

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – June 27, 2011

1. S. Lennon called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. S. Lennon and M. Case attending for the Selectboard.
2. S. Lennon made a motion to accept the minutes from 6/27. M. Case seconded and there being no objection, the motion passed.
3. S. Lennon asked D. Fish about his plans for the old playground equipment which he bid on and won. D. Fish said he will remove the playground equipment as soon as possible. The heavy equipment he was planning to use was not available when he wanted to use it, but will be shortly. D. Fish reported that beavers in the Town Park and on Cross Place are causing problems with water levels. He requested a permit to hire a trapper. K. Walls confirmed that there is much evidence of beaver activity in those two spots. V. Bird asked if it was possible to control by using beaver deceivers. D. Fish replied that there is a beaver deceiver on Cross Place, but they block it up. K. Walls stated that the Beaver Deceiver won't work at Town Park because the water just runs around both sides of the dam there. S. Lennon made a motion to trap on Cross Place and Town Park. M. Case seconded. There being no objection, the motion passed. D. Fish requested a written permit before proceeding. The Selectboard responded that they will seek the required form and get back to D. Fish.
4. S. Lennon asked D. Fish about a big hole reported on Washington Mountain Rd. D. Fish replied that the highway crew had filled it. S. Lennon asked about the single row of large hemlock trees left on Washington Mountain Rd. by the Pittsfield logging operation. C. Willis had mentioned to D. Fish that this might be a blow-down hazard. S. Lennon said we should talk to a state forester about this. S. Lennon stated that these large trees are good wind break and help minimize snow drift on that road. D. Fish agreed.
5. S. Lennon asked V. Bird about the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission efforts to regionalize some Board of Health functions. V. Bird responded that planning for this change continues and that J. Huebner had attended the recent BRPC meeting on this effort. V. Bird next updated the Selectboard on work at Bucksteep. Judi Sacco had assured her that the alternate well will be tested for purity and flow volume before the planned events on July 15 and 17. V. Bird will stay on top of the well inspection process and issue permits when the well is in compliance with all state regulations. J. Nelson to contact Doreen Jewell to make sure the event permit granted earlier by the town is correct regarding the nature of the planned concerts. V. Breen mentioned that he has heard that there could be large numbers of people attending the concerts and wondered about security/traffic management plans at Bucksteep. He will visit there to inquire.

6. D. Fish raised the subject of his work on the flag pole at the chapel. As the flag pole sits on Judge Sacco's land he believes he needs his permission to take down the existing pole and put up the new one. J. Nelson offered to contact the judge for permission.
7. M. Case asked D. Fish for an update on work on the nursing home culvert. D. Fish reported that he had spoken with M. Lampro of the Conservation Commission about this matter. She told him that he would need to write a Notice of Intent before proceeding. It would have to be published in the Eagle. She offered to help him with this. After publication of the Notice he would have to meet with the Conservation Commission to discuss and win approval. D. Fish objected to the cost of publishing Notice in the Eagle as it could cost \$500 and he did not have budget for this. M. Case asked if we could publish in the Country Journal instead as it is less costly. K. Walls said that he had visited the site and confirmed that water is flooding an adjacent pasture and also runs across the road. He asked if our General Notice of Intent wouldn't cover this as an emergency situation. If so, we would not need to advertise. D. Fish stated that he is ready to replace the failed culvert. He has pipe, hay bales etc. ready to use. K. Walls suggested that he wait until August when the flow level is down. S. Lennon made a motion that discussion of this issue be continued at next week's Selectmen's meeting. He added that in the interim these issues will be discussed at the Conservation Commission meeting on 7/7.
8. S. Lennon addressed the Open Action Items and asked K. Walls about the possibility of getting any information on that Conservation Commission letter from the Peltiers regarding their complaints about the DPW. K. Walls responded that he thought we should drop this question. He said that all the issues raised have been taken care of by this point.
9. S. Lennon asked D. Fish where we stand with Ron Elsworth repairing the generator and blower. S. Lennon asked S. Brazee if the town has paid him the money he asked for to buy the replacement part for the generator. S. Brazee replied that D. Parnell would have handled this and she did not have that information. D. Parnell was not in attendance and could not be consulted.
10. S. Lennon mentioned for the record that the phone interview with Mass. Unemployment on the situation with Keith Sharp's loss of the transfer station job had been rescheduled.
11. S. Lennon asked V. Breen about the town's reverse 911 system. V. Breen stated that he has requested information from the Sheriff's office. M. Case mentioned that other attractive options have come to the Board's attention and that some research into our options may be appropriate. The Board decided to defer this discussion to next week.

12. V. Breen addressed the Board regarding security in town hall. He wants to propose a new system to control all locks in the building and is gathering information on our options.
13. S. Lennon read into the record the following receipts: \$100 from M. Lampro for transfer station fees collected; \$ 25 from D. Fish in payment for the old playground equipment; \$160 from Le Prevost for plumbing permit.
14. S. Lennon made a motion for the Board to accept the July Selectmen's letter for submission to the Tracks. M. Case seconded the motion and the Board agreed to accept the Tracks article.
15. At 7:45 pm S. Lennon made a motion to suspend the Selectmen's meeting so that the scheduled Special Town meetings could be held. M. Case seconded. Hearing no objection the motion carried. Town Clerk Allison Mikaniewicz commenced taking minutes for the Special Town Meetings which were moderated by Dick Spencer of the Finance Committee.
16. At 8:15 pm S. Lennon reconvened the Selectmen's meeting.
17. S. Lennon asked the Town Clerk about Saturday's Fun Fair . She said that it was well attended and much fun was had by the families. Attendance numbers were down somewhat from last year by her observation. The rain held off until the Fair was ending. Boy Scouts raised \$150.00.
18. D. Spencer asked the Board if they had received any information regarding Pugzee's farm. The Board was not aware of any. D. Spencer reported that he had met the owner at the Washington Mountain Road site of the farm. D. Spencer had gone there to see if he could purchase any of the wood chips the construction had generated. The owner complained about difficulties with town Conservation Committee. He found it hard to deal with them. He is planting 1200 blueberry bushes. This will be a commercial farm, not a pick-your-own operation. There will never be more than one house on the site. He also plans to grow Christmas trees. The farm will seek customers for its products over the internet. All profits will go to Soldier On in Pittsfield. All workers are from Soldier On. D. Spencer wondered if this is a non-profit business. The owner, Paul Aron, is a veteran of the Israeli army. Modern Excavating is doing the site prep work there.
19. S. Lennon reported the town's receipt of \$3000 from CET. Check was delivered by Cynthia Gripaldi of CET. This sum was from the South Berkshire Solid Waste Management District. S. Lennon asked C. Gripaldi about the Green Communities Group. She replied that grants are available. Jim Huebner has mentioned that the group will be meeting on 7/11 here at 7:30 – 9:00. D. Fish asked C. Gripaldi about 3 refrigerators at

the transfer station. They need to be taken away. If they are in good working order someone will take them. She will investigate and get back to us on this.

20. S. Lennon stated that discussions about appointees will be taken up at next week's Selectmen's meeting.
21. S. Lennon made a motion to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 9:10 pm. M. Case seconded and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: _____

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