

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – February 20, 2019

Selectmen James Cleary, David Hardwick, Sr., and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Also in attendance for the meeting was Great Brook Middle School student Mikala Mackesy

John Kendall met with the Selectmen to discuss his interest in the Building Inspector position soon to be vacant when Dario Carrara retires. John is currently the Building Inspector for the Town of Frankestown, is on the Board of Directors for the NH Building Officer's Association, was on the Zoning Board of Adjustment in Antrim for ten years, and currently works in the building industry. The Selectmen will talk with Dario prior to finalizing any decisions.

Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante shared with the Selectmen a February 16th request from the Ski Area for outdoor liquor sales for the remaining weekends of the ski season. The Town currently authors their approval to the Liquor Commission for individual events. The Selectmen reviewed the Site Plan on file for the Ski Area and agreed that outdoor liquor sales appears to be in compliance with their Site Plan and authorized Kristie to provide the supporting documentation the Ski Area will require.

The Selectmen discussed a request from the owners of Map 22, Lot 11C to purchase the abutting lot (11D) that is currently owned by the Town. The Selectmen declined the sale to the abutter without public notice. Mark Mackesy made a motion, seconded by James Cleary, to advertise via sealed bid the sale of Map 22, Lot 11D. The Selectmen reserve the right to refuse any and all bids.

The Selectmen reviewed notice from Southwest Region Planning Commission about the Brownfields Assessment Program nomination period. The Brownfields Program is an environmental assessment to determine the presence and extent of any environmental risks associated with a property based on past use, site observations, and/or field test. The goal is to assess real or perceived contamination of properties and work with property owners and partners towards remediation. The Selectmen directed the Town Administrator to obtain more information and to see if Map 21, Lot 13-1 might be a candidate for the program.

Recreation Chair Bethany Craig met with the Selectmen to discuss the plans underway for the Rhubarb Festival on June 1st at Sawyer Park. In late 2018 the Festival transitioned from a private group fundraising effort to a Recreation Department event. On the evening on Friday, May 31st there will be a band at Sawyer Park and a food truck; the day of the event will feature crafters, food vendors, a petting zoo, music, and more. The Selectmen authorized a Rhubarb beer and/or wine tasting vendor at the event.

Bethany also discussed feedback from the community about a Haunted Hayride event on Old Stagecoach Road. If a private vehicle and trailer are used in the event, the driver needs to provide proof of insurance for both the vehicle and trailer for event. The Selectmen inquired what the Town's insurance company's response would be if Town employees utilized town vehicles. No decisions were made.

In other business, the Board acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Boards February 5, 2019 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll Registers for February 7 (2), February 14, and February 21 as well as the Accounts Payable Registers for February 7, February 14 (2), and February 21, 2019.
- Signed an Order for Removal for Map 7, Lot 31.
- Heard a report that the Town's insurance company saw no visible damage to the Loader as a result of a fire on February 1st. The Town can pursue having the Loader taken apart to determine if there's any damage, run the Loader as is, or discontinue use of the equipment. The Selectmen declined to take any action until they have had the opportunity to talk with the Highway Department.
- Agreed to earmark \$1,000 from the recent closure of an abandoned bank account for the development of a performance stage at Sawyer Park.
- Reviewed and approved the Selectmen's Message for the 2018 Town Report, selected a cover for the Town Report, and signed the MS 535 Financial Report.
- Signed an Intent to Cut (Map 18, Lot 2).
- Signed an Account Agreement for the Conservation Account at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. Authorized signers are Rhonda Davies, Joyce Miner, James Cleary, David Hardwick Sr., and Mark Mackesy.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante
Town Administrator