

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 2014

Present: Sel. Shepard, Sel. Waldron, Sel. Crowley
Also Present: Greg Hill, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder, Cindy Caveney, Chief Raffaely, Johnny Van Tassel,
Glenn Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

1. Public Appointments

The Chair recognized Greg Hill who expressed his concerns about what he believes is widespread voter fraud in New Hampshire and in Northfield. He asked if the Selectmen would be advertising what will be asked of voters in terms of identification before they vote. Cindy Caveney reviewed the process through which a voter who does not have an ID will be allowed to vote. Greg stated his belief that Northfield's voter registrations should be forwarded to a 28 state pool that has been set up to cross reference registrations to reduce inter-state voter fraud in Northfield. Cindy responded that this could be problematic, especially for people with common names. Greg stated that same day registration is a problem and should be eliminated. Cindy responded that it is useful for the elderly and others who have difficulty having to make two trips in order to vote. Greg responded that the elderly are already registered. Board members decided to post the Secretary of State's notice to voters on the town website and in the Northfield News until the election.

Selectmen signed the warrant for November election.

2. Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel reviewed the deteriorated condition of the Elm Street fence. Board members discussed the purpose of the fence and the need for replacement. Johnny was asked to develop a recommendation for replacing this fence with another that would keep pedestrians from accidentally falling down the bank into the river.

Johnny reviewed the status of the sinkhole on the Elm Street sidewalk. He is concerned that repair of the sinkhole will adversely affect the foundation of the adjoining home. Board members discussed repair options and asked Glenn to draft a letter to the homeowner seeking input.

Johnny reported that he will start repairs to the gravel portion of Rand Road next week. He discussed repair plans with the Selectmen and it was decided that the project would include placing fabric as needed, a base of bank run gravel and a ledge pack travel surface. The town would also install two driveway culverts for a homeowner on the condition that the homeowner purchases the culverts and accepts responsibility for future maintenance. Board members signed a purchase requisition for the fabric and a contract with Pike for the bank run gravel. Glenn was asked to draft a letter to the homeowner concerning the culverts in question.

Johnny reported that the new truck will be delivered tomorrow, that he is assembling the information on the purchase of new plows that the Board had asked for, that the new spreader is ready, that he is continuing to clean up the garage grounds, that mowing has been completed for the year and that the parks have been winterized.

Sel. Waldron noted that he had inspected the six wheelers earlier in the day and found them well cared for.

3. Police Department

Chief Raffaely outlined issues with the Dave Tryon Skate Park. The fence surrounding the park has been vandalized and there is a lot of junk in the area. He believes there is drug activity in that area. Glenn presented an email on this subject received from Lisa Swancott. Gretchen Wilder outlined the history of the park and suggested that it be locked at night. Sel. Waldron noted that if someone is cut on the pulled up portion of the fence then the town is liable. Glenn noted that as per 2007 town meeting discussion, the town is responsible for cleanup of the area and the citizens group that built the park is responsible for repairs. Sel. Shepard said that she feels this is not a good location for the skate park and people feel uncomfortable using Surette Park and the Winnepesaukee River Trail because of the skate park. Board members agreed by consensus to close the skate park for now and try to recruit community members to come together to repair the park.

4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed the town drug testing policy. Board members discussed extending the policy to cover non-CDL employees and decided to begin random drug testing of police officers and formalize the policy of reasonable suspicion testing for all employees. Glenn was asked to develop a policy concerning this.

Sel. Crowley expressed his belief that the town disciplinary procedures need to be updated. He noted that there are no guidelines as to when different levels of discipline are imposed and there is no incident report system to record incidents that do not rise to the level of needing disciplinary action but which may be useful documentation if problems do develop in the future. Glenn was asked to develop such a policy.

Board members reviewed a list of town owned properties and agreed by consensus to place an article on the 2015 Town Meeting warrant asking voters if they wished to expend funds to restore Union Church. They also asked Glenn to draft a letter to the owners of properties which about properties the town has acquired by tax deed to assess their interest in purchasing such properties.

Glenn informed the Board that DRA has indicated that we should be ready to set a town tax rate soon. He also informed Board members that the holder of Northfield's Boston Post Cane, Marjorie Norrell, has passed away. Board members expressed their condolences and authorized Glenn to begin seeking a new honoree. Glenn told the Board that the town has had limited response to our craigslist ad concerning disposal of old computers. Board members authorized him to give these units to a local citizen. Glenn informed the Board that we have been informed that Don Minor has received permission to sell the trailer abandoned on his property at public auction. The town is a party to this as we have a lien on this trailer. Board members expressed no opposition to this sale, with the understanding that the lien would remain in place after the sale, subject to prior agreements reached by the Selectmen.

Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Present at the non-public session: Glenn Smith. **Shepard/Crowley** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:48 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

5. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Shepard/Crowley** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2014. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON OCTOBER 21, 2014