

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – July 29, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. As the first order of business, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of July 22, 2013. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. Responding to the requests of several residents during the past week, the Board discussed the furniture needs for the auditorium. Heidi Nugent reminded the Board that as the space must serve the needs of several groups, it is important that the furniture can be easily moved and rearranged. The town's old wooden seating is not easily moved even by the young and spry. The metal folding chairs are extremely uncomfortable and many are rusted. The large conference tables are very heavy. J. Huebner made a motion to obtain more durable and comfortable seating for the auditorium. S. Lennon seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. J. Huebner asked J. Sawtelle to purchase wheeled glides to place under the conference tables so that they can be easily pushed aside if needed. Until these changes can be made, J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to check with the various groups which use the auditorium on their space requirements and to see that furniture is moved to accommodate them. The Board will move all furniture aside at the end of each Selectmen's meeting. The heavy chairs owned by the exercise circle will be moved out of the utility closet to their previous spot in the auditorium as requested.
4. C. Briggs mentioned that she had received an insurance claim for tar and sand damage to his truck from Derek Rogers. Mr. Rogers had appeared before the Board last week on this issue.
5. Peter Sandler addressed the Board on the subject of Old Middlefield Road. He complained that gravel has been dumped there and that the road has not been graded in several years. D. Fish was of a different opinion but said that the Highway Department would grade the road and take care of the problem.
6. D. Fish told the Board that the highway contractor who did the chip sealing has inspected the roads. The Board asked him to let C. Briggs know this so that she can contact the Town's insurance company. D. Fish also reported that he had gotten a note from Phil Clark about remediating some of the problems caused by the drainage work on Washington Mountain Road.
7. J. Huebner made a motion to appoint resident Jeffrey Sawtelle to the Washington Council on Aging. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to approve Mr. Sawtelle's appointment was unanimous. J. Huebner read a letter signed by all Board members to R. Borgnis stating that the Board will not be reappointing her to the COA.. She was asked to return any Town assets to J. Hostetter. The Board has requested an audit of the COA account in order to clarify the financial status as Mr. Sawtelle takes over.
8. The Board signed a permit authorizing Summit Hill Campground to hold raffles during the summer season. The Town Clerk will be informed as she will need to be involved in handling the funds from the raffles per state law.

9. P. Clark addressed the board on the subject of remediating recent drainage work on Washington Mountain Road. He had sent the Board and D.Fish a summary document with his assessment of the current condition of Washington Mountain Road in proximity to the Drugmond property at number 572. He was asked to visit the site by the Board last week. The Drugmonds have objected to the appearance of the finished drainage work done by the Highway Department. P.Clark told the Board that he needs information from both sides in order to completely understand the situation and to make effective recommendations.

While trying to improve the drainage situation, the crew created the disturbed embankment on the western side of the road. The Drugmonds have said that a property marker there was obliterated and that their private property has been damaged. P. Clark will try to see how best to restore this spot to a condition that would be appropriate to the area. He suggests that we leave the rock there and cover it with a filter fabric. The fabric will be covered with soil that will grow grass, leaving a small drainage way. There is another area north of some rock rubble that we should grade and also cover with a blanket to get grass to grow. A third locale that needs to be addressed is the inlet chamber catch basin. This was D.Fish's idea and P. Clark agreed that it was a good one.

The Board asked P. Clark to conduct a survey of the site and to provide a remediation plan to reach a good outcome. J. Huebner asked for a ballpark estimate on this work. P. Clark said the total should be around \$3000. J. Huebner made a motion to have Horizon Consulting assist the Town in this work up to \$3500. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson to draft a letter to the Drugmonds confirming that they have hired P. Clark to conduct a survey to determine what it will take to repair the site and to manage the remediation. As the Drugmonds joined the meeting at this point and he brought them up to date on the previous discussion, J. Huebner withdrew the request for J. Nelson to draft a letter.

The Drugmonds joined the meeting at this point. P. Borgnis pointed out that there are trees to be taken down. Their roots have been exposed. They may have to be removed before we can do remediation. D. Fish said that the DEP and a forester have been at the site. P. Clark said that he needs to know where the Town right of way is. P. Borgnis suggested that they pull the assessor's map. P. Clark would like to give a copy of his report to the Drugmonds. The Board approved this. J.Huebner recapped the foregoing discussion for the Drugmonds. P. Clark said that he would like to stabilize the bank by leaving the tree stumps cut flush to the ground. D. Drugmond agreed with this. The Drugmonds stated that they want consistency of appearance on that boundary embankment. They also want the blockage removed from their culvert. D. Fish agreed to replace their culvert. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to make this work his top priority. The Drugmonds are considering whether to ask for payment for any trees they are going to lose.

10. Mrs. Delaney of Summit Hill Campground complained to the Board that their letter and permit for the car show didn't reach them until Saturday afternoon. They were delivered but were not postmarked, though both were mailed at the Becket Post Office. The Administrative Assistants will investigate this with the Becket Post Office. She also corrected the Board's statement that cars could reach the campground via Middlefield Road. That is no longer possible. Fortunately there was no damage to exhibitors' or guests' vehicles Saturday.

11. Mr. Glen Grogan joined the meeting. J. Huebner asked him to audit the COA accounts back for several years. The Board wants a baseline to start from with the new Chair. The annual COA grant from the state is about \$3500. Jeff Sawtelle said that he wants to bring back the penny socials tradition. The COA is looking to get more volunteers. J. Sawtelle said that he could get good chairs for the auditorium at reasonable cost. They would be light weight, senior- friendly chairs. They would be taller chairs, easier to stand up from. The Board would like to replace 80% of the wooden chairs with new chairs.
12. J. Huebner reported receiving a response from Peter Niles to his letter of June 10 to Mass DOT. There have been more crashes on Washington Mountain Road (WMR) than we thought earlier. We are over the state average. But because the crashes are weather related they may not position us to get repair funds. BRPC will put traffic counters out on WMR. D. Fish reported that we did receive our chapter 90 money - \$130,000. M. Case reported that he received a call from Becket saying that we have been awarded \$750,000 for WMR repairs in the transportation bill. J. Huebner observed that this was probably the funding request filed by Sen. Downing and was unlikely to be funded when all the politics played out.
13. J. Huebner announced that F. Kennedy had resigned as Webmaster and Ballot Box Counselor. The resignations were accepted with regret. Town computer consultant John Les has agreed to serve as interim webmaster. J. Huebner made a motion to accept J. Les as interim webmaster pending a proposal from Mr. Les and acceptance by the Board. M. Case seconded and the vote was unanimous. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to give him the paperwork related to the web site that F. Kennedy had returned. He also returned his keys to the Town Hall. M. Case volunteered to serve as Ballot Box Constable. J. Huebner made a motion to accept M. Case as Ballot Box Constable. S. Lennon seconded and the appointment was approved unanimously.
14. Chief Breen told the Board that the school bus that we'll have will be white. It is a 9 passenger, 4 wheel drive vehicle. No yellow is available. He has no news from Becket on the number of new of students for this fall.
15. J. Huebner reported that Dalton will contact Mr. Gibson of Becket regarding emergency communications.
16. The Board received \$295.00 from Mr. Bennett for septic and well permits and \$50.00 from Summit Hill for the car show permit. Checks were turned over to the Treasurer.
17. J. Huebner asked that a notice received from Westfield Wild & Scenic for an 8/1 meeting be posted. Minutes from June 27 were also to be posted.
18. J. Hostetter told the Board that she had given the 2014 List of Town Appointees to Tracks. This is not the complete list of all who hold positions in town, just the 2014 appointees. The Annual reports still await input from some individuals for the last 2 years of data.
19. J. Huebner made a motion to thank S. Lennon for his work on acquiring furniture for the Town's use. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously. S. Lennon asked if we could request some of the old pictures from the Historical Commission to be framed and hung in the halls. The Town will pay for the framing. J. Nelson will inquire about this with the Commission.

- 20. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from DCR about MEMA funding which must be given to P. Clark. J. Hostetter to take care of this. She will also check to see if the Town is a member of the National Boards of Health.
- 21. J. Huebner made a motion and the Board voted unanimously to accept the monthly Select Board Letter.
- 22. J. Huebner reminded all that there will be no Select Board meeting next Monday, Aug.5. We will instead be meeting next Wednesday, August 7 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. There will be no Select Board meeting on Monday, Aug. 12. Our next meeting will be Monday, Aug. 19 at 7:00pm.
- 23. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 8:39pm. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson