

# MINUTES *approved minutes*

**Board of Selectmen Meeting:** January 3, 2022 **Present:** Frank Emig, Ray Leonard, Jim Jennison, Mark McIntire, Jennifer Bland, Gregg Thibodeau, Glenn Elsseser, Kathy Tallman, William and Susan Gamache, Gary Baber, Judy Aron, Josh Perry, Erin Darrow

## **Flood Response:**

1. Work update: ED reported Crane Brook is ready to open and JP has ordered signs noting Pass at Own Risk. Motion JJ/RL to open Crane Brook as soon as JP notifies the Town that cautionary signs have been installed and to then close Emergency Lane Holden Hill, pass. It was noted the Emergency Lane on Holden Hill is not discontinued and can be reopened as needed. Because Crane Brook continues to be a construction site JP requested a liability waiver as the current contract with JP Trucking is ongoing. Motion JJ/RL to sign the waiver, passed.
2. Work plan: ED reviewed a memo outlining flood repairs for 2022 including on Crane Brook, Derry Hill, Charlestown, Luther Hill, Nye and Grout Hill Roads. It was noted Nye may be the subject of a Town Meeting article which would avoid use of the washed out culvert there and ED will hold on further engineering of that site pending the vote. ED recommended that Crane Brook be reclaimed in 2022 and allowed to settle before paving in 2023. There was also discussion about Forest Road and whether the bridge will require replacement or whether the existing span can be fitted to new abutments. ED is working on that. There was consensus for ED to pursue wetlands permitting as will be needed for the 2022 work
3. SB402: Motion JJ/RL to sign a letter from the Selectmen to the Finance Committee supporting SB402 which would provide State assistance (in addition to FEMA) for the July flood, passed.
4. FEMA update: It was noted the Town's Damage Inventory report of remaining work needs to be submitted in late January. In December FEMA said they will make site visits which have not been scheduled yet.

**Approve minutes:** BOS meetings December 20 and 28, 2021: Motion RL/JJ to approve, passed. **Bill manifest:** Motion JJ/RL to approve with additions, passed. **Payroll manifest:** Motion JJ/RL to approve, passed.

## **Highway Department Report:**

1. MM reported work focused on winter road and equipment maintenance with ditching and culvert maintenance as conditions allow.

## **Public Input:**

1. JA described additional legislation pending which could provide disaster relief to towns.
2. KT responded to the Board's letter regarding Zoning Ordinance noncompliance on the Tallman properties on Connecticut Heights Road. KT described their efforts to remove a camper being used as a residence. FE noted the occupants of the camper had been given permission by the Tallman's and it was the Tallman's responsibility to have it removed. Motion JJ/RL inconsideration of the time required for a court proceeding that the Tallman's have until March 31 to have the camper removed, passed. In addition it was noted that the apartment on the Tallman property requires permitting under the Town's ADU provision in the Zoning Ordinance and a permitting application can be made available.

## **Action items:**

1. Building permits: Stone Gove Road permit renewal: Motion RL/JJ to sign letter requesting renewal, passed. Gamache Crescent Lake Road deck, DES approvals in place: Motion JJ/RL to approve, passed.
2. Intents to Cut: None.
3. Compliance: Tallman: See above; Simmons: Owner response reviewed, Motion JJ/RL to allow until July 1 for demolition debris to be removed or face legal proceedings, passed.
4. Regional Planning culvert inventory proposal: It was noted the Planning Board will address this at their spring Joint Boards Meeting.
5. Contract renewals: Motion JJ/RL to sign annual renewals for general assessing, landfill monitoring and hazardous waste disposal as already budgeted, passed.
6. 2022 Town lands auction: St. Jean Auctioneers has offered May 14 date. Property list being developed for the Selectmen by the Conservation Commission.
7. Conservation Commission appointment already voted: Town Clerk's oath of office signed.
8. 2022 Budget final review: Review noted designation of ARPA funds received in 2021 and 2022 for broadband expansion into Acworth by New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, broad band being the only ARPA use available to towns without municipal water and sewer or first responder departments; also noted were funds designated for continuing flood repair including the balance of the \$2,100,000 loan approved by

voters at the November Special Town Meeting and \$500,000 diverted from usual capital spending projects and \$50,000 from the Bridge capital reserve fund. There was discussion about budgeting for a fourth highway crew member as has been budgeted in recent years. It was noted the crew currently stands at 3. MM noted due to Covid concerns and flood repair conditions which require 22 hours for storm clean up a fourth man is important. The current budget is estimated to increase the tax rate. There was also discussion regarding two possible warrant articles covering a truck replacement and an overlay for Cold Pond Road which have not yet been recommended by the Board. There was consensus to release the budget to the Budget Committee to begin their work.

**Other items.**

1. Nonpublic: Motion FE/JJ to move to nonpublic per RSA 91-A:3IIb, passed, 9:05PM. Returned to public session 9:30PM.
2. An email from Carole Wallace objecting to the removal of roadside trimming wood was noted. MM explained the road is narrow and the trimmings could not be left in the right of way.
3. A letter from Stella Herpel requesting enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance sign guidance was postponed to January 17.
4. **Meeting adjourned:** 9:30PM; Next meeting 1/17/22; Respectfully submitted, Kathi Bradt