

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Select Board Minutes of April 2, 2024*

Present: Aaron Allen, Betsy Coble, Sandi Pierson, Catherine Souza (clerical)

Others: Tamara Fairbank, Judith Lindahl, Donald McFarlane, Bob Proulx, Sharon Proulx, Alex Smith, Dave Stacy, Kathy Stacy

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Sandi Pierson motioned to approve the minutes of the public meeting of March 19, 2024, seconded by Betsy Coble. Motion passed 3/0/0.

The February 20th minutes omitted Kathy and Dave Stacy from the attendees. Motion to amend the February 20, 2024, minutes with the addition of Kathy and Dave Stacy to the attendees was made by Betsy Coble, seconded by Aaron Allen. Motion passed 2/0/1 (Sandi abstained as she was not in attendance).

2024 Board and Commissions First meeting call to order:

The first meeting of the following Boards and Commissions is called to order by the Select Board for the express purpose of electing officers.

Budget Committee:

- Select Board ex-officio: Sandi Pierson
- Chair: Dave Stacy
- Vice Chair: Donald McFarlane
- Secretary: Bob Proulx

Parks and Recreation:

- Select Board ex-officio: Aaron Allen
- Chair: Kathy Stacy
- Vice Chair: Donald McFarlane
- Secretary: Dave Stacy

Conservation Commission:

- Select Board ex-officio: Aaron Allen
- Chair: Aaron Allen
- Vice Chair: Dave Stacy

ZBA reported from meeting on March 25, 2024:

- Chair: Alex Smith
- Vice Chair: Sally Jaeger

Cemetery reported from meeting on March 19, 2024:

- Chair: Anita Garland

Planning Board reported from meeting on March 26, 2024:

- Chair: Scott Sanborn
- Vice Chair: Donald McFarlane
- Secretary: Karen McFarlane

Select Board appointment of open position on ZBA:

The ZBA needs one more member to fulfill the four-person compliment of full time members. An email will go out soliciting a volunteer.

ZBA Notice of Decision:

Aaron Allen read the notice of decision to all in attendance. Notice reads:

You are hereby notified that the variance application of Aaron Allen concerning his property located at 127 New Colony Road (Map 3 Lot 31) was DISMISSED by the Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment on March 25, 2024.

The board reviewed the application and the input of the Building Inspector. The Board agreed based on the Town of Orange Zoning Regulations that a formal variance is not required. However, there are requirements that the proposed dwelling must follow (see below).

- No part of the new dwelling may be closer to the road than that of the existing structure.
- No part of the new dwelling may be closer to the brook than that of the existing structure.
- The total square footage of the new dwelling may not be larger than the existing structure.

Town House Key Distribution List review:

Catherine shared the distribution list with the Select Board.

Town of Holderness abutter notification:

An abutter's notice of an application for the Town of Holderness was received at the Town Office. Pursuant to section 575.5.3 of the Holderness Zoning Ordinance, any municipality or portion thereof which lies within a twenty-mile radius of the new telecommunications facility must be notified of an application. The application is to install well pumps, a prefabricated building, water lines, buried electrical conduit, a communications tower and associated site work. The application will be considered at the Holderness Planning Board meeting on Tuesday April 16, 2024.

Final Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

The Orange Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete. A hardcopy and digital version of the plan has been received at the Town Office. The Town of Orange is the very first Plan in the region since April 2022 that is totally complete. The last bill from Mapping and Planning Solutions (MAPS) has been received. Once the final process is complete, Catherine will submit the final bill portion for reimbursement from the State of New Hampshire Safety division.

ACTION: Catherine to email the pdf to the Select Board and post on the Town website

Jan/Feb 2024 Treasurer's report and Select Board Reconciliation:

The document was reviewed by the Board and signed by the chair.

Other Select Board business and action items:

Visiting Nurses and Hospice of NH/VT 2024 donation:

- It has come to the attention of the Select Board that the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of NH/VT no longer provides service for the Town of Orange due to staffing constraints. Catherine had done research and found that the Lake Sunapee region VNA and Hospice does provide service for the Town of Orange.
- After discussion with those in attendance, including the budget committee members, the general feeling was to support the organization that services the Town of Orange residents. Motion made by Sandi Pierson to redirect the donation to the Lake Sunapee VNA and Hospice, seconded by Aaron Allen. Motion passed 3/0/0. The Select Board asked Catherine to determine if the donation goes directly to the Lake Sunapee office or not and if it can be earmarked for the Town of Orange.
- ACTION: Select Board and Catherine to draft a letter to Visiting Nurses and Hospice of NH/VT expressing concern over lack of service for Orange and the withdrawal of the donation.

Confirmation of balance of 2024 Select Board meetings:

- The November 5, 2024, Select Board meeting will be held in the morning prior to the polls opening for the General/Presidential Election.
- No other changes.

Request for workshop attendance:

- Glenn Miller, Road Agent, has requested to attend the 2024 Hard Road to Travel Workshop on Thursday May 9, 2024, from 9am to 1:30pm. The cost for NHMA members is \$70. Motion made by Betsy Coble, seconded by Sandi Pierson to approve cost and attendance for Glenn. Motion passed 3/0/0.

Action Item list review:

- Action Items Completed:
 - Change locks and combinations: Exterior doors, SB office, TC office.
 - Catherine to invite Board and Commission members to the April 2nd Select Board meeting.
 - Tamara Fairbank, former Select Board chair, completed the action to review all non-public minutes. The action was completed between December 1, 2023, and March 12, 2024.
 - Background on the action:
 - House Bill 321 was adopted to address the practical action required for maintenance of nonpublic minutes. A procedure has been issued stating Meeting minutes that were kept from the public that are not reviewed by the public body or agency on or before October 3, 2023, shall be subject to public disclosure without further action of the public body. House Bill 321 requires an obligation of the Select Board to review all previously sealed nonpublic meeting minutes and complete the review process within 10 years of October 3, 2023. The new law does not require the release of sealed nonpublic minutes if divulgence would cause harm to reputation, or render the proposed action discussed ineffective, or pertain to thwarting a terrorist attack. Failure to review the sealed nonpublic minutes during the review period will automatically result in the public release of those minutes, regardless of the potential harm resulting from that release.
- Action Items open:
 - Disposal of old safe in Town Clerk's office (pushed to summer 2024)
 - ARPA Grafton Co funds: Septic project. Secure bids. (in progress)
 - ARPA Grafton Co funds: Bathroom renovation. Secure bids (in progress)

- Town Warming Center Policy (for the April 16, 2024, meeting)
- Investigate options for a possible cell phone for the Road Agent
- Final decision on Historical Commission reorganization: Society or Heritage Commission.
 - Update:
 - The Historical Commission met on Monday April 1, 2024.
 - Judith Lindahl met with the Historical Commission and shared a proposal which the group reviewed and plans to review with a lawyer for next steps.
 - The proposal includes another option beyond the Historical Society or Heritage Commission. The other option is to be an Unincorporated Association.
 - The group wants to be friendly and supportive of the town.
 - Since the Historical Commission is not a town government Commission, Sandi Person will continue to participate as a member of the public but not as an ex-officio member from the Select Board.
 - The group will report back to the Select Board on status as they follow the process.
- Action Items New:
 - Catherine to email the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update pdf file to the Select Board and post it on the Town website.
 - Select Board and Catherine to draft a letter to Visiting Nurses and Hospice of NH/VT expressing concern over lack of service for Orange and the withdrawal of the donation.

Secretary's Report:

- Thank you notes were received from the Grafton County Senior Center and West Central Behavioral Health related to the recent donations from the Town of Orange.
- The FEMA reimbursement request for the Town of Orange Administrative and Management costs was submitted on April 1, 2024. The request totals \$27,753.92 (Administrative = \$9,128.80 and Management = \$18,625.12). As motioned in a prior meeting, any FEMA reimbursement monies received will be applied to the new loan.
- Cardigan Mtn Road is scheduled to be paved in 2024 from Rt. 118 beginning at Orange Road in Canaan up to 650 feet east of Peaslee Road. No further details are available yet. Aaron Allen will make calls to solicit further information and see if the same contractor will do work for the Town while on site.

Reports from Boards and Committees:

- *Cemetery trustees:* none
- *Road Agent report:* none
 - March 24, 2024, email from Road Agent:
 - I hope everyone is doing well and digging out of all the snow! I appreciate everyone understanding that this much snow takes time to clear. Remacle and I are making our way to each road. In addition, finding a place to put all that snow has been a challenge! Please drive carefully! As the snow begins to thaw this week, be mindful that the roads will become muddy (again). Slow is best. Feel free to contact me either by email or text. Text is the best way to reach me.
 - Written report from Glenn (Glenn was unable to attend the Select Board meeting)
 - Remacle will be plowing for 2024.
 - Remacle owes Glenn rates and a contract for 2024.
 - Another storm is coming this week – Remacle and Glenn are ready.

- The Select Board agreed for the Road Agent to post the 25-mile speed limit sign on Eastman Rd.
- *Historical Commission:* none
- *Planning Board:* The Board is beginning work on the Master Plan Survey questions.
- *Conservation Commission:* none

Board comments:

- Sandi Pierson
 - The winter parking area at Cardigan Mtn State Park is posted for visitors to park only on one side. Currently visitors are parking on both sides of the road which impedes the ability for emergency vehicles to pass. The Select Board will contact the State Trooper for what could be done. The Select Board will also contact Scott Sanborn on what he has found out in the past about the concern.

Public comment:

- Sharon Proulx
 - Question on replacement of speed limit signs on Cardigan Mtn Rd. What can be done?
- Tamara Fairbank
 - Kudos to the new Road Agent on the snow plowing the first week in the job! She appreciates Judith's expertise and help with the Historical Commission.
- Donald McFarlane
 - As an FYI, he is still participating with the Grafton County Broadband committee.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Next Select Board meeting date confirmation: Tuesday April 16, 2024, at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm

Aaron Allen, Chair

Betsy Coble

Sandi Pierson

Select Board
Town of Orange, NH