

**NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

Present: Sel. Crowley, Sel. Southworth, Sel. Allen  
Also Present: Rep. Hill, David Court, Nancy Court, Dana French, Nate DA neighbor. Glenn Smith, Kevin Waldron, Scott Haskins, Wayne Hammond, Betty Hammond, Jim Wadleigh, Bonnie Wadleigh

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

**1. Public Input**

The Chair recognized Wayne and Betty Hammond, who expressed concerns that zoning ordinances are not being enforced correctly in relation to the auto repair business next to his home. He contends that the ordinance requires a buffer that was not included as a condition of approval and as a result headlights from the business shine into his home at all hours. Also, the Hammonds fear soil contamination from oils, etc. in the auto repair yard snow, which is plowed up to their property line and they contend that a water garden installed as a condition of approval is not functioning properly. Mr. Hammond stated that he believes the auto repair shop should not have been allowed in the Groundwater Protection District. Sel. Crowley responded that it is allowed by special exception, which was granted. Mrs. Hammond reported that there have been eight vehicles in the yard when the permit only allows for six vehicles, not counting personal vehicles. Mr. Hammond emphasized that they have no problem with the business; they just want the ordinance applied consistently.

The chair recognized Jim Wadleigh who said that if asked he would have put up a fence and he will install one now. He also stated that the water garden is working properly and apologized if he plowed snow onto his neighbor's yard, promising it wouldn't happen again. He expressed a desire that his neighbors speak with him about future concerns. Kevin Waldron stated that he feels it is inappropriate for persons to file zoning complaints with the Selectboard; they should go to the Planning Board, ZBA or Town Administrator. Rep. Hill asked if the Code Enforcement Officer investigated the situation. Sel. Crowley responded that he had, but that new concerns were expressed at this meeting that were not included in the review, but that they will now be investigated. Mr. Hammond reiterated that he is not concerned about headlights from personal vehicles only those associated with the business.

**2. Public Works Department**

Sel. Crowley informed the Board that the heat and electricity have been reconnected at the Highway Garage. TNFD will inspect heaters tomorrow. Doors have been installed but the electric openers are not functioning yet. The plan is to start storing trucks in the garage later this week. The open house is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Administration**

Town Administrator Glenn Smith reviewed assessment changes for certain properties as requested by the Board, noting that rezoning of Park Street approved at town meeting accounted for many of the changes. Board members signed the Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate. Glenn also noted that Mr. Russell Cilley appears to be the latest recipient of the Boston Post Cane.

Glenn presented information on alternative health insurance plans, noting that the plan currently offered is being discontinued by Harvard Pilgrim effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. Board members reviewed the material and Glenn indicated that he will be setting up a meeting with the insurance broker to review the plan alternatives. Sel. Crowley agreed to attend the meeting. Glenn was asked to investigate whether the rates quoted were HRA dependent and look into HSA options.

#### **4. Public Hearing**

The Chair opened the public hearing on proposed revisions to the parking and highway ordinances at 6:00pm. Glenn reviewed the proposed updates. Mr. Bragdon and Rep. Hill questioned the amount of fine proposed for excavating in a town road or right of way without a permit. All parties agreed that imposition of the fine should not be automatic, but should be applied at the discretion of the Selectmen on a case by case basis. Glenn was asked to update the highway ordinance to clarify this. There being no other public input the hearing was closed at 6:20pm.

#### **5. Administration**

Glenn reported that his research showed no law prohibiting the town from plowing the community center parking lot. The lawyer for the town's insurer advised that if this is done then the town establish a formal agreement with the Recreation Council. Mr. Haskins asked if the town would also sand, and was told that we would. Sel. Southworth asked for clarification for the statement in 2010 by the Tilton Selectmen that plowing the Pines was a violation of the New Hampshire constitution. Mr. Bradgon expressed concerns about liability; Glenn noted that this should be covered in an MOU. Glenn reported that his research found no violation and that in fact several towns throughout the state perform similar tasks. **Allen/Southworth** moved to plow and sand the Pines Community Center parking lot, exclusive of sidewalks, for the 2016-2017 season contingent upon signing an MOU outlining services and liability. **Motion passed.**

Glenn said that he would continue to work with Cullen Concrete, the Historical Society and a realtor for the sale of Union Church.

Sel. Crowley reported on the recent meeting concerning the reduction in education stabilization funding. More than a dozen communities attended, all were concerned and the group agreed to draft and submit legislation freezing the proposed reduction while a longer term solution is found. Also, towns are encouraged to contact their local representative on this. Rep. Hill stated that Sel. Crowley has a conflict of interest in this matter as he also serves as a School Board member. Rep. Hill expressed disappointment that the reduction in funding did not lead to a series of meetings in individual school districts on how education is created, delivered and paid for. He and others stated that the problem is that local school boards rely on state funding instead of cost reduction and that the town needs to play an active role in encouraging parents not to send their children to public schools. Sel. Crowley noted that Northfield has already lost \$66,000 in state funding because attendance has dropped.

Dave Court stated that the school system is an employment institution, not an educational institution. Rep. Hill stated that the legislature has no interest in making more money available for education. Glenn asked Rep. Hill if the legislature would be interested in removing some of the mandates that makes education more expensive and ties the hands of the local school boards. Rep. Hill responded that the local school districts are not bound by state mandates. Sel. Crowley noted that this position has not been confirmed by the courts.

Bonne Wadleigh reported on how charter school helped her daughter. Rep. Hill said that the word is not getting out that alternatives are possible.

Glenn presented sales agreements with Realtor Dave Liberatore concerning the sale of Brackett Lane, Reservoir Road and Bean Hill Road properties. Board members took these under advisement.

Scott Haskins noted that the Tilton Northfield Recreation Council is interviewing its final two candidates for the director position on Monday evening and would like a representative from the Selectboard to participate. Sel. Southworth said that he would.

#### **6. Non-Public Session**

**Crowley/Allen** moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II a,b,c at

7:15pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Also Present: Glenn Smith. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to reconvene the public session at 8:00 pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

**Crowley/Southworth** moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session just completed as divulgence of the minutes would adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

**7. General Business**

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Crowley/Southworth** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 1, 2016 as amended. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

**APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2016**