



SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Selectman Rick Surette-Absent, Selectman Rich Zacher, Selectman Brian Robischeau, Joanne Dolbear, Karen Servacek, Brad Williamson, Leah Gage, Ed Gauthier, Jan Ledbetter, Mark Stengel, Peter Donnelly, Ed Comeau, Cassandra Rodil.

- **Approval of Minutes:** Available next meeting
- **Public Comment 1:** Mr. and Mrs. Stengel have filed a complaint that they feel falls under the “Conflict of Interest Policy”. The claim that is in regard to the delayed Moose Mountain Bridge project and Selectman Surette’s involvement in the project as he is an Elected Official and a Abutter to the bridge and they feel he may have personal gain in delaying the project.
 Attending Selectmen hear the concern and discuss the circumstances. Selectman Robischeau clarifies that despite what is being put out on social media by select residents, the bridge is safe and passable. The term “Red List” may sound severe, but it’s a broad term in identifying and categorizing bridge conditions for improvements. The situation has been analyzed by engineers and several plans of action have been presented. The delay for the bridge improvement has simply been an issue of cost. Selectman Zacher assures that the complaint will be discussed with Selectman Surette, however it remains difficult for the attending board members to see the conflict of interest and any personal gain or intentional delay of the project of or by Selectman Surette.
- **Public Comment 2:** Ed Gauthier; Adds his opinion that the bridge work would only add value to abutters property.
- **Public Comment 3:** Peter Donnelly; Shares his thoughts that perhaps some residents don’t know about the Moose Mountain Bridge condition and feels that the reports should be available to the public for review.
- **Public Comment 4:** Jan Ledbetter; On Saturday the Brookfield Women’s Society will be holding a Meet the Candidates forum so that residents can hear the Candidates and ask

questions before they go to the Town Election. They are also hoping to have a Planning Board designee present the impact of the proposed Warrant Articles 2-9.

- **Public Comment 5:** Leah Gage; Asks the BOS who would be the contact person should anyone have a need emergency sheltering in an event?
The BOS inform her that attending the meeting is Emergency Management Officer, Brad Williamson who would be responsible for aiding in making those arrangements and he is also a Selectman by default.
- **Public Comment 6:** Mark Stengel; Asks how many permits for CEO for issued in 2023? Selectman Zacher explains that there were 42, \$35 dollar permits issued. That does not include inspections.
- **Public Comment 7:** Karen Servacek; The Brookfield Women's Society have had many requests for activities. One being Yoga classes offered regularly by and insured and licensed instructor who would be charging a fee for the sessions. She asks the BOS if they would consider approving the activity.
The BOS will take it into consideration.
Karen also shares that a crafting session is proposed for March 4, depending on weather and other activities are upcoming and in place for the public to enjoy, such as a Book Club, Card Club, and a Birding outing in May! Other activities in the making are Wellness meetings and a Family Safety presentation that they plan on collaborating with Janet Williamson for assistance with. Two volunteers have stepped forward to do the approved deep clean on the Town House for the 2023 Town Meeting, she asks when would be a good time to have them come?
The BOS think that between March 14 - 18 would be a good timeframe for the cleaning to take place, and thank all that volunteer their time to tackle the clean.
- **Forest Fire Warden:** Brad Williamson; There were two calls for fires that Wakefield assisted in today. None of which were an issue as they were controlled burns, however he reminds people that as the snow melts and the ground becomes visible, its necessary to obtain a permit for any type of burn.
An appointment letter for 2023 Warden and Deputy Wardens was provided:
 - Brad Williamson – Fire Warden
 - Janet Williamson – Deputy Warden
 - Nick Angelo – Deputy Warden
 - Dave Champy , II – Deputy Warden
 - Michael Moore – Deputy Warden
 - Todd Nason – Deputy Warden

MOTION: Selectman Zacher motions to appoint listed Fire Warden and Deputy Wardens for 2023. Selectman Robischeau seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

- **Correspondences and Information:**

NH Division of Lands plans on harvesting timber to improve wildlife habitat on the 138 acres in the Ellis Hatch Wildlife Management area in and around Brookfield in the Woodman Hill Rd and Mountain Pond area. They are in the early stages of planning. Public bidding will start in the summer of 2023. Appropriate documentation will be submitted and the accepted bidder will be responsible for paying for the timber tax.

Lake Winnepesaukee Association will be holding a Public Hearing for the Water Shed Development and Management Plan. They invite surrounding town like Brookfield to attend 2/28/2023 at 4 pm at the Great Hall in Wolfeboro, NH.

Earth Day will be on April 22, 2023.

MOTION: Selectman Zacher motions to issue a Timber Tax Warrant to Tax Collector for collection in the amount of \$7,740.11 for Map 17 Lot 6, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7, 9, 10. Selectman Robischeau seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

MOTION: Selectman Zacher motions to accept a Veterans Exemption approved by Assessor for 35 Tumbledown Dick Rd. Selectman Robischeau seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

- **Administrative Assistant:** Cassandra Rodil; The 2022 Annual Report is complete and has been sent to print. She plans on picking it up in person at their Warner facility next week due to the print schedule and slow shipping. It is projected to be available on the resource table in the Town Offices by March 2nd.
- **Town Clerk:** Karen Servacek; Congressman Chris Pappas's Office has been in contact and asks if they could use the Town House to provide community information on Federal Resource Programs such as S.S., VA Benefits, Passports, IRS and more. The date has not been set yet. The Selectmen agree to the usage as they have in past years.
- **Treasurer:** Joanne Dolbear; The 2023 Proposed Budget and Revenue are available on the resource table for anyone who needs to obtain it. She reminds all that it has been available on the website since January, and this is a great example of the convenience of signing up on the brookfieldnh.org website for notifications. Today is the last day of using QuickBooks for the accounting and starting tomorrow the new accounting software will be used going forward! In addition, after many inquiries and suggestions she asks the BOS to consider purchasing a projector and screen that is compatible with a laptop for the purpose of providing a better more educational presentations of visual aids for all boards and events. Sharing the information in this format can be a very useful tool. Attending Member Jan Leadbetter offers to donate a new projection screen should the BOS approve the purchase of the projector. Brad Williamson also steps forward and explains that there is available government funding to aid in the purchase of a wide format screen to provide this service when aiding in an Emergency Management situation. Others also share their opinions on the benefits of having the equipment. The BOS will consider the request and address it in the following meetings.

- **Emergency Management:** Brad Williamson; Asks the BOS to consider purchasing a window AC to have on hand should they need to open a cooling shelter this summer. He also suggests that AED overview should be added to the “Family Safety Presentation” that the Brookfield Women’s Society is planning.
- **Road Agent:** Chris Kinville; Roads were posted last week during the warm weather, now that the weather is going to get cold again, he plans on keeping the road postings up but will work with people for passage depending on the weather. He has plowed an area behind the Town House for the storage of cable for the Breezline project. He points out and asks the BOS to consider clearing the areas around the salt shed to accommodate the storage needs for the Town’s material and equipment. This will prevent the overflow storage issue behind the Town House. He hopes the BOS will meet in the upcoming thaw to go over the area and come up with a plan.
- **Grant Review Committee:** Ed Comeau; After a recent application from Tamworth BOS signed for a \$3.4 million dollar grant from the EPA, he feels that it was not read and understood entirely what the stipulations upon accepting the grant would be. This is a situation where it’s very important to have a Grant Review Committee so that all aspects of the grant procedure are understood. He hopes to get the Brookfield Grant Review Committee together soon so that if Brookfield BOS find themselves in a similar situation the committee can help clarify things for the BOS before any decision is made.
- **Bills / Mail:** Joanne Dolbear read bill into record.

MOTION: Selectman Zacher motions to accept and pay bills as read on record by Joanne. Selectman Robischeau seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

The next regular Selectmen’s meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Town Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Rodil
Administrative Assistant