

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Present: Sel. Crowley, Sel. Brown (present telephonically), Sel. Haskins
Also Present: Chief Raffaely, Andy Buteau, Glenn Smith, Allan Beetle, Gretchen Wilder, Bill Wilder.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

1. Public Input

The Chair recognized Allan Beetle of the WOW trail organization who reviewed progress on developing a regional bike/pedestrian trail system. His group is leading an effort to study the possibility of removing railroad tracks between the Tilton/Northfield line and Weirs Beach as a means of accommodating completion of the trail system. He maintains that the right of way is underutilized by the railroad and more economic benefit would be realized by converting it to trail use. He asked that the Board vote to support conducting the study. Board members discussed the proposal and agreed to take the matter under advisement. Gretchen Wilder asked how WOW determines trail usage. Mr. Beetle responded that they periodically conduct usage counts. Sel. Brown noted that his first reaction is that he is not interested in supporting the study.

2. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Andy Buteau reported that yesterday at 3:15 the condition of Sandogardy Pond Road was unacceptable. Also, he visited the road at 11:30-12:00 today and found it more than not acceptable. He informed the contractor that the road needs to be acceptable so people can get home in the evening. He visited the road at 3:30 and found conditions had improved. Sel. Haskins asked what the problem was. Andy reported that the road was muddy and in places there was standing water 18 inches deep in the road.

Andy reported that tree companies are working on the paved portion of Sandogardy Pond Road, blocking both lanes and effectively closing the road. Chief Raffaely reported that Asplundh had asked for permission to close the road for this work and he denied the request. Sel. Crowley reported that he had to wait for tree workers at this location earlier this week. Consensus of the Board is that the road cannot be closed to accommodate tree work, there is enough room to get this work done and still leave one lane open.

Andy reported that he has received a complaint from a resident on lower Shedd Road about the trash left at the end of the road on garbage pickup day; the resident has asked that a 'No Dumping' sign be installed at the site. Board members discussed the situation and asked Glenn to investigate as to why Casella does not go up lower Shedd Road as it is a Class V road.

Andy noted that he has received numerous complaints about mailboxes. Social media sites are reporting that it is the town's responsibility to fix mailboxes and bring the area around mailboxes to a condition such that USPS will continue to deliver mail. The postal service has told residents that they will not deliver mail if boxes are not installed properly. Andy noted that there are many places in town where road shoulders need work but he doesn't have the resources to repair all of them. Also, residents install mailboxes that are not sturdy enough to withstand normal winter plowing activity. He is working on a letter to go out to all homeowners reminding them of their responsibilities.

Gretchen Wilder asked if the town has a leaf vacuum for cleaning culverts. Sel. Crowley responded that it is the homeowner's responsibility to keep their culverts clean.

3. Police Department

Chief Raffaely reported that model year 2019 cruisers are no longer available; he will have to order a 2020 cruiser for next year. He has been told that the design is changing in 2020 which will require purchase new upfit materials. He has also been told that the cruiser needs to be ordered by January 1st but the order can be cancelled if the purchase is not approved at town meeting.

Chief Raffaely presented an updated departmental 911 contact number list, which Board members signed.

Sel. Crowley reported that the CEO of Spaulding Youth Center said she has been approached by TNFD about installing a communications tower on their property to alleviate communication problems. Chief Raffaely noted that the tower could resolve issues in the east section of town but not in the south part of town.

Chief Raffaely reported that no shave October/November has started. Sel. Haskins asked if the department has been approached for a lip synch challenge. Chief Raffaely reported that they have but have not followed through on this as of yet.

4. Administration

Town Administrator Glenn Smith presented a tax collection warrant which Board members signed. He also reviewed the logistics of the upcoming school funding candidates' night being sponsored jointly with Franklin. Sel. Crowley provided information from the School Funding 101 presentation he and Sel. Haskins recently attended; he is trying to get one set up in this area.

5. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Crowley/Brown** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2018. Sel. Brown asked if the phone service interruption on Sandogardy Pond Road has been corrected. Sel. Crowley reported that it has, Consolidated Communications has installed a temporary line. **Motion passed.**

Sel. Crowley noted that attorney Scott McGuffin will be retiring.

6. Nonpublic Session *RSA 91A-3 II (a)*

Crowley/Brown moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3II a at 6:37pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Also Present: Glenn Smith. **Crowley/Brown** moved to reconvene the public session at 7:29pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Crowley/Brown moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session as divulgence would adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board. **Motion passed.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON OCTOBER 9, 2018