

Bennington Board of Selectmen
May 11, 2021 6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Hardwick, David Foster

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Appointments – 6:00 – Bethany Craig was present to discuss Sawyer Ball Field, Liability Insurance, schedules, rosters and more. Everyone was in agreement that the Town functions will take precedence. With all the recent changes, Bethany explained the responsibility chart as far as mowing and care of the field, explaining that Newhall Board takes care of Newhall Field, Sawyer Field and Cemeteries is cared for by George Chicoine and Paradise Gardens cares for the remaining parts of town. Paradise Gardens will likely care for the Gazebo but that needs clarification. We can revisit this in the future, but for now it works fine. Any questions with Sawyer Field, Scott Liljenberg & Bethany Craig should be consulted with first. Scheduling is done through the Town office.

Sawyer field-Town events are #1. Outside groups secondary.

Tyler McClure joined the meeting at 6:15 – he explained his schedule is on Facebook, he will get the link to the office. He would like to bring slow pitch softball back to the area. Games are scheduled for Monday thru Thursday at 6:30. Sometimes he will get there earlier to rake and line the fields. He runs the league and his girlfriend assists him. He has sponsors donate lime, dirt, loam and their labor, all will be donated and no expense to the town. The team will be making a donation to the town recreation. Deb Davidson will reach out to Primex for advice for insurance. The pitcher always wears a mask. Tyler does have liability waivers for all players.

Bethany asked about port-a-potties, she suggested they get at least one and they could lock it and put signage on it. Also mentioned was trash, alcoholic beverages have been a concern and she encourages carry in-carry out. Everyone was in agreement that is the best option.

Bethany further offered 3 wooden picnic tables. Tyler stated most people bring their own chairs, though he appreciates the offer, he would decline at this time.

Tyler had two final items to discuss 1. He would like an outfield fence, maybe a snow-fence, to square off the field. It was suggested to make the fence a movable one. 2. Relocation of the sound shed. Selectmen will discuss these items and get back to Tyler. Bethany indicated the relocation of the sound shed would be fine as long as cars are still able to access the field.

6:15 – Sargent, Jason LePine – Sargent LePine presented the board with a written resignation from the Bennington Police Department. He is moving on, this has been a difficult decision for him but it is a personal decision. His last day will be June 3, 2021. He stated that while he is still here he will continue taking calls, work on cleaning the office and closing as many cases as possible. LePine stated that Lester Milton and Dave Bell will still be here. Milton is fully trained with evidentiary items and will be the person who will be in charge of evidence.

Selectmen regretfully accepted Sargent LePine’s resignation. They are sorry to see him go. LePine stated he has been asked about the regionalizing of Hancock and Bennington. He believes the Selectboard does the best they can for the Town.

Sargent LePine left the meeting.

Selectmen asked Deb to contact the Sheriff’s Department. And to invite Officer Milton to the next Selectmen’s Meeting.

Minutes: April 27, 2021

Financial: Payroll Register – May 13, 2021
Accounts Payable – May 6, 2021

Old Business: VFW – DOL findings were reviewed. The VFW cannot be opened for the public use until the items are addressed.

WW AMP Program, final disbursement deadline has been moved out until November 2, 2021. WWAMP Power point is available for Selectmen’s review.

Cupola – Deb will ask someone she knows for a price for repairs, she will also reach out to Justin again.

New Business: Audit is moving forward.

Tri-Town Report from David Allwine - \$2700.00 twice a year, quote for removal of chloride from soil on 45 Durgin Rd.

Certificate of Insurance from Ball League

Dept. Head Updates: Matt Blanchard has reported that John Plourde & Dwayne Searles are scheduled to take a virtual class on June 9 to become Certified Solid Waste Operators.

Correspondence: DRA notification of changes

Review/Approve/Signatures:

Dave Hardwick updated the Selectboard of the PB/ZBA meeting. The garage will be located across from the dump, the variance was granted.

With nothing further, Chairman Cleary adjourned the meeting at 7:15p.m. The next Selectboard Meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Davidson, Interim Town Administrator