

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 30, 2021**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the New Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager Thomas Holmes, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT US 302 AND EAST CONWAY ROAD
INTERSECTION

Michael Dugas, NHDOT Safety Engineer and Project Manager appeared before the Board along with Stephen Haas, Engineer.

Mr. Dugas explained that the purpose of this hearing was to reintroduce this project to the community and show the pros and cons of a traffic signal vs a roundabout.

Mr. Haas gave a power point presentation regarding all aspects of the project. (See Attached).

It was explained during the presentation that the intersection would be easily traversed by big trucks with either option.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Dugas stated that it was their intention to receive feedback regarding the options for a roundabout vs. a traffic signal from the Town to take into consideration when making their final decision.

MaryLou Waite, who was attending the hearing during Zoom stated

“I Would like to express my opinion on 302/ East Conway Road intersection. Lights would be best for all concerned as I have watched big rigs travers the turn onto East Conway Road needing plenty of space. I don't believe a roundabout would be sufficient for smooth moving traffic. Thank you.”

Mr. Dugas noted that there had been a presumption that a traffic signal would have been a faster option, however, there is an 8-9 month waiting period for structural steel.

Ms. Seavey stated that personally she would like to see a roundabout.

Mr. Colbath said that the majority of people he talks to are in favor of a roundabout.

Mr. Porter agreed with Mr. Colbath.

Mr. Thibodeau asked what DOT's preference was. Mr. Dugas stated that from his personal engineering standpoint, he preferred a roundabout in terms of safety.

Chief Mattei questioned the point of perception driving north and wondered if they had considered straightening the roadway.

Mr. Dugas stated that he was unsure if they had looked into that issue, but will take a closer look.

The Junkyard on the corner of the intersection was brought up. Mr. Holmes stated that there was fear of potential litigation.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that DES wanted leadership from the Town in terms of enforcing clean up at the site.

The discussion of whether to include pedestrian accommodations at the intersection will be put on an upcoming agenda.

DISCUSSION OF BY-PATH PROJECT WITH DOT

Bill Cass and Bill Watson appeared before the Board to discuss issues with the MWV Rec Trail Project.

Mr. Cass noted that he had talked with Mr. DegliAngeli and assured him that going forward, their goal is to work with the Town.

He explained that there had been some internal delays as they had been trying to get their arms around issues.

There was mention that because the Bypass Project was no longer, there were properties that needed to be sold to pay the se back, however, there was the belief that the properties that were affected by the Rec Trail should not be subject to the payback.

Mr. Cass stated that he understood the frustration and that there could have been better communication with the Town. He assured the Board that they will have the Town at the table to ensure they are informed and be more proactive with their outreach.

Mr. Cass noted that they were requesting a pretty routine extension from the Federal Highway and are confident it will be approved.

Mr. Colbath thanked the gentlemen for coming and stated that there is a lot of public interest in this project and that the delays and lack of communication were costing people money and it was not acceptable.

Chris Meier thanked the gentlemen and explained that they had already lost one of their donors so it was important that the focus was put on this project.

Mr. Meier also added that there had been discussion about a potential of an added cost back to the Trails Association for the added right of way costs and he hoped this would not be an additional cost to them.

DISCUSSION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY – POLICE MOTORCYCLE

Chief Mattei explained that they have a 2010 Harley Davidson motorcycle that only one officer is trained to use. However, this officer is not going to be working the day shift much of the summer. Because of this, and the age of the bike, and the inability to get more officers trained, he would like to use it to trade towards the two new cruisers that are scheduled to be purchased this year. He noted that this would mean there would be less money coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund for Police Vehicles.

The consensus of the Board was that they believed it would be more beneficial to sell it by putting it out to bid than trading it in.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the Town Manager and Chief Mattei to dispose of the motorcycle in the way that would be in the best financial interest of the Town. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN BUILDING PERMIT FEE FOR SACO WOODS

The Board reviewed an estimate of the building permit fee of \$5,930 developed by Building Inspector Dave Pandora.

Ellin Leonard appeared before the Board to request a potential reduction in the building permit fee as many of the individuals living there are on a fixed income.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to reduce the building permit fee for Saco Woods to \$5,000. The motion failed (2-3-0) with Mr. Weathers, Mr. Thibodeau, and Ms. Seavey in the negative.

DISCUSSION ON BATHROOMS IN NORTH CONWAY

Mr. Holmes explained that he sent in his letter of interest for the North Borders Grant.

He noted that the formal application would be due in May with the grant potentially awarded in October.

He mentioned that only 80% of the total money for the bathroom project can come from federal funds.

Mr. Holmes also explained that in terms of the stimulus money, the funds being allocated to Conway also include the precincts. He also noted that this is a two-year program with only 50% of the money being given to the Town this year.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to allow porta-potties in Schouler Park other than those used for special events. The motion failed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. Eastman stated that he would like guidance from the Board regarding how they want to proceed in terms of Fourth of July Festivities.

He explained that they currently have a contract with ATLAS for the fireworks but they could get out of it if they desired.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he felt they should have all of the normal festivities and if necessary, post COVID-19 protocols.

There was mention that Main Street in Conway would be torn up during the Fourth of July. It was stated that the proposed parade route would go from Hillside Avenue to the American Legion.

Mr. Porter asked that they consider moving it to North Conway.

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to have a parade on the Fourth of July from Hillside Avenue to the American Legion. The motion carried (4-1-0) with Mr. Porter in the negative.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to have the fireworks at Schouler Park on the Fourth of July. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath stated that he was not as optimistic as Mr. Thibodeau, and was concerned on who would be enforcing protocols.

Mr. Weathers was concerned about that many people in Schouler Park all day for entertainment.

Mr. Porter stated that he agreed with Mr. Colbath and that he did not want to put the Town Staff at risk.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to allow entertainment in Schouler Park on the Fourth of July. The motion failed (1-4-0) with Mr. Thibodeau in the affirmative.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to allow food vendors in Schouler Park on the Fourth of July. The motion failed (1-4-0) with Mr. Thibodeau in the affirmative.

DISCUSSION OF PICKLEBALL

Mr. Colbath stated that the local pickleball folks have much interest in having more venues for pickleball in Town.

He explained that Mr. Holmes had suggested looking into the possibility of utilizing the back parking lot at the Old Town Hall.

The Board looked at a diagram depicting two courts at the Old Town Hall location.

Because the area is sloped, Mr. DegliAngeli would like to tear the pavement up and start from scratch. The rough cost estimate for this would be \$5,000 for the pavement but exclusive of fencing, painting and striping.

It was also explained that because the Center Conway Fire Department needs to maintain access to the pond out back, they would design the courts with fencing that can be opened and closed.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to allow Mr. Holmes to further investigate the feasibility of pickleball courts at the Old Town Hall parking lot. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF OLD TOWN HALL SIGN

Mr. Holmes stated that he was looking for guidance regarding the Old Town Hall sign.

Mr. Colbath stated that he did not think the building should say anything about Town Hall as it would be confusing to people.

There was discussion regarding adding the word "Annex".

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to remove the words "Town Hall" from the Old Town Hall sign, add the word "Annex" and redo the Town Seal. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to leave the words written on the Old Town Hall as is.

Mr. Colbath stated that he believed the words should be removed, but suggested putting the names of the new tenants instead.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to withdraw their motion.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to convert the words on the front of the Old Town Hall building to the current tenants of the building using the same script. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes stated that he will verify that "1634" is visible on the building.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 203-80.002
- b. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.073
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 203-142
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 203-142
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 247-72
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.210
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 259-62
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.033
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax/Credits Exemptions on Map/Lot 288-50
- j. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 243-20
- k. Quitclaim Deed for McMillan Lane from the Town of Conway to 13 Green Street Properties, LLC
- l. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 268-127
- m. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 210-19
- n. Yield Tax Levy on Map/Lot 210-19 and 268-127

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the documents listed above in a. through n. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 4/1/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the AP Manifest dated 4/1/2021. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Stephan Siller Tunnel to Tower Run (7/10/21)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the special event application as listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 3/1/2021
- b. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 3/9/2021
- c. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 3/23/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adopt the minutes above from a. through c. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes stated that Ms. Inkell had requested guidance on how to issue parking stickers to non-resident second home owners. Unlike residents whose cars are registered in Conway, they were unsure on how to verify that the cars belonged to those living in the non-resident household.

The suggestion was to issue one sticker per owner listed on the deed.

Mr. Thibodeau moved to issue one sticker per deeded owner. However, after discussion, he withdrew his motion.

After much debate and discussion, **Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to issue non-resident parking stickers at the rate of one parking permit per deeded owner per registered vehicle in their name. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Holmes noted that Congressman Chris Pappas is going to be touring the New Town Hall on Friday.

Mr. Holmes stated that the Main Street Project would be starting work again on April 12, 2021.

Mr. Holmes noted that the flag pole for Town Hall had been ordered.

Mr. Holmes stated that the Police had received their 50% grant for the radar trailer.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter noted that the Planning Board had met the previous week and had removed the 50-foot buffer requirement without prejudice.

Ms. Seavey stated that the Economic Council met and continued work on the Development of the back lots.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Ms. Inkell noted that absentee ballots are now available,

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked about whether Albany residents were going to be given parking stickers.

Mr. Holmes noted that if Albany pays for the parks and rec services, they would be treated the same as Conway Residents.

ADJOURN

At 6:53 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary