

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Clayton Stalker, Russ Austin Frank Reeder-Excused

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by Chairman Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes February 17, 2022. Motion was made by Russ Austin second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 2-0.
3. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin second by Clayton Stalker to approve a manifest of \$194,155.79. Motion passed 2-0.
4. Guests:
 - A. Marshall Patmos, chair of the Conservation Commission was present to update the Selectmen on the role of the Commission relating to the Cheshire Rail Trail initiative. Letters were sent to 54 abutters along the rail trail informing them of the work that was going to be done and giving them the opportunity to participate.
Marshall informed the Selectmen that the Commission would be sponsoring a roadside cleanup in town on April 23rd.
 - B. Alison Fissette was present to request that the Selectmen hold off on moving forward with the Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAG). The grant is funded by NH Housing with the goal of reviewing zoning ordinances and identifying possible housing barriers. Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) will assist the town in writing the grant.
At their meeting on March 21, 2022, the Planning Board voted to support the grant and have the Selectmen move forward with it. Alison would like the Planning Board to discuss the issue again because she believes the Board did not have all the information needed to make a decision. She added that the Master Plan should be updated to address issues such as solar and housing.
Note: The Master Plan is updated every 10 years – the last one we have was finalized in 2016.
Russ Austin asked John Snowdon what his role was at SWRPC and if he was paid. John stated that Bruce Smith and himself served as commissioners representing Westmoreland. He added that he also served on the SWRPC Board and that neither position was a paid one.
Russ stated that if the outcome of the grant recommended any zoning changes, they would need to be voted by the townspeople. John added that the grant would be reviewed by a professional planner and a ‘Report of Findings’ would be presented. Upon completion of the Report, the Planning Board would review it and decide to/or not move forward with the ‘Findings’.
Informational meetings and a public hearing would be held and the townspeople would then vote on the final proposed changes.
Alison recommended that the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Selectmen have a combined meeting to further discuss the grant. She added that the Planning Board was initially looking to organize the ordinances, not to change them. She believes, after reading the grant information, the MTAG requires the town to write an ordinance to expand housing.
John Snowdon stated that the grant would look at housing and economic development and added that anything that the grant comes up with does not have to be accepted by the town.
The idea of a joint meeting with the Boards and someone from SWRPC will be worked on.

5. Old Business:

- A. Gazebo: Cathy Watson will submit a price for the proposed town common gazebo including preparing the ground and setting it in place. Having power was also discussed, along with the issue of the location of the gazebo in relation to the current openings of the common. Exact location has not been determined yet and this issue will be discussed further at that time.
- B. Mike Kowalczyk from the Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative (MRRTC) and Dan Shelley will be attending the March 17th meeting to do a presentation on work that is planned for the rail trail in Westmoreland.
- C. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to appoint Harry Nelson, Jo Ann LaBarre and Melissa Bonito as Selectmen Pro-Tem on March 8th for the elections. Motion passed 2-0. The Selectmen will be attending the sentencing hearing at the Keene Courthouse for the past town clerk & tax collector at 9:00am. By law, the Selectmen must be present at the election. Pro-tems were appointed in case the Selectmen do not get to the Town Hall by 11:00am when the polls open.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 2/22/2022, 2/28/2022

Payroll Taxes: 2/24/2022, 2/28/2022

General Journal Entries: #791, 792, 793

Bank Statements: February 2022

Go Daddy: Website security 2/21/2022

Healthtrust: 2/25/2022

NH Retirement: 2/25/2022

Amazon: Election supplies 3/2/2022

Invoice Cloud: on-line sign-ups 3/3/2022

- A. An abatement of 4¢ requested by the tax collector was approved to adjust an on-line property tax payment that was made.
- B. A license renewal to sell pistols & revolvers was signed by the Selectmen for Jack Zeller.
- C. After research and committee deliberation, the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee has submitted a report to the Selectmen with initial recommendations that will help lessen the tax burden of the Recycling Center. Discussion was tabled until the March 17th meeting when all three selectmen will be present.
- D. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to unseal non-public meeting minutes whereby the reason for sealing no longer exists (RSA 91-A:3, III). Motion passed 2-0.
- E. The Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee has requested funds from the Fire Department Facility Capital Reserve Fund for a town-wide mailing to promote the proposed fire station. The Selectmen denied the request to use further town funds.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.* None

- 8. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(b) at 2:00pm. Motion passed 2-0.

9. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 2:20pm. Motion passed 2-0
10. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, March 17, 2022, 6:00PM

MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED -
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

