



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
May 19, 2015

**Attendance:** Andy Montanaro, Bill Levakis, Adam Dolby and Cara Letendre – Secretary

**Open Meeting:**

7:04 p.m. Bill opened meeting, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

**Posted Agenda Items:**

1. Knox Trail Ryders Event License for September 12 & 13:

a. Robin Allsop- Knox Trail Ryder Motorcycle Club President. Discussed Club history and volunteer/philanthropic events they participate in. Explained that the event is a family affair, 60-70% of the riders are youth. We try to instill in them the values of respecting the land and staying active.

i. Have heard complaints from residents regarding last year's event and have a plan to rectify the situation.

1. Plan to use quiet machines to cut the trails over the summer as opposed to the machines used last year.
2. Cut down number of races from three on Saturday to two 1 hour races (running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and three races (one 1 hr, one 1 ½ hr, and one 2 hr) on Sunday, running from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
3. Revise tracks to significantly cut down on noise and direct it away from the houses.
4. Had three Blandford Police Officers scheduled for Saturday last year and they did not show up. One of two scheduled for Sunday were present. Plan to have more police presence this year.  
NOTE: There was a police presence last year consisting of off-duty officers.  
NOTE: The Blandford Police did not show up last year as just prior to the event several Officers were let go and there were not enough to cover the event.
5. Signage: place signs along Route 20, will put more up this year as well as a large sign at the end of Nye Brook to avoid people missing the road and turning around in resident's driveways.
6. Overnight Camping: Is it allowed? It has been allowed in the past during Bluegrass festivals at the Ski Club. Mr. Allsop: the people that camped last year were families who stayed because they had to get up early to race the next day, not people partying.
7. Bikes Running in Parking Lot and on Road: Mr. Allsop will enforce that is not allowed this year.

- b.** Nye Brook Road Resident Paula Bilodeau: When we purchased our house on Nye Brook Road we were aware of the schedule of the Ski Area and it has changed vastly since then. However we don't complain about events related to the Ski Area. We don't complain about the lights or the sound of the snow making machines, or the traffic. However, after ski season is over, the rest of the year is our quiet time. We understand the need to maintain revenue. This event is not a neighborhood friendly one. It is intrusive. We are concerned about the president being set for more intrusive events. We have to draw the line as residents. We are not trying to shut down the ski area, We have learned to co-exist as neighbors.
- c.** Nye Brook Road Resident: one family supports the event and enjoyed it last year. They would have a problem if it was held often, but once every 1-3 years is not an issue.
- d.** Mr. Levakis: asked Mr. Allsop if he has had these sorts of issues with residents regarding this type of event before.
  - i. Mr. Allsop, no, in 17 years he has had no problems in similar communities (Wyben & Chester)
  - ii. Nye Brook Residents: those other properties were more isolated. (To the Board) This is our Town and you are our representatives and you need to represent us.
  - iii. Mr. Allsop: plan to host the event at the Ski Area every 3 years. This year was different because the site in Chester is being logged. Have sites booked for the next two years.
- e.** How does this event benefit the Town? We don't have any business's that benefit.
  - i. The Motorcycle Club donates money to the local Fire and Police Departments.
  - ii. The Ski Club pays the Town a meals tax, alcohol tax, permit tax, & hires the Police and Fire Departments.
- f.** Zoning Board Issue: Isn't this issue really for the Zoning Board?
  - i. Yes, however the application for the Event License is finalized by the Board of Selectmen. The Board has to listen to all sides and make a decision.
  - ii. Zoning Board: The Selectboard can rule on this issue but they can't overrule. It can be appealed to the Zoning Board. The Zoning bylaws are voted in by the Town and approved by the Attorney General. The purpose of the by-law is to promote the general welfare of the residents and protect the land.
  - iii. Reviewed Event License: signed off by Fire, Police and Board of Health. Still need Zoning Board and Selectboard signatures.
- g.** Fireworks: Anne Fisk- these were set-off at a private event held at the Ski Club this year. The club did not have any notice that this would take place and their policy has since been revised.
- h.** Mr. Dolby: Is there any way to test the noise level of the new track? Concerned that the residents are severely distressed and there seems to be no middle ground.
- i.** Mr. Levakis motion to approve Special Event License for the Knox Trail Ryder event at the Blandford Ski Area on September 12 & 13, Mr. Dolby second, discussion:
  - i. Mr. Montanaro: understands concerns about setting a precedent, however we have a permit process in place to review and control events for this purpose. This is a problem that is foreseen, not an actual

problem. The event sponsors have heard the complaints and outlined a plan to address the concerns. Would like to acknowledge the fact that this is a family event, albeit a loud one. The concept is one that Blandford should be encouraging to attract people to come to our town and invite businesses and functions. We have control of the events by means of a permit process. Would like to hear a response of how this year's event compared to last year's. Inclined to allow the event.

- ii. Zoning Board: criteria to issuing the permit is that the event does not have offensive noise.
  - iii. Mr. Dolby: asked Nye Brook residents if there were any mitigating factors. They indicated that there were not.
  - iv. VOTE: Mr. Levakis – no, Mr. Dolby – don't feel that the event is detrimental and would like to find a compromise, however given the overwhelming response by the residents voting no, Mr. Montanaro – yes. Motion is denied 2-1.
2. Minutes: tabled until next week.
  3. Warrants: Reviewed and signed.

#### **Old Business:**

1. North Blandford Road Fence: Schile's of North Blandford Road regarding neighbor's fence recently installed very close to the road, on the street side of the guardrails.
  - a. Fence is on a narrow section of road on a very sharp corner. Concern is that in the winter when the road is made narrower by snow banks it becomes dangerous to walk. Large granite trucks often come down the road and on that blind corner if someone is walking, they have nowhere to go with the fence that close.
  - b. Mr. Levakis and Mr. Curry measured the fence and it is 16ft out from the center line on a 30 ft road, which is permitted.
  - c. Mr. Montanaro: does the Town have leeway regarding enforcing fence laws?
    - i. Mr. Levakis: the Town voted down a bylaw regarding this issue. Believes the Board can have the fence removed if it poses a danger.
    - ii. Planning Board Chair: fence is not illegal.
  - d. Mr. Dolby will follow-up with Town Counsel as it is a safety issue.
2. Hiram Blair Bridge Reimbursement Response Letter From FEMA:
  - a. The Town is to receive 75% of \$496,768.00 as opposed to 75% of \$770,184.00 (plus \$13,000.00 from amount settled on in Commonwealth vs. Robert Nichols case)
  - b. Advised by Town Counsel not to appeal due to the larceny involved in the project.
  - c. Mr. Montanaro: we have to ensure that all funds received go towards paying down the loans.
  - d. Will receive the paperwork with the final amount.  
NOTE: BRD paperwork is in-house, preparing it to send to MEMA.
3. PVPC Regional Accounting MOU: Reviewed by Town Counsel, who also advises for Chesterfield.
  - a. Mr. Dolby and Mr. van Werkhoven have questions and would like to further review the MOU. Mr. Dolby will follow-up with Josh Garcia at PVPC. Would like to ask about the intent of the MOU. Doesn't want to sign it if it secures the \$100,000.00 fee. Will ask if we can opt to pull this part out and do it on our own.

- b. Mr. Dolby: the challenge is if \$100,000 is needed to get our books stabilized then we aren't in a position to move forward. We are not able to go back far enough with the current officers.
  - c. Mr. van Werkhoven: feels that we will get decent results from an FY15 audit and will be in good shape for one next year.
  - d. Mr. van Werkhoven: Confused in the direction we are going. We recently hired a company to work on policies and procedures for the financial offices.
    - i. Mr. Dolby: Mrs. Lombardo doesn't want to be in the position long term. The policies that are being developed will be even more vital with a regional accounting program.
4. Tree Warden Clean-up Dead Wood Watson Park: Mr. Cousineau will coordinate with Timberline Tree Company in town and Peter Thayer.
  5. Article 27: Mr. Montanaro will prepare a letter to the School Committee to endorse and respond to the outlined intent of Article 27 which was passed unanimously at the Annual Town Meeting.
  6. Highway Superintendent: Mr. Curry would like to change Tuesday's report date as it is affecting his social private life. (Mr. Curry had agreed to attend 16 Selectboard meetings) Mr. Montanaro: would prefer that Mr. Curry speak to the Board so they can track and provide input. Mr. Levakis agreed.
  7. Mr. Boomsma: was issued a verbal warning on May 18, 2015 for not correcting his time card. This is now the 4<sup>th</sup> pay period since he was asked to do so. Mr. Boomsma was out marking trees with a tree service company during Highway Department hours and worked those extra hours for Highway after the work day. However his time card did not reflect this. Mr. Boomsma has been asked several times and agreed to make this correction. Mr. Montanaro: will follow-up with Town Counsel.
  8. Finance Committee Meeting: moved to next week.
  9. COA Garden: two highway employees were asked, by Mr. Levakis, to cultivate the COA garden at Town Hall with a tractor and rototiller borrowed from Mr. St. Marten. The employees did the work after hours and noted four hours of overtime each on their time cards. Mr. Levakis admitted that he was mistaken to have asked them to do this. Discussion about where to take the funds from. Board agreed to take it out of BOS funds.
  10. Imperative that all invoices are charged to correct line items. Mr. van Werkhoven should address these concerns with the Water Commissioners or Selectboard and not the Accountant.

**New Business:**

10:28 p.m. Mr. Montanaro motion to adjourn, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.  
Submitted by: Cara Letendre

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William Levakis

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Andy Montanaro

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Adam Dolby