



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
June 17, 2014

Attendance: William Levakis, Andy Montanaro and Cara Letendre – Secretary

Open Meeting:

7:04 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Blandford Ski Area Liquor License: Anne Fisk presented Board with paperwork for 2 day license for a Knox Trail Ryder event. Conservation Committee will inspect area where trails are to be built. Mr. Montanaro motion to approve liquor license for September 20, 2014 & September 21, 2014 from 12-6 p.m., Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
2. Hiram Blair Road: John Caswell and Heidi Taberman presented Board with Report of the Blandford Tree Committee from 2007 regarding Hiram Blair Road. They would like the Board to address the following concerns:
 - Is Hiram Blair Road a public or private road?
 - What are the Highway and Tree Warden's responsibilities for the Road?
 - If it is a town road, they would like compensation for maintenance over the last five years.

Board will research and look into legal matters. Will revisit and provide Mr. Caswell and Mrs. Taberman with a report.

3. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes from June 3, 2014 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
4. Conservation Commitments: Bryan Young provided Board with two letters of interest and expressed recommendations for both. Mr. Levakis motion to appoint Orpheus Burrows to the Conservation Committee for the remainder of Rayette Byrnes term, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote. Mr. Montanaro motion to appoint Kate Simmons to Conservation Committee for the remainder of Pete Sutherland's term, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
5. Temporary Fire Chief: Brian Care and Ed Harvey- Mr. Care recommended Mr. Ed Harvey to the position of Temporary Fire Chief. Mr. Harvey presented the Board with a copy of his resume and a letter of interest. Board interviewed Mr. Harvey. Mr. Harvey currently teaches fire fighters classes, and has 30 years in the service. He is an EMT and is a CPR and First Aid instructor. Discussed depth of leadership and plans to have Deputy Chief take over when he is not present as he lives in New Marlborough. Plans to commit to at least 20 hours per week in town. Specifically during hours where coverage is needed. Agrees that CORI checks are necessary for Volunteer Fire Department

- members. His goals are to push for recruiting and retention, continue working with Building Planning Committee regarding more space and equipment, start a basic life support ambulance, and provide training for the ladder truck. He is looking to stay for about 12-18 months. Mr. Montanaro motion to appoint Edward Harvey as Temporary Fire Chief of Blandford for a period of one year effective June 21, 2014, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
6. COA: Margit Mikuski –due to funding changes the COA Executive Committee will not be funding the position of Coordinator for FY15. Instead they will be creating two new positions, Regional Administrative Assistant and a Regional Outreach Worker. Funding to come through the state.
 - Margit Mikuski and Co Cousineau are now Serve Safe certified. Margit will advise other departments as needed.
 - Requested use of kitchen July 14-15 for BBQ. Board referred them to refer to Chief Hennessey to book it.
 - Asked that hot water be turned on at Town Hall. Mr. Levakis will look into cost of running boiler. Cara will also look into purchasing hand sanitizer dispensers for the bathrooms.
 - Transfer Station Stickers: Discussed difficulty for seniors to make it to the times posted. Discussed mailing them out to seniors. Board asked Cara to invite all BOH members to meeting next week.

Old Business:

1. Payroll Outsource: After interviewing 4 companies, Treasurer has chosen ADP at annual cost of \$2,195.44 & \$25 set-up fee. We receive a 30% discount as clients of Josephine Sarnelli. Discussed services offered. ADP able to interface with our software. Treasurer provided them with a copy of our town Goods and Services contract to sign. Board asked to have ADP track employee benefits and sick time
 Note: Going forward Mr. Montanaro asked that all departments use our Town Contract and keep a copy for themselves as well as provide copies to the Selectboard and Accountant.
2. Auction: Tax Collector met with Sullivan and Sullivan regarding holding an auction for Blandford properties. There are no upfront costs. Their attorney will work directly with Town Counsel. Bids will be non-refundable and deposits will be taken at the auction. Sullivan & Sullivan will notify abutters of property for sale. Auction to be held in the end of August. One week prior to the auction Board will go into executive session to give all parcels a bottom line. Board asked for an update with exact date.
 Note: Quinn property- already torn down. Can sell as building lot.
 Note: Hawley property- all back taxes paid, closing tomorrow.
3. Hay Fields: Dick Gates, Steve Leinbach, and Scott Brown to discuss process of town owned fields they currently hay.
 - Mr. Brown: hays property on Gibbs Road. Gets about 600 bales. Was asked by Mr. Levakis to hay in the past and was never asked to compensate town. Bryan Young, Conservation Chair agreed that it is advantageous for the town to allow Mr. Brown to continue to hay the field to maintain open space and the view, to provide areas for wildlife, to recycle for fresh growth, and reduce risk of fire. Mr. Levakis motion to have Scott Brown mow and hay field on Gibbs Road from this day on until further notice, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
 - Mr. Gates and Mr. Leinbach: hay property on Knittel's Road. Historically Mr. Dave Hopson hayed the property and in 2012 approached Mr. Gates about splitting it with him. Received written approvals from Conservation Committee.

2013 Mr. Hopson decided not to hay property anymore and Mr. Leinbach took over. Received written approval from Conservation Committee. Land is under Conservation restriction and Mr. Gates serves as a sort of Steward, maintaining property and clearing parking lot in winter. For same reasons as mentioned regarding Gibbs Road property, Mr. Young recommended that Board allow Mr. Gates and Mr. Leinbach to continue as is. Noted that the decision is not really up to the Board, but up to Conservation. Mr. Montanaro motion to allow Dick Gates and Steve Leinbach to continue to bale and maintain Knittle's property from this time further until further notice, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

4. Highway Outline: Have new form with progress listed and reasons for getting called away if needed. Board asked Cara to send a memo to Highway asking for a letter stating who is in command when Mr. Curry is absent and that person will take over all duties including Highway updates. Board asked Cara to check on status of Hotbox, and get update on Chester Road Project. Strap Grant has been completed and sent in.
5. Tennis Court Quotes: moved to 6/24
6. Beech Hill Noise Complaint: Resolved
7. Town Hall Sign: Mr. Sumner Robbins Zoning Board Chair provided Board with instructions and application for permission to put sign up. Mr. Montanaro will fill out.
8. Watson Park Trust: reviewed email from Town Counsel regarding incorporating town hall grounds in the Trust. Mr. Levakis asked Cara to have Assessor look for a deed to the school to see the original boundaries. Believes that grounds used to be part of the Park and are grandfathered in.
9. Electricity Aggregation Contract: move 6/24 Mr. Levakis to review
10. TekSupport: Mr. Precanico currently moving SoftRight from C drive to D drive where there is more space. Confirming process with SoftRight first.

New Business

1. Treasurer Expenses was accidentally moved into Treasurer's Clerk line item. Funds need to be moved to correct line item or will be short \$126.32. Board asked Treasurer to write a letter to the Accountant asking for this adjustment.
2. Historical Commission: Mr. & Mrs. Milford presented Board with background/history, progress by the Historical Commission, and requests/plans for the future regarding Watson Park. See attached. Request to use Watson Park Trust funds to pay for yearly care of Park. Board asked for plan for this year and estimate costs of maintenance. Mr. Montanaro motion to allow Blandford Historical Commission to plan and implement restructuring of two flowerbeds on either side of the gazebo with Watson Park Trust funds, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
Board would like to see:
 - Gates redesigned and installed
 - Survey piece by piece
 - 5 year plan
 - Job Description suggestions for Park SuperintendentHistorical Commission would like:
 - Cement blocks at gazebo removed – Mr. Levakis will follow-up
 - Historical plants to be maintained by Landscaper who can identify them
 - Replace memorial bench that had been vandalized
3. Agenda for this meeting was accidentally removed for a period of 1.5 hrs. Town Counsel has recommended that the Board ratify anything done in this meeting on June 24, 2014.
4. Mr. Levakis signed Cemetery paperwork for permission to use new website.

Future Consideration

1. Broadband: Board asked Cara for cost comparison to review
2. Rekeying Town Hall: Need guarantee that old core pullers will not work in new system.
Would like name of key systems in quotes.

10:40 p.m. Mr. Montanaro motion to adjourn meeting, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Cara Letendre

William Levakis - Chair

Andy Montanaro - Member