

Select Board *from page 13*

agreed. Roy will change that in the morning.

The Highland Lake dam brush cutting should be covered under the regular labor line and not as a Special Project.

Forest Fire cell phone is not needed and is removed from the budget.

Naughton will be hauling the Town's solid waste at a more cost-effective price than is currently being paid. Roy has not received a contract yet but expects to receive one.

The Board agreed there are no further changes to the budget and will send it to the Budget Committee.

Select Board

February 3

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Marj Roy, Town Administrator; Chuck Keyser, Select Board Chair; Dave Blinn and Bill Keyser, Select Board Members; John Thompson, Road Agent; and Police Officer Dan Shaw

Also present: Steve Bowers; Betty Henderson; Twilla Cook; Alex Bernhard

Road Agent Report

The Town is ahead of stocked sand at this point, with approximately 2,600 yards.

Thompson will take care of the brush cutting around the Highland Lake Dam as soon as Roy tells him it is okay to do so.

The Old College Road hole that has appeared in the past has not appeared recently.

So far, this winter has been quiet and there have not been a lot of storms to deal with.

The six-wheeler is back and ready to be used.

Thompson asked about the employment ad. Roy indicated it hasn't been posted yet, but she plans to put it in the *Kearsarge Shopper* and the *Intertown Record* weekly papers, along with Indeed for 30 to 45 days, and the New Hampshire Municipal Association, which runs until the job is filled.

Henderson Current Use Tax

Dave Blinn recused himself. Blinn's son, Keith, abuts the Henderson property and also has an interest in it.

The property was once part of a larger property and has been in Current Use for some time. At some point, there

were a couple of lots subdivided off of the larger parcel.

During the Town revaluation this past summer, Avitar noticed the property did not qualify for Current Use and removed it in July. Roy contacted Henderson to discuss it with her. When Henderson received the December tax bill, the property tax bill was the full tax rate.

Roy had several subsequent conversations with Avitar regarding this issue.

Henderson does not dispute the fact that the property does not qualify for the Current Use rate as it is now. The dispute is that they have never "used" the property any differently for all these years. The bill is a Land Use Change Tax and nothing has been changed in the use of the land. The only reason there is a change is because Avitar realized the property does not qualify.

Henderson understands that going forward the tax bill is the full rate because it no longer can be in Current Use. However, it is the Land Use Change Tax that is the problem.

After discussion, Roy will contact Avitar to clarify their reasoning and give them the Henderson's thoughts on the Land Use Change Tax. Roy explained there is an option for the Henderson's to apply for an abatement with the Select Board.

Town Report Budget Format

Roy asked the Board if they would like the format to remain as it has been in the past. All agreed to keep the format the same, department by department and line by line.

Health Officer Renewal: Marj Roy re-appointed as the Town Health Officer. Re-appointment is for a two-year period.

Roy explained her plan for putting together the Town Report. The narratives will be sent out to all the volunteer proofreaders this week. Then next week, the bulk of the work will be done on the Town Report.

Buswell Property

Roy asked the Board how they want to handle disposing of this property. After discussion, the Board decided to advertise the property, take sealed bids, and then have a Public Meeting where the Board will open the sealed bids and announce the winning bid.

The Board discussed how to dispose of the other Town-owned properties and agreed those could be set with an auctioneer as a group sale.

Friends Of The Northern Rail Trail

Bernhard explained there is a culvert issue over by Eagle Pond that needs work. The expected cost is approximately \$30,000. The Rail Trail can raise some funds and will also apply for a grant to help with the cost. Bernhard noted the FNRT committee is not asking for money from the Town, but a letter in support stating the importance of this to the Town. Bernhard offered Roy a copy of a letter he drafted for review. The Board agreed to support the project. Roy will write the letter tomorrow for Bernhard.

Blinn suggested Bernhard contact State Representatives and local businesses for their support.

Conservation Commission

January 15

Condensed from approved minutes

Members Present: Jerry Hersey, Alan McIntyre, Nancy Robarts, Jesse Schust, Lee Wells, Tina Cotton (joining us after the budget meeting)

New Chair or Co-Chair

Jesse may be interested in the future, Jerry is de facto acting chair. We can rotate being responsible for the agenda and running the meeting.

Nancy agreed to be the communications contact person. Please pass all concerns expressed to us as individuals to Nancy. Can we have an official Andover email? Action item: Alan will talk to Elita about setting up an email account for us with the town and including it on the website.

ASLPT

Jesse attended outreach committee meeting, members reporting what their Cons Comms are doing. ASLPT is sponsoring a program on "Trails for People and Wildlife" on Wednesday, March 25. We need to advertise this event to the town and try to attend ourselves. We should encourage people with land in easement to lead walks on their property.

Grantham has put a good-sized property into easement. Reports that Emerald Ash Borer is moving faster that projected earlier. They are working on biological strategies that may be effective in the long term.

Andy Deegan called Jerry to ask him to approve the sale of a lot that had been reserved out of the original Barclin easement. The sale needs to be approved by the Andover Cons Comm, and Jerry, as acting chair, will need to sign off on it.

Motion made by Jesse to give Jerry authority to sign the form approving the sale as requested by Andy Deegan at ASLPT, seconded by Alan. Approved by all.

Bog Pond

Lakes Region Planning Commission Mapping status: Action item: Jesse will follow up with Mary Anne to see if she has contacted the property owners on Bog Pond.

Newman Easement

Jerry has spoken with Jim, and he is in support of signage and gate. He'll pay for it, but he would like us to organize it. Getting a gate installed is a complicated problem; it might be a good project for a scout troop. Action item: Alan will contact the local boy scout troop leader to see if they are interested.

Jim is fine with people hiking and biking there, but he doesn't want motorized vehicles. Might Rail Trail or Fish and Game have some recommendations for erecting a gate? Blazes on the trails need to be refreshed; Derek might be interested. A surveyor is not needed to refresh property line blazes.

White Oak

Still waiting to hear from Town. Tina asked Chuck Keyser, who is still waiting to hear. The Town is allowed to take material out for sanding the roads.

Eversource Update

Jesse has tried to do a site visit with Eversource twice, but weather has not allowed those visits. Will try to have a look before they finish up this winter.

See Cons Comm on page 18

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