

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of July 23, 2019*

Present: Dorothy Heinrichs, Chair; Bob Ells, Tamara Fairbank, and Sandi Pierson (clerical).

Others: Bev Ells, Judith Lindahl, and Doug Weekes.

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of June 10, 2019 were unanimously approved.

July 11 Flood event:

- The Select Board scheduled a meeting for September 24 to review how the Emergency Operations Plan worked during the aftermath of the flooding. They would like representatives from the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, Orange Emergency Management, the road agent, Canaan fire chief, and the health officer.
- Dorothy recapped the site visit done by FEMA. Scott Sanborn and Bob Ells were also present. It is anticipated that the extent of the damage in Orange and surrounding town will meet the threshold of the event being declared a disaster.
- The Board was in receipt of NH-DES authorization verifications for emergency work to be done on municipal, State, and private property due to the flooding.
- An email was received from Mascoma Savings Bank re: the availability of a flood relief loan.
- The Board signed a letter to Department of Transportation Commissioner Victoria Shaheen commending the local DOT workers for the immediate remedial work done on the State roads following the damage.
- Dorothy stated she would like to gather copies of photos taken of the flood event and to keep a record of the many people who stepped forward to help.

Letters of appreciation: The Board signed a letter of appreciation to Steve Taylor for his participation in the mill stone dedication on July 20, and for his generous donation toward the plaque that will be placed on the mill stone.

Other:

- The Board reviewed a response from the Local Government Center regarding the question of spouses serving on the same board. Their response was that though there is no statutory prohibition in regards, they listed a number of reasons why it is not a good idea.
- Judith will contact the LGC in regards to if the Select Board or Planning Board appoints the present vacancy on the Planning Board due to resignation. Though the Select Board appointed a Planning Board member last March, it was thought that that was because it was an election circumstance.

- The Board received a copy of letter sent to all towns from Governor Sununu explaining why he vetoed the State budget.

Other business:

- Dorothy stated that the Conservation Commission will meet on September 25.
- Tam stated that the next Historical Commission meeting is August 5.

Reports from other Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

- Judith Lindahl commended Dorothy on her representation of Orange in regards to the flood event when portrayed on the news and with State officials.
- Judith suggested that since Williams Road has sustained severe damage more than once due to heavy rain events, perhaps the town should consider asking the property owner who owns the abutting field to allow the town to relocate the road further away from Orange Brook. Presently the road sidles the brook. The property owner could be compensated by taking ownership of the land where the road is now. Bob Ells to follow up.
- Building Inspector Doug Weekes said he is presently reviewing the building permit process and will bring his recommendations to the Board sometime in the future.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 PM.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Tamara Fairbank