

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 29, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm at Town Hall with the following present: Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter and Ryan Shepard, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Seavey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Seavey noted that they would be adding the following:

9t. Pole License #45-0851

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CDBG FOR 213 SEAVEY STREET

Ms. Seavey opened the public hearing at 4:03 pm.

Donna Lane noted that there were handouts available on the table.

Ms. Lane stated the following:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 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 \$350,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low- and moderate-income persons. The Public Hearing will comment on the progress of the acquisition and rehabilitation of the property at 213 Seavey Street by Bluebird Project LLC, and the obligation for the majority of the units to be affordable housing for a minimum of 10 years. The property was acquired in September 2022, rehabilitation is complete and the units are rented out.

Total project cost \$582,132: CDBG Funds \$492,132, Matching Funds \$90,000
Donna Lane and Kit.

Ms. Seavey asked if there were public comments.

Kit Hickey from the Bluebird Project stated that they had rented all the units out and are housing a few John Fuller School students which was great.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked how many units there were.

It was stated that there were 4 units, 3 of which had to be affordable and 1 was rented out at market rate.

It was noted that the affordable rents were dictated by HUD.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he has been keeping up with all of the Bluebird Projects and he commended the work that they do, particularly on their new building on West Main Street.

Ms. Seavey closed the public hearing at 4:06 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR METAL DETECTING

Ms. Seavey opened the public hearing at 4:06 pm.

Mr. Eastman referred the Board to page 3 in their packets where he had a new proposal for a Town Ordinance for Metal Detecting.

It read as follows:

91-1. The practice of metal detection with the disturbance of the ground is prohibited in the following locations:

- Schouler Park
- Whitaker Homesite Ball Fields
- Johnny R. Eastman Park/Dick O'Brien Field

Disturbance shall be defined as scuffing, digging, poking with feet, hands or any instrument.

He explained that he had received input from Ms. Nelson which was very similar to the new proposed ordinance which would allow for metal detecting without the disturbance of the ground at Schouler Park, Whitaker Homesite Ball Fields and Johnny R. Eastman Park/Dick O'Brien Field.

Resident Jim McQueeney questioned whether the craft fair tents were disturbing the ground more than metal detecting instruments would.

Mr. Eastman explained that the sprinkler system and electrical wires are clearly marked for those events.

Mr. Porter explained that he would rather leave the issue alone as there had not been problems in the past.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to continue this proposal for another public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Seavey closed the public hearing at 4:16 pm.

DISCUSSION ON FEE FOR TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that as a result of the recent discussion on rental licensing, the Town Clerk had noted that RSA 540:1 required property owners who rent their properties to file an affidavit with her office.

While this information is still required and will be combined with the rental licensing forms, it was the suggestion of staff to remove the \$15.00 filing fee of that affidavit because they will already be paying either \$375 for 3 years or the \$125 for a one year self-inspection.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to rescind the \$15 filing fee for the property owner designated respondent affidavit. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY POWER

Mr. Eastman explained that he had gone to a presentation at the Municipal Managers Conference on the concept of Community Power.

He explained that Selectmen Colbath had also seen a presentation and would like the Town of Conway to get more information.

Mr. Eastman stated that he had scheduled a presentation for September 26, 2023 if the Selectmen would like to move forward with getting more information.

Mr. Eastman introduced Jessyca Keyler, the President of Ski NH who gave information on how Community Power works.

She explained that there are a few companies, but Towns would work with one of them to buy energy at a lower supply cost.

After a short discussion, the consensus of the Board was that they would like to move forward with gathering more information and the presentation scheduled for September 26, 2023.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Letter to State Regarding Voting Machines
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 228-2, 237-1, 237-2, 238-6, 244-14
- c. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 235-11
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.262
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 277-254
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 247-33
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 232-178
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 247-104
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.045
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 255-10
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-22

- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.260
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 256-5
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 264-3
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 231-8
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 242-4
- q. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 260-8
- r. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.202
- s. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 258-3
- t. Pole License #45-0851

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/31/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 8/31/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 8/22/23

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 8/22/23 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman stated that they had the ribbon cutting at Davis Park for the refurbished courts and thanked everyone for making that happen.

Mr. Eastman thanked Dave Swirk, the Chase sisters, and Tim Quint for their work in getting the Baker Building moved in order to be preserved.

Mr. Eastman noted that there was a vacancy on the Budget Committee.

He noted that Steve Angers was the write in with the most votes from the April Election and the Board could choose to appoint him or advertise for the vacancy.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to appoint Steve Angers to the Budget Committee vacancy. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eastman noted that he would be finding the funds within the budget to pay for a one day ad for the Historic District Commission's event in September.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard noted that the Historic District Commission would be having their event at Tuckerman Brewing on September 14, 2023 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

He noted that Penny Merrill and Sally Smith were the media contacts for this event.

He noted that a big goal of the Commission right now is to digitize old records.

Mr. Shepard stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting on October 18, 2023.

Mr. Shepard noted that he had received a lot of complaints of high speed in Cranmore Shores as many people use it as a cut through.

He urged people to drive slower.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that the Aviation Academy had held their event that past weekend.

Ms. Seavey stated that the event was great.

Mr. Thibodeau gave kudos to Ed Bergeron for all he had done with the Aviation Academy.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Economic Council would be meeting in September.

The next ZBA meeting would be on September 20, 2023.

Mr. Porter explained that the Planning Board had formed a committee to look into the potential acquisition of the State property near Settlers Green and the North South Road.

Ms. Seavey asked if the members of the Planning Board understood their role in the acquisition of land.

Mr. Porter stated that he tried to emphasize that it was up to the Selectmen.

Mr. Eastman noted that he had still not received a price from the State.

Ms. Seavey emphasized that Tim Quint was the driving force behind the Baker Building moved.

She thanked him for all of his work.

Mr. Colbath stated that he would like a revaluation update from the Assessor at a future meeting. He also noted that he would like to revisit a proposed parking program.

Mr. Porter recommended that they leave that alone this year and come up with a game plan next year.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that he does agree they should talk about it but that perhaps they need to wait a year.

He noted the issue of cell service in North Conway since the cell tower had not been constructed yet.

Mr. Colbath stated that part of their job is to look at possible revenue and that claims that a parking program will not work in the Village is only hearsay until a study has been done.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Jim LeFebvre wanted to discuss the issue of maintenance that needs to be done with the abandoned cemeteries around Town.

Mr. Eastman said he was working on creating a potential informal committee to look into these issues.

Mr. LeFebvre asked if they had heard anything regarding the pleas to be able to add \$1 to \$2 for a room tax for people staying in Town.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that he is working on it and it seemed more positive than it did in the past.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun inquired as to how people would sign up for the next rental license program.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the forms were online and in the office and they already had three people sign up.

Mr. Steer asked if the Fire Chiefs were the only ones who were allowed to inspect properties.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that they are working closely with the Fire Chiefs.

ADJOURN

At 5:35 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary