

Board of Selectmen Minutes

June 4, 2014

through a Board that is visible to the Town. Wants people of the Town to know the BOS support their efforts and help get the word out. SI asked about having raffles and being present at the Band Concerts. JF suggested canisters at the businesses in town. Lillian Whitney states that the committee is looking for more support from the BOS to get people excited about it. MM suggested a banner that can be made by teenagers for less cost and there is a lot of talent out there if you look for it. The banner can be viewed at the Selectmen's meetings being broadcasted. Also setting up a show for cable to promote the Celebration and need for support. SI asked CB what kind of a celebration she foresees and he offered to talk to Mark Finelli on behalf of the committee for some ideas. A discussion as to how the money had to be allocated between committees. MM told CB to speak to the Town Accountant as to the procedure to follow. He suggested they register with the State and that it might work to their advantage. The contact info for the committee is on the Ashby website. Anyone on the Friends committee has an email with their name i.e.: CB's email address is cathy@ashby250th.org MM told the members if they wanted to go through the budget process to have an article put on the warrant for next year's Town Meeting. They should stop by Town Hall and see Town Administrator, Bob Hanson for the process to do this and see Town Accountant.

Tree Warden Report: (Allan Dawson)

Report given to the BOS – Attached to minutes.

Report was prompted after AD attended a meeting at National Grid's office regarding an insect infestation similar to the Asian Longhorn Beetle – Emerald Ash Borer.

North Andover and Dalton MA are areas where there is a large outbreak of this insect. He explained how the beetle gets into the tree. There are funds available for this problem. Ashby is tagged to be a trap location by DCR. Plans to put traps in Ashby are in the process. (Willard Brook area) He plans to go out and check Ash trees in Town and see if he finds any evidence of the insects being in Town. This is a very difficult process since the holes inside the bark are 1/16th of an inch and are not easy to see.

Report on overall condition of the trees in Town. Quite a lot of "topping out" is affecting trees in Town. (He explained this is caused by drought) Report on trees on Town Common.

Comment on the need for communication between depts. in order to be sure the new trees that are being planted are planted properly in order to cause no damage to them or to existing trees.

Over-all condition of trees is being enhanced by the efforts of Unitil in tree maintenance and cleaning of power lines. Ants are also a problem for the trees in Town. He feels he has a very good relationship with Unitil at this point. He would like to see a formalized plan, on a governmental level, for how to deal with replacement of trees and also education of the public.

AD suggested a possible disclaimer for people going around and picking wood up on the side of the road left by Unitil but, after speaking with Bob Hanson, this was not Town owned land and not the Town's responsibility. MM said the woods are not Town's property.

SI asked if the process would involve stump grinding on the Common. AD states he would rather just dig the stump out than grinding it after calling Dig Safe.

- 6) Motion for Selectmen's approval and signatures on Dispatchers' Union Contract with Teamsters Local 170 in effect from 2013 to 2016.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom

Vote: JF/MM - Aye
SI - Abstain

- 7) Motion for Selectmen to re-appoint Wayne Stacy as MRPC Representative for a term expiring June 30, 2015 and Chairman's signature on re-appointment form.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Board of Selectmen Minutes
June 4, 2014

- 8) Motion to accept the resignation of Andrew Richard as Police Fire Signal Operator (Dispatcher), effective June 6, 2014. (Letter read by JF)

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

Any other business not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman:

Letter read by MM regarding the Town of Pepperell Board of Selectmen concerning a county wide effort to oppose the gas pipeline. (Letter from Town Administrator John Moak) They would like to form a coalition of area towns to fight the proposal. They would like to start meeting by July 1, 2014. Discussion on making a motion tonight. SI wants to wait until next meeting due to "open meeting law". JF states this was unanticipated. MM stated this does not involve money, it is not controversial and the Town voted unanimously at Town Meeting to oppose the pipeline. JF stated if we do not want to be in it we do not have to.

- 9) Motion to send letter to Town of Pepperell expressing our interest in joining and appoint Janet Flinkstrom as representative of the Board to the Middlesex County Coalition.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom Vote: JF/MM/Aye
SI - Abstain

Assistance to the Board of Selectmen's Report: Read by SI and available on Ashby Website

Public Comments (if any):

Announcement by Lillian Whitney regarding a Republican Town Committee Meeting

JF spoke to SI regarding an email he sent to Bill Davis stating he sent it as "an Elected Official" but, he had not spoken to the other two members of the Board about it. She states he cannot do this as a Board Member and it is unethical for him to contact him without the full board knowing. He is contacting him as an individual if the rest of the Board does not know about it. She told him to be very careful of what he does. He states residents in town are contacting him for answers and he did not step out of bounds. JF states you give the resident the Department Head's contact information so they can speak to the Hwy Super directly and then if they still are not satisfied the next step is to contact the Board of Selectmen.

Lillian Whitney commented on a letter she sent in regards to holes at the landfill. She will not accept the response in a telephone call she received from JF and wants this fixed. JF responded with a report given to her from Bill Davis who did respond and inspected her issues and didn't find them to be in horrible condition and no worse than most other roads in town.

- 10) Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Steve Ingerson Vote: Unan

Signed by: _____

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____

Plen Attach to Minutes 6/8/14

"In the year since I was duly elected a member of the Board of Selectmen, I have been systematically denied timely access to important public documentation and other information relevant to the regular ongoing, or special business, of the Town of Ashby.

"The other board members have even voted among themselves to remove me from the position of Procurement Officer without cause.

"Any information that I have received, I have either had to pay for, been verbal, or incomplete, and I have received it in such a time that I am forced to exercise the duty of my office without comprehensive knowledge of whatever imminent or pressing issue may be at hand.

"Not having free and timely access to public town documents and other information regarding all aspects of the the Town's business prevents me from exercising my fiduciary responsibility, as a Board member, on behalf of the Town and it's people.

"I therefore can no longer, in good conscience, cast any vote on any subject which comes before the Board of Selectmen as long as the other members of the Board and Town personnel willfully keep me ignorant of important and timely documentation and other information related to all matters of Town business."

