

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
August 16, 2022**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:01 pm in the Meeting Room at the New Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Town Manager John Eastman, 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. Weathers noted that Mr. Porter would be unable to attend the meeting and Ms. Seavey would be a few minutes late.

Mr. Weathers noted that they would be adding 5a. Vote on CDBG Application and 7a. Request for Letter of Support for Watershed Management Plan.

They will also be removing agenda 20. Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Tax Matter.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Seavey arrived at 4:02 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED WAY STATION APPLICATION FOR CDBG FUNDS

Mr. Weathers opened the public hearing at 4:02 pm.

Donna Lane noted that there were informational packets available on the front table.

Ms. Lane read the following:

Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for Economic Development Projects, up to \$500,000 for Housing Projects, up to \$500,000 for Public Facility Projects, up to \$500,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low- and moderate-income persons.

This is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$25,000 in CDBG Planning Study Grant Funds. Of the funds, \$3,500 will be retained by the town for administrative costs associated with the project, \$21,500 of the funds will be subgranted to the Way Station to engage an engineer/architect to determine changes to best re-purposing a

building at 15 Grove St., owned and used by Lutheran Church of the Nativity, and also partially occupied by the Way Station's day resource center, to address the following potential uses: Optimize space used by Way Station as day resource center (not an overnight operation), Provide 2-4 individual or family residential units (enhancement of existing use), Address requirements for creating a multi-use space which could remain available for the church's use, Recommendations for systems and structural improvements and modifications to meet programmatic goals, increase accessibility, address code requirements, and support administrative functions.

This project conforms with Conway's Housing and Community Development Plan's goal of: Encourage increased and improved social services.

Mr. Weathers asked for public comment.

It was clarified that this grant was for a planning study, not a construction grant.

Mr. Colbath inquired as to who would own the building.

Pastor Nathan stated that it would remain property of the Lutheran Church.

Daymond Steer wondered if this undertaking would bring people to Conway from other Towns.

Mr. Colbath explained that the homelessness issue is state-wide.

Ms. Seavey stated that she is in favor of shelters, but she would like to see the residents of Conway served before other towns.

Pastor Nathan explained that the Way Station's mandate is more broad to include people from the entire Mt. Washington Valley, however, about half of the people they serve are from Conway.

Ms. Seavey emphasized that other towns need to help their own residents.

She applauded Pastor Nathan for what the Way Station does.

Mr. Colbath urged Pastor Nathan to start keeping good statistics on who is utilizing their services.

Mr. Steer asked how they determine where someone is from.

Mr. Colbath stated that it's a big gray area.

Mr. Weathers asked what they would be doing to the building.

Pastor Nathan explained that they would like to utilize their building to create family units.

Ms. Seavey stated that people need to actively be looking for work.

Pastor Nathan agreed, however, a large number of those who are homeless do not have the ability to keep their life together.

Pastor Nathan stated that often poor mental health is a death sentence.

Ms. Seavey asked how the neighbors feel about this undertaking.

Pastor Nathan noted that they plan to get more feedback.

He added that they plan to have a staff member living on site and involved caseworkers to help residents make progress.

Mr. Colbath mentioned seeing if the County would be interested in sponsoring this project as well.

Mr. Weathers closed public hearing at 4:28 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN

Mr. Weathers opened public comment at 4:28 pm.

Ms. Lane read the following:

This plan outlines measures, under the Uniform Relocation Act, required for CDBG projects that involve any displacement or relocation of persons (or businesses), if the Town were to undertake a CDBG project which involved displacement or relocation they would follow this plan. The plan outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, suitable housing for persons (or businesses) displaced or relocated. This is a planning study, no displacement or relocation is anticipated.

Mr. Weathers asked for public comment.

Pastor Nathan noted that they are not ready with a plan for building.

Therefore, they are going to take their time and apply for a planning grant.

Mr. Steer inquired as to whether Mr. Eastman had a meeting with Tri County Cap.

Mr. Eastman explained that they had a zoom meeting to discuss strategy and protocol.

He added that it was beneficial for him to learn the process.

Mr. Steer stated that the homelessness problem needs a State response.

Mr. Colbath stated that some people are reluctant to receive the services they need and they cannot infringe on people's rights.

Pastor Nathan supported this and added they it is an ethical quandary.

Mr. Weathers closed the public hearing at 4:36 pm.

VOTE ON CDBG APPLICATION

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the submittal of the CDBG Planning Study application and vote to authorize the Town Manager to sign and submit the CDBG application, and upon approval of the CDBG application, authorize the Town Manager to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract, and any amendments thereto. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. The motion carried unanimously.**

REQUEST FROM REACH THE BEACH

Mr. Eastman explained that he had been contacted by the co-founders of Reach the Beach, Mr. Tufts and Mr. Mazzola with a request to amend their already signed special event permit so they could change the route that the vans have to drive.

Currently, the vans have to go up Passaconaway Road to the Kancamagus Highway.

They organizers would like them to be able to drive through Conway Village.

Mr. Eastman explained that both Fire Chiefs do not recommend that they change the route.

It can be quite dangerous especially because they come through the Village at the same time school gets out.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to change the Reach the Beach van route back to go through Conway Village. The motion failed unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director Andrew Smith appeared before the Board.

He explained that they were due to replace the storage trailer for mattresses at the Transfer Station next year, however, they are in need to one sooner as it is leaking.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to authorize the expenditure of \$44,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Solid Waste Equipment for a mattress storage trailer. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Smith noted that Hazardous Waste Day will be September 14, 2022.

He explained that the food waste recycling program was going well and they had already shipped out 1,000 pounds of food.

He has heard nothing but good reports.

Mr. Smith explained that at a past meeting they had met with Jason Gagnon from the North Conway Water Precinct to discuss the influx of leachate.

Mr. Smith and Superintendent of the CVFD had put some of their leachate in a holding pool and DES found them in violation.

He explained that CVFD will be doing some ground water monitoring, but there are no domestic wells that are in danger.

They are back to the drawing board in terms of what to do with the excess leachate.

In regards to the transfer station hours, they have only received a few complaints.

They are thinking about installing lights.

Mr. Hill from SAU 9 stated that the Public Works Department was doing a fantastic job with the new parking lot at the recreation center.

Mr. Smith noted that the windows are being replaced at Town Hall.

At the Old Town Hall, the elevator is being replaced.

There was brief discussion regarding a potential grant opportunity to fill a portion of West Side.

Mr. Weathers did not believe it would get approved.

Mr. Smith noted that the price of fuel is looking better than it was this spring.

The Board was referred to a picture of the current Conway Lake Parking lot with Mr. Smith's idea for expansion.

He added that they need to have it surveyed.

The Board asked him to get an estimate for that.

Mr. Hill explained that he believes if they improve the parking lot and potentially expand the parking area to Walker Pond, they might solve the parking issues at Conway Lake.

The Board took a brief recess at 5:25 pm.

The Board reconvened at 5:27 pm.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Smith explained that there had been a history of erosion and sedimentation going off into Pea Porridge Pond.

This group is looking into getting a watershed management plan.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to send a letter of support for the application for funding for a watershed management plan for the Banfield Brook Inlet to Pea Porridge Pond. The motion carried unanimously.**

AMENDMENT TO BOS SCHEDULE

Ms. Day noted that they had to amend the meeting schedule to have the Board meet on September 6, 2022 and not on September 13, 2022 as it was an election.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to amend the Board of Selectmen schedule as presented. The motion Colbath, Thibodeau. 4-0**

NOTICE OF DEMO PERMIT APPLICATION

- a. 137 Skimobile Road

The Board was told that a demo permit had been applied for.

REVIEW AND REAFFIRMATION OF SELECTMEN POLICIES

- b. Scenic Designation Right of Way

The Board was presented with the updated policy.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to reaffirm the Scenic Designation Right of Way policy. The motion carried unanimously.**

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/18/2022

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 8/18/2022. The motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

(none)

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman noted that the Town had received check for the highway block grant in the amount of \$216,827.12.

Mr. Eastman explained that the Planner is working on the Invest NH Grant.

He will be coming to the meeting on Tuesday to review the application.

Mr. Eastman noted that the State seems eager to help.

He added that they would put a cover letter together as a Board.

While the deadline is not until January 1, 2023, the State recommends getting applications in early.

Mr. Eastman added that they hit record numbers at summer camp this year.

He gave kudos to Mike Lane and all the staff.

Mr. Eastman noted that he had received letters regarding the demolition of the cabins and the 1700 House near Conway Lake.

He noted that the demo permit had not yet been issued but unfortunately there was nothing that they could do.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau gave the July airport report.

He also noted that Sky Dive New England would be at the airport next month.

Mr. Colbath stated that both the Budget Committee and the ZBA would be meeting the next evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if the Town could prohibit Reach the Beach from running through Town at all.

Mr. Eastman explained that they could if the Selectmen chose to not sign their special event permit.

Mr. Steer asked if the Board knew anything about the smoke coming from the Train Station last week.

They did not.

Mr. Weathers noted that they would be meeting next week.

ADJOURN

**At 5:48 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day  
Executive Secretary