

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 5, 2007

Selectmen James Trow and Joseph Cuddemi were present, as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter Sam Bonacci and Peter Martel. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes of the August 29, 2007 Selectmen's meeting were tabled until Selectman Philip Germain is present.

The Selectmen reviewed Peter Martel's August 29th email in which he states his understanding of a discussion he engaged in with the Board at their August 29th Board meeting regarding his expired building permit. He stated he understood that he had the option to go forward submitting new building permit applications for the projects outlined in his July 6, 2006 single building permit application; new building permit fees would be waived and he would not be charged more than the \$25 previously paid. The Selectmen reiterated that any addition to a building or movement of a building would require a new building permit application. Mr. Martel was referred to the Code Enforcement Officer to discuss the requirements for rehabilitating the outbuildings. The Board did not agree that Martel would not be charged more than the \$25 already paid; the fee is dependant on how many permits and the nature of the building permit being applied for.

The Board reviewed a *Motion to Arrange Payment of Fine* filed with the Superior Court by Theresa Allen and the Town's *Response to Motion to Arrange Payment of Fine*, which was filed by Town Counsel on August 30, 2007.

In other matters, the Board of Selectmen acted on the following items:

- Approved a letter to NHDOT regarding outstanding road maintenance items and an unpaid August 1 invoice
- Selectman Cuddemi will discuss with the Road Agent the need to file a Letter of Intent with Homeland Security and Emergency Management regarding the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program
- Reviewed August Police Statistics
- Authorized the Administrator to attend a training opportunity at Primex on September 18th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- Voted to retain the same contractor, Pine View Excavation, for snow removal this coming winter. An early October meeting will be scheduled to discuss mutual expectations
- Reviewed August Expenditures and year-to-date expenditures and found most to be on target
- Scheduled the Police Chief's annual Employee Performance Review for September 26th
- Tabled until the full Board is present, consideration of a parking time limit on Main Street
- Tabled until the full Board is present, the Year End "To Do" List
- Executed a Sign Permit for Monadnock Paper Mills, LLC

The Administrator reported responses she received to the Code Enforcement Officer's letter to property owners notifying them of hazardous building conditions. The Selectmen granted High Banks Properties, LLC an extension of time, until October 1, 2007, to secure the building at 9 Bible Hill Road. The Administrator reported Herbert Davy's communication in which he stated that the windows and doors had been boarded up and, in some cases, blocked both on the inside and outside of the building. Additionally, "No Trespass" signs are displayed on the property. Mr. Davy further reported he is actively rehabilitating the structure. The Selectmen accepted his report and confirmed that it is not the Town's intention to remove the house, only to ensure it is not an attractive nuisance.

The Selectmen signed a letter to the Road Agent expressing dismay that a property owner undertook much needed road repairs to protect the integrity of Antrim Road since road repairs had not been completed as a result of the April flood event.

The Selectmen received a copy of Crotched Mountain Foundation's email to the Human Services Director in which they offer cut firewood to the Town of Bennington for the benefit of low-income families. A note of gratitude will be sent to the Foundation; Selectman Trow offered to relocate the wood if it is a grapple load.

Peter Martel spoke with the Board about the lack of water in his dug well since the river level had been lowered. He reported that someone took down the boards he had put up in an effort to retain water. The Selectmen cautioned Mr. Martel about interrupting the natural flow of water. The Board informed Martel that the Town was not involved in reducing the river flow; this water reduction is a result of Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc. performing maintenance to their facilities.

Although invited to attend the meeting and discuss the impending tax deed for their property, the owners of Map 13, Lot 44 did not attend the meeting. Selectman Cuddemi volunteered to personally visit the owners to ensure they understood the seriousness of the tax deed situation.

The Administrator informed the Selectmen that the surveyors were almost finished with their fieldwork for the Transportation Enhancement Project and would not be returning to mark the location of utilities in the vicinity of 34-38 Acre Street. A print of this intersection was received from FST and distributed to the Selectmen. The surveyors are still working on getting the Right-of-Way information. When received the information will be incorporated on the print, at which time it should be obvious if the location of the utilities encroaches the 34-38 Acre Street property.

The Board of Selectmen will meet in session Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. to work on the Traffic Enhancement Project with the Town's engineers. A public information meeting to introduce the Traffic Enhancement Project is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Pierce Elementary School.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator