

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16th, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Selectman Mike Marconi, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Residents; Emily Savinelli, Ben Johnson, Lulu Pickering and Will Gilbert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 3:10pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Senator Martha Fuller Clark:

M. Fuller Clark updated the Selectmen on the State's budget. There are three main concerns for the State of New Hampshire in the upcoming year; the workforce and training, mental health issues and the opioid crisis.

There are no sober houses in Rockingham County for over night treatment. People are held in emergency rooms for days because there are no beds available for treatment.

The cost of energy has gone down throughout New England. Nuclear Energy is cost effective. Everything should be done to keep Seabrook Station open. New Hampshire has tremendous potential for solar power. The Governor supports a task force to investigate off shore wind power. Maine is also interested in offshore wind farms. T. Connors mentioned that he and K. Latchaw are already attending meetings for off shore energy. T. Connors explained that the off-shore wind project won't happen for 5 to 10 years but he is very concerned about the current energy situation and Newington could be situated for wind energy. K. Latchaw pointed out that coal plants produce more pollutants in one year than all the cars in NH produce in a year. K. Latchaw asked M. Fuller Clark to investigate what kind of pressure could be put on to shut down the coal plants and increase the electricity from Newington's energy plants that only run at 20% now.

K. Latchaw voiced concern that the ConVal education bill was going to be resurrected and would pit town against town in New Hampshire.

M. Marconi asked about the on-going water issue in Newington. The current amounts for parts per trillion have been lowered, but the USAF is still following the federal levels. This is tied up in court right now and nothing can be done until a decision is made. T. Connors mentioned that 20% of wells in Newington

are contaminated, 42 wells. The federal government could hook up all 42 residents with city water for less than \$500,000. T. Connors thought that the federal government had a moral obligation if not a financial obligation to the residents of Newington to correct the water issue.

Andrew Meiggs-Conservation Commission Application:

The Board interviewed A. Meiggs about the Conservation position. A. Meiggs currently serves on a Land Trust Board of Directors and has been involved in the Mystic Seaport Rebuilding the Shipyard. **M. Marconi moved to appoint Andrew Meiggs to the Conservation Commission. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Charlie Moreno-Town Forester:

C. Moreno presented his proposal for a forest management and invasives study to be done at Fox Point and the Town Forest. This item is in the 2020 budget for approval. C. Moreno pointed out that when he completed a management plan for the Town Forest in 1993, invasive plants were an issue back then too. Fox Point will be expensive to deal with the invasive plants, but the alternative is not good. C. Moreno explained that old trees can't "self-plant" when they are covered with invasives. Eventually the old trees will be gone if the invasives are not treated so they can "self-plant" in the future. C. Moreno explained that the Town Forest is full of beautiful trees but there aren't a lot of small trees coming up. M. Roy will send an electronic copy of the 1993 Management plan for the Town forest to the Board. After C. Moreno has completed his study of Fox Point and the Town Forest, he will present his findings. T. Connors expressed his concern that something had to be done.

T. Connors called a recess at 4:19pm.

T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 5:45pm.

Sign Ordinance Update:

T. Connors explained that the Selectmen have worked with counsel for the ACLU over a number of months to address the concerns that a number of Newington residents expressed about the wording and the enforcement of the Town's sign ordinance. The Board is pleased to report that the town has received a revised sign ordinance that has been reviewed by its legal counsel and the ACLU's legal counsel. The Selectmen will be passing on the sign ordinance to the Planning Board for its review, with the aim of presenting an amended sign ordinance to voters at the March 2020 town meeting elections. The Selectmen would like to thank the concerned residents and the ACLU for their input into this proposed revised sign ordinance and we understand that these revisions have the support of both the ACLU and the town residents who expressed their

concerns to the Selectmen earlier this year. **K. Latchaw moved to pass this revised sign ordinance on to the Planning Board for their consideration. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

L. Pickering asked about the proposed compactor and the Transfer Station. T. Connors explained that the compactor needs 3 phase electricity in order to run. When this project first started the Board was told that there was 3 phase power at the Transfer Station. Later on, the Board found out that there wasn't 3 phase power at the Transfer Station, they looked into getting it there and the price was \$100,000. At that point the Board decided that it was not fiscally feasible to go ahead with the compactor at the Transfer Station.

T. Connors called for a recess at 5:46pm.

T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 6pm.

T. Connors opened the Public Hearing on the acceptance of roads; Fabyan Point Road and Lydia Lane.

Resident E. Savinelli spoke in favor of accepting Fabyan Point Road. E. Savinelli also pointed out that there is no white line at the end of Swan Island Road and no white lines on Newington Road. B. Johnson said that the State of NH was running behind so they only painted the yellow line on Newington Road and will get back later to finish the white lines.

L. Pickering spoke in favor of accepting both roads, however she would like the Board to consider changing the name of Lydia Lane to something that reflects that the property had been in the Beane family for many years.

T. Connors closed the Public Hearing at 6:06pm.

K. Latchaw moved to accept Fabyan Point Road and Lydia Lane as town roads. The bond for Fabyan Point will be returned and the bond for Lydia Lane will not be returned on the recommendation of the Planning Board. M. Marconi seconded the motion, contingent upon looking at the name for Lydia Lane, with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to amend the motion to say a line of credit for Fabyan Point Road instead of a bond. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

K. Latchaw thanked Ben Johnson for the work he has done on Fabyan Point, it looks great.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 6:09pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder