

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

July 14, 2014

Meeting held at Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Merry, Vice Chairman Joseph Perry, Clerk Robert Snow, Jack Cook. (Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, Assistant Town Administrator Amy Lydon) David Petersen - ABSENT

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Arthur Page; Lisa Page; Brent Baeslack; Howie Vogel; Susan Hazen; Charles Hazen Sr.; Ariana Hazen; Charles Hazen Jr.; Perry Collins; Joseph Gamache; Stephen May; Patrick Snow

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Merry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He said the meeting is being audio and video recorded digitally.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Donald L. Kudym, Sr., who was a former Selectman and member of the Police Department.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brent Baeslack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Sign liquor license for Alfalfa Farms

Chairman Merry read the license (COPY ATTACHED).

Bob Snow made a motion to sign the liquor license for Alfalfa Farms, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the license.

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query opened.

2. Sign liquor license for Rowley Golf Course LLC d/b/a Rowley Country Club

Joseph Perry made a motion to sign the liquor license for Rowley Golf Course LLC d/b/a Rowley Country Club, Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the license.

3. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for 50 Cross Street for new gas service

Chairman Merry said the permit request has been approved by the Highway Surveyor and Conservation Agent (COPY ATTACHED).

Bob Snow made a motion to approve the road opening permit for 50 Cross Street, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the permit.

4. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for 128 Wethersfield Street for new gas service

Joseph Perry made a motion to approve the road opening permit for 128 Wethersfield Street (COPY ATTACHED), Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the permit.

5. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for gas leak repair at 87 Wethersfield Street

Bob Snow made a motion to approve the road opening permit for 87 Wethersfield Street (COPY ATTACHED), Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the permit.

6. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for 6 Bradford Street for new gas service

Joseph Perry made a motion to approve the road opening permit for 6 Bradford Street (COPY ATTACHED), Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the permit.

NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 15 Re-Appointments / Appointments

Bob Snow made a motion to re-appoint Joseph R. Merry as a Call Fire Fighter until June 30, 2015, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Dave Petersen – ABSENT
Bob Merry - RECUSED

Merry read the following Limited Health Agent reappointments:

Susan Hazen, Town Clerk	6/30/2015
Barbara DiMento	6/30/2015
David W. Roberts	6/30/2015
Susan Leach	6/30/2015
Donald Russo	6/30/2015

Bob Snow made a motion to make these reappointments, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Dave Petersen – ABSENT Jack Cook - RECUSED

Merry read the following Town Common Restoration Committee reappointments:

Joseph Perry, Board of Selectmen	6/30/2015
Frank Todd, Rowley Historic Distric Commission	6/30/2015
Dan Sczpanski, Great Marsh Garden Club	6/30/2015
Sheila Clark, Great Marsh Garden Club	6/30/2015
David Jacquith, Planning Board	6/30/2015
Ron Keefe, Highway Department	6/30/2015
Sara Bourque, Rowley Historic District Commission	6/30/2015
Cliff Pierce, Planning Board	6/30/2015
Sharon Emery, Resident	6/30/2015
Roy Ricker, Water Department	6/30/2015
Mark Anderson, Light Department	6/30/2015
Stuart L. Dalzell Sr., Citizen Representative	6/30/2015

Jack Cook made a motion to make these reappointments, Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Dave Petersen – ABSENT Joseph Perry - ABSTAINED

3. Fox 25 Zip Trip to Rowley – August 22, 2014

Eagan said Fox 25 needs permission from the Board of Selectmen to hold this event on the Town Common. She said this may be a nice event because of the Town's 375th Anniversary and parking will need to be discussed.

Joseph Perry made a motion to give permission to Fox 25 to use the Town Common for the Zip Trip, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen – ABSENT

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query closed. There were no Citizen's queries.

7:15 p.m. Appointment – Howard Vogel to discuss Conservation Commission opening

Chairman Merry read the following:

Mr. Vogel has submitted a letter and resume. The Conservation Commission has submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen. (COPIES ATTACHED).

Merry asked Vogel, "Why do you want to be on the Conservation Commission?" Vogel said he lived in a community very similar to Rowley in western New York. He said he had woods behind his house and was fortunate to have outdoor space. He said he lived in Lexington, Massachusetts and served on the Recreation Committee there. He said his son moved to Rowley and then he moved to the Rowley Country Club. He said the best way to get to know a Town is to get involved, he is passionate about the outdoors, Rowley is a beautiful town and he wants to get involved to keep it that way.

Merry asked Vogel, "Please tell us about yourself." Vogel said he was originally an engineer, then moved into research and development, and is now in sales. He said he has a place in Maine, and enjoys skiing, golfing, hiking and biking. He said he is on the Board of his golf club.

Snow asked Vogel, "The Conservation Commission's responsibilities have expanded over the past several years from strictly enforcing the State wetlands protection law to enforcing the Town's Wetlands Bylaw, Stormwater Bylaw and maintaining large tracts of conservation land. Additionally, the Conservation Commission is involved with a myriad of environmental regulations, including the National Pollution Discharge Elimination

System under the Federal Clean Water Act. Please describe your knowledge of the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission as it relates to these laws and regulations.” Vogel said he doesn’t have knowledge of the regulations, but he did go to a Conservation Commission meeting. He said Baeslack knows the regulations and it would take him a couple of years to learn them. He said he is an engineer, and he thinks he can pick it up.

Perry asked Vogel, “The Conservation Commission typically meets every three weeks on a Tuesday evening. Are you available to attend these meetings? (The calendar is set a year in advance every November.)” Vogel said he can make the meetings and he will put the meetings in his calendar and schedule his work around them.

Merry asked Vogel, “This appointment is for a three-year term, which expires June 30, 2017. Are you able to make this type of commitment?” Vogel said sure.

Merry asked Vogel, “The Conservation Commission operates under the State Open Meeting Law. Please describe your knowledge of this law.” Vogel said he is aware of this law since the Recreation Committee in Lexington operated under it.

Merry asked Vogel, “If you are appointed you will be required to take an online State Ethics Training test. This is required under the State Ethics Law. You will need to file a notice with the Town Clerk that you completed this test. Do you have any issues or concerns about this?” Vogel said no.

Merry asked Vogel, “Do you have any questions of us?” Vogel asked the Board what their thoughts are about the Open Space Committee being rolled into the Conservation Commission. Merry said a similar type person would serve on both. Eagan said some members had dual roles, and the Open Space Committee continuing to be part of the Conservation Commission would need to be discussed between the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission. Vogel asked the Board what they see as the challenges for the Town. Merry said the Open Space Plan is unique. He said the plan was outdated, but thanks to Baeslack and the Conservation Commission it has been updated and we can apply for State grants.

Vogel left the meeting room.

7:25 p.m. Appointment – Arthur Page to discuss Conservation Commission opening

Chairman Merry read the following:

Mr. Page has submitted a letter and resume. The Conservation Commission has submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen. (COPIES ATTACHED).

Merry asked Page, “Why do you want to be on the Conservation Commission?” Page said he owns Red Gate Farm and he does work on horse trails at Bradley Palmer Park, and the Myopia group. He said he works with area Conservation Commissions. He

said he also does beaver work in Newbury and Rowley. He said Towns differ in their approach on how they handle things.

Merry asked Page, "Please tell us about yourself." Page said he is a past Chairman of the Shellfish Commission, he has served on mosquito control, now he is doing trail work. He said he used to do mowing for the Town, but no longer does.

Snow asked Page, "The Conservation Commission's responsibilities have expanded over the past several years from strictly enforcing the State wetlands protection law to enforcing the Town's Wetlands Bylaw, Stormwater Bylaw and maintaining large tracts of conservation land. Additionally, the Conservation Commission is involved with a myriad of environmental regulations, including the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System under the federal Clean Water Act. Please describe your knowledge of the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission as it relates to these laws and regulations." Page said he is aware of the regulations, such as needing to use hay bales and catch basins so there is no run off directly into the water source.

Perry asked Page, "The Conservation Commission typically meets every three weeks on a Tuesday evening. Are you available to attend these meetings? (The calendar is set a year in advance every November.)" Page said he should have no problem with this.

Merry asked Page, "This appointment is for a three-year term, which expires June 30, 2017. Are you able to make this type of commitment?" Page said this is no problem.

Merry asked Page, "The Conservation Commission operates under the State Open Meeting Law. Please describe your knowledge of this law." Page said he is aware of the law and that everything needs to be done in public, and you can't have private meetings.

Merry asked Page, "If you are appointed you will be required to take an online State Ethics Training test. This is required under the State Ethics Law. You will need to file a notice with the Town Clerk that you completed this test. Do you have any issues or concerns about this?" Page said he does very little work in Rowley, he doesn't see a conflict of interest. He said the only work he does in Town is trapping since he is a licensed trapper. Merry said Page should talk with the State Ethics Commission about any potential conflict of interest.

Merry asked Page, "Do you have any questions of us?" Page had no questions.

Page left the meeting room.

7:35 p.m. Appointment – Discussion and vote on appointment to vacant Conservation Commission seat

Chairman Merry said unfortunately there is only one opening and two good candidates. Cook said he has known Page for years, Page has been involved in the marsh and has lived here for forty years. Cook said Page knows what the job is about and has worked with Rowley's Conservation Agent. Baeslack said both candidates bring slightly different qualities, and both have enthusiasm and an interest. He said both would make a positive contribution and we are lucky to have both of them. Merry said Page has lived here for a while and has done a lot of work for the Town, such as the landfill closure, and he is familiar with the Town through his work with the marshes and the beaver dams. Snow said he gives a little more weight to Page for his knowledge of the Town and his local conservation work. Perry said he agrees, it is a hard choice, but he is leaning towards Page.

Jack Cook made a motion to appoint Arthur Page to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2017, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen – ABSENT

Vogel and Page came back into the meeting room. Merry said it was a tough decision, but they voted to appoint Page. Merry said there are other seats open, such as Open Space Committee, Historic District Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee and encouraged Vogel to apply.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Letter from Police Chief Robert Barker re: appointment

Chairman Merry read the memo from Police Chief Robert Barker (COPY ATTACHED). Barker said this is a very heartfelt appointment, Hazen is a great employee, and he will be missed as a dispatcher, but the Town of Rowley will be a better place with him on the street. He said Hazen's coworkers are here to support him.

Bob Snow made a motion to appoint Charles G. Hazen Jr. as a full time patrolman through June 30, 2017, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

7:45 p.m. Appointment – Fire Chief James Broderick to discuss ladder truck

Broderick read his letter to the Board (COPY ATTACHED). Eagan said the truck has been funded through a debt exclusion, so the Town will have the cash. Merry said he would like to see the numbers on both sides, and see the amount of interest that we could earn on the money.

Broderick said it is not a fancy truck, but good for safety and the community. Merry said this is the first time the Town will be purchasing a brand new ladder truck since the 1880s. Merry said Broderick and the Treasurer should come to the meeting on July

28th to discuss the financing and then the Board can sign the contract. Broderick said alterations have started at the station and they hope to have it done by the winter.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Continued discussion on request to place "Children At Play" signs on Summer and Independent Streets

Chairman Merry read the following:

Jonathan Bennett is requesting the placement of "Children At Play" signs along the perimeter of the Town Common, especially along Independent and Summer Streets.

The Selectmen requested a report and recommendation from Police Chief Robert Barker on this request. Chairman Merry will read the memo from Chief Barker.

Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow has also reviewed this request and has sent the selectmen a memo, which Chairman Merry will read into the record.

Merry read Bennett's letter, the memo from Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow, and the memo from Police Chief Robert Barker (COPIES ATTACHED). Patrick Snow said there is no problem with painting on the road, although the Townspeople may object since the area is in the historic district, and he can contact the painting company for pricing. Merry said this seems to be a reasonable compromise since there are nine signs already in that area. Police Chief Barker said if more signs are put up they will be ignored and the painting may be less intrusive. Cook said many people use the plastic sign of a child with a flag at the end of their driveway, and maybe we can advise Bennett to buy one of those as well. Chief Barker said there is no substitute for watching your children, and people need to be vigilant. Perry said he doesn't see the benefit of adding signs on the Town Common and said he would like more information on the street painting. Bob Snow said everyone has to pay attention on the roads, and he understands these concerns completely. Merry asked Patrick Snow to provide more information to the Board about the painting and said Jack Cook's suggestion of the sign is a good one, and they are sold at Home Depot.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Request to hang 375th Anniversary banner on the Town Common backstop

Chairman Merry said, "The 375th Anniversary Committee is requesting permission to hang a banner on the Town Common backstop."

Jack Cook made a motion to approve the request to hang 375th Anniversary banner on the Town Common backstop, Bob Snow second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

Perry said the banners are being provided by Coke and one will be put on the backstop, and the other will be put at Veterans garage on the corner of Route 1 and Route 133.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss 375th events

Chairman Merry said, "The Board of Selectmen needs to discuss sending letters to Senator Tarr and Representative Hill requesting formal acknowledgements /proclamations marking the Town's 375th Anniversary. Joe Perry will provide an update on other 375th-related events."

Perry said they would like to send a letter to Senator Tarr to request that he attend the opening ceremonies and give a keynote address on September 4, 2014. He said they would also like to invite Brad Hill to the opening ceremonies to make some remarks. He said they would like to get an acknowledgement from the Rowley Parish in England, of which Ezekiel Rogers was from, to use for the opening ceremonies.

Perry said this past Saturday Merrimac Hat Company gave an awesome concert and there are three remaining concerts. He said there will be a parade starting at Railroad and Jellison and as it goes by, people are encouraged to join in and the parade will end on the Town Common.

Perry thanked the 375th Committee members, he said they have done an outstanding job and have worked hard over the past year. He said the concerts are a great addition to the summer.

3. Town Administrator Update

Eagan read the following:

Annex Exterior – We met with the contractor to go over the punch list items. He is working them now.

Town Hall Clock – The clock has been restored and is working.

Town Hall Lighting Fixture Project – Cotter Electric will be installing new fixtures and converting existing fixtures. We have been working closely with Chairman Merry on this project.

Library Exterior Painting Contract closes on Thursday July 17th.

Town Hall Floors – We are finalizing specifications for the various offices and the hallway.

Town Hall Windows II – We are working on these specifications.

Eagan said the survey work on the Girl Scouts land is still being done.

MINUTES

The June 30, 2014 minutes were put on hold until the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Town has the following vacancies:
 - **Fence Viewer**– two positions;
 - **Wood, Lumber & Bark Inspector**; and
 - **Zoning Board of Appeals Associate** – two open seats
 - **Historical Commission-Historic District Commission** - four seats
 - **Parks and Recreation Committee** - two seatsFor more information on these positions, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 948-2372
- 375th Anniversary information and events are posted on the Town's website, www.townofrowley.net
- Rowley Food Pantry is in need of donations. The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Water Customers need to call Pennichuck at 1-800-553-5191 now for billing, payment and customer service questions.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs may be recycled at the Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant. Light bulbs can be brought down during normal business hours.
- Northeast Mosquito Control aerial application of Bti larvicide July 11 - July 25

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Merry called for a motion to adjourn. Joseph Perry so moved, Bob Snow second, all in favor – aye (4-0). Dave Petersen - ABSENT

Open meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lydon
Assistant Town Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Liquor license for Alfalfa Farms
2. Liquor license for Rowley Golf Course LLC d/b/a Rowley Country Club

3. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for 50 Cross Street for new gas service
4. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for 128 Wethersfield Street for new gas service
5. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for gas leak repair at 87 Wethersfield Street
6. Road Opening Permit request from National Grid for 6 Bradford Street for new gas service
7. Letter of interest and resume from Howard Vogel for open Conservation Commissioner seat
8. Letter of support from Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack of Howard Vogel's appointment to the Conservation Commission
9. Letter of interest and resume from Arthur Page for open Conservation Commissioner seat
10. Letter of support from Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack of Arthur Page's appointment to the Conservation Commission
11. Letter from Police Chief Robert Barker re: appointment
12. Letter from Fire Chief James Broderick regarding price for new ladder truck and enclosures
13. Letter from Jonathan Bennett regarding signs on Town Common
14. Memo from Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow regarding signs on Town Common
15. Memo from Police Chief Robert Barker regarding signs on Town Common
16. Two pictures of signage of Mill River Conservation Area