



**Town of Brookfield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
September 19th, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Rich Zacher, Chairman; Brian Robischeau, Selectman; Ed Gauthier, Selectman; Joanne Dolbear, Treasurer; Chris Kinville, Road Agent; and Abby Root, Secretary

Also Present: Leah Gage, Robert Compton, Ed Compton, Ed Comeau, Bill Nelson, and Mrs. Nelson.

- Call to Order: Richard Zacher called the meeting to order at 5:58 PM
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Approval of Minutes:** Brian Robischeau made a motion to approve the minutes of August 15th, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Public Comment:** Leah Gage stated she is hoping to have another newsletter by the tax letter. She also stated the Women's Society would like to hold a Memorial Day yard sale in the Brookfield Town House. Any money left over would be given to rental for townhouse charity in town. The sales would be all inside unless there is overflow.
- Robert Compton discussed the solar panel on Lyford Road, which he lives directly across from. He stated that it seems the town has chosen to ignore the building code knowingly and it sets a precedent that is not good. He proceeded to discuss how the panel was wrongly defined and that it is defined as a structure. Mr. Compton discussed how it sets a dangerous precedent. Richard Zacher says he believes that it was wrongly defined, however the town already ruled the violation. Mr. Compton inquired if now the only way to make changes would be through litigation. Mr. Gauthier stated that Mr. Compton raised valid concerns, and one way to make sure mistakes are not repeated is to form significant, strong, and reliable zoning ordinances for solar. The selectmen reiterated that it was already ruled on. Mr. Compton said that Mr. Campbell should have to move it to the setback in compliance with the structure part of the zoning ordinances.
- Ed Comeau stated that the abutters should be brought out to see where the new location of the panel will be. Mr. Compton informed several people that the panel had already been moved.

- Ed Gauthier discussed how the Conservation Commission has asked Leah Gage to be a part of the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term.
- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to nominate Leah Gage for the Conservation Commission, seconded by Brian Robischeau. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Chris Kinville reported that there is still a little more to be done on Moose Mountain but there has been progress.
- Brian Robischeau discussed planning the next ZBA meeting to approve minutes and discuss who a chair should be.
- Richard Zacher stated that the old head tax would not be collected anymore.
- Also discussed was an intent to cut to cut on Map 2 Lot 6 on the blueberry farm at the top of Tibbetts Hill Road.
- The propane proposal is in and is \$1.49 a gallon which will be September 1st, 2023 to August 21st, 2024.
- Rich Zacher discussed taxing solar panels and that couple of years ago there was a warrant to exempt solar panels from taxation. The assessor will be consulted on the topic to decide.
- Joanne Dolbear announced that \$1,200 went into the Heritage account to cover barbecue expenses.
- **Approval of bills:** Joanne Dolbear presented the bills as presented on the manifest totaling \$224,239.91.
- **Brian Robischeau made a motion to accept the bills has read, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed unanimously.**
- There was on last public comment by Bill Nelson, an abutter to the property with the solar panel. Mrs. Nelson stated that she is happy that the town did something, but she is not happy with the outcome, especially for Mr. Compton and his farm. She is very disappointed how the situation was handled. Mr. Nelson asked if someone has checked the new spot for the solar panel, to which Mr. Zacher said the building inspector went to check if it was starting in the correct spot. Mr. Zacher also said the Planning Board is putting together proposed zoning ordinances to prevent further issues.

- Ed Comeau inquired if the selectmen have special authority to create an ordinance. Mr. Robischeau responded they did not.
- Ed Gauthier discussed that next time there is solar the building inspector should classify it as a structure.
- **Adjournment:** Rich Zacher adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Root

Secretary