers at the ball field. Kevin Waldron volunteered to do the work.

The Board agreed to go forward with the following summer projects: Peverly Road, Oak Hill Road, Granite Street culvert replacement, Knowles Farm Road drainage and the next phase of the Zion Hill/Hodgdon Road Drainage Project. The Town work on Zion Hill Road will be postponed.

The Board signed Lewandowski's escrow agreement so that he can begin making improvements to the Class VI portion of Fiddler's Choice Road.

The Board was informed that the Planning Board returned the Class VI Road policy request for Bean Hill Road Lot 33F requesting more information. M. Summersett and J. Fulweiler will conduct a site visit and forward the information to the Planning Board.

The Board was informed that a FEMA representative contacted the Town regarding the status of the Twin Bridge Road Hazard Mitigation Project. The Town Meeting approved funding for the design. Lisa Martin will submit an engineering contract for the Board's signature.

VI. Police Department:

The Board approved Chief Adams request to promote Officer Raffaely to the position of Corporal.

The Board approved Chief Adam's request to make a conditional offer of employment to hire an officer to fill a vacancy.

The Board was informed that work was progressing on developing an ordinance to regulate yard sales and a pooper-scooper ordinance.

VII General Business:

The Board reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll.

The Board reviewed general correspondence.

Motion by Sel. Brown, second by Sel. Shepard to accept and place on file the minutes of the June 5, 2007 at amended. Vote unanimous.

The Board will conduct a site visit of the Hibbard property on Tuesday, June 26, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. There will be no meeting on Tuesday, July 3, 2007. The Selectmen will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

VIII Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.