



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2021

Present: Selectman Kevin Waldron and Selectman Mark Hubbell.

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud,

Also Present: Ken Tomlins, Scott Haskins and Lisa Thorne

Selectmen Waldron opened the Selectmen's Work Session at 5:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no representatives from the Police Department or Public Works Department this week.

Administration Update

Administrator Robichaud asked the Selectmen if they wanted to review the Town policies and ordinances that he sent to them on Thursday. Selectmen Hubbell stated that he did not have time to review them and if they could do this at another time. Selectmen Waldron agreed to review at another time.

Administrator Robichaud updated the Selectmen on the project at Pines Park. The trees that were slated to come down are all down; the stumps have been removed and are currently being ground to mulch. After this step is completed, the DPW will haul the mulch to the Johnson Road facility for storage. Pines Park will then be raked and leveled by DPW and the surface will be prepared for the next step whatever the Selectmen decide to do moving forward.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he is still waiting for Eversource to answer questions from Affinity Lighting on the Towns LED streetlight replacement project. Affinity has reached out to the Vice President of Eversource as they have not received any answers in several weeks to the questions that came up when Affinity conducted the GIS mapping of the Towns streetlights. Hopefully they will have an answer in a week or so.

There has been an issue with the 18 inch culvert piping that we have ordered for our road projects. We have received the entire order of 15 inch pipe, but there is a slowdown in making the 18 inch pipe for some reason. We hope to receive it soon as the project is set to start in the next week or so. The Administrator asked about the use of recycled plastic 18 inch pipe as opposed to new or virgin pipe. It is cheaper than the virgin plastic and there appears to be an amount that we need in stock. The Selectmen discussed the difference between recycled and virgin plastic and asked to get more information before they make a decision.

Administrator Robichaud informed the Selectmen that he has received a date of October 1st from Atlantic Broadband on when they will move their equipment off of the old pole on Bay Hill Road to the new pole as the old pole is in the way of the road repairs for drainage.

The Administrator informed the Selectmen on the pay as you throw program. The town has sold over 145 bags of 33 gallon trash bags and 15 of the 13 gallon trash bags for the program in the last 3 weeks. The Administrator stated that to break even the Town must sell 87 of the 33 gallon bags a month or a combination of the two bags as the dumpster costs the town \$350.00 per month.

Selectmen Hubbell would like to donate some loam to the Pines Park project as he has some and would like to be able to donate it to the park.

Public Input

Selectman Waldron stated that at the September 14th meeting he asked that residents to email the Selectmen on how they would like to see public input handled in the future. Selectman Waldron stated that he received zero emails and only 1 suggestion that came in at the meeting of the 14th. Mr. Waldron stated that he will form some sort of policy and will work with the Town Administrator to put it together.

Ken Tomlins- presented the Selectmen with an article on the Town of Bristol getting the town on Fiber optic broadband.

Scott Haskins- Spoke to the Pines Park project and that he would like to be part of the Committee if the Selectmen form one. He was on the open space committee a few years ago, and this committee looked at the Pines Park area and came up with several ideas on what to do in the future. Mr. Haskins is also on the local Rotary Club and they would like to possibly make a donation towards a Bandstand/Gazebo type structure at Pines Park. Also some of the ideas Mr. Haskins had included a brick walkway as well as a how to incorporate the Bell from the old Church into the Bandstand/Gazebo structure. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Haskins for his ideas and interest in Pines Park as well as his volunteerism in the Community.

Lisa Thorne- Ms. Thorne is also interested in putting her name forward to be on the Pines Park Committee.

Waldron/Hubbell motioned to approve the minutes from September, 14th 2021 as written and presented, all in favor, motion passes.

Selectmen Hubbell stated that he would like to have the Town of Northfield move to having its own Old Home Day as the past two years it had been cancelled by the committee. Selectman Hubbell also stated that Northfield should have its own day as every other Town surrounding Northfield had some sort of event this year, except for Northfield. Every social event that was scheduled ended up being cancelled. Selectman Hubbell stated that we have more issues with when we are linked to another town as we have no ability or say so to correct any issues that may come up. We have no say in anything except sending them the money. Every Town or City governing body has a say in what the Town does or what they spend money on, not us though.

Selectman Waldron stated that we have no say on anything that happens with this committee. He also went on to say that all the events at Old Home Day are unsubsidized by the old home day committee, only the horse pull is subsidized, why is that. Horse pulls are fun but costly. Both Selectmen agreed that there is no oversight from either Tilton or Northfield Town Selectmen on the spending of funds with the committee.

Mr. Haskins asked to comment on this as he was part of the Old Home Day Committee and stated that he recently resigned from that committee, because they need to change the traditional method of operation. Mr. Haskins had asked to move the day back to October if that would help with the committee's fears. That did not happen. Mr. Haskins asked if Northfield could have a second day on its own, but the Selectmen said that would be another added cost for that day. Selectman Waldron said that this committee needs to be reformed as the current Committee is ineffective and he will not vote to send them any town funding with the current committee members in place. This committee will have to come to the Selectmen to use Town Property next year and I hope that it does not come down to this.

Sel. Waldron made a motion at 6:54pm to go into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91a; 3-II, (C&L) seconded by Sel. Hubbell. Roll call vote–Selectman Hubbell–Yes and Selectman Waldron- Yes.

Waldron/Hubbell moved to reconvene the public session at 7:30pm. Roll Call Vote, Selectman Hubbell- Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes, Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Waldron/Hubbell moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board, or render the proposed action of the board ineffective.

Roll call vote, Selectman Hubbell –Yes and Selectman Waldron-Yes. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote and the minutes are hereby sealed.

Other Business:

Next week’s meeting will be at 5pm.

Selectman Hubbell asked the Town Administrator to explain the MS-1 form also known as (Summary Inventory of Valuation) that the Town must file with the Department of Revenue. This form is the assessed values and other financial information that is the foundation for setting the tax rate and equalization processes. If the form is submitted late the tax rate for the Town will not be set until this form is received. Normally this is completed by our Auditors but this year our auditors dropped the smaller towns so the Finance Director completed it, and she did a great job. It takes a lot of time to compile all of the numbers together so I want to give Stephanie Giovannucci a big thank you for completing this. The Selectmen signed the MS-1 form.

Selectman Hubbell asked about the Commercial Solid Waste license for Waste Management. It was explained to him that all commercial haulers must fill out a license application to haul solid waste through the Town of Northfield. The Selectmen signed the contract.

Selectman Hubbell asked about United Parcel Service (UPS) and if they had contacted the Town about the new building. The Town Administrator stated that the Town had just recently received a check for \$8,000.00 for a building permit. UPS is at the beginning of the building process for the new building on Route 140. He will keep the Selectmen updated as to their progress. There has been a good amount of building up along route 140 we should start seeing some of that tax revenue in the next year or two, which is a positive direction for the Town.

With no further business to come before the Board of Selectmen this Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Minutes Recorded by Town Administrator-Ken Robichaud

Minutes voted and approved on 10/12/2021