

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of July 28, 2020*

Present: Dorothy Heinrichs, Chair; Aaron Allen, and Sandi Pierson (clerical). Tamara Fairbank was out of town.

Others: Doug Weekes, Jim Bilodeau, Paul Currier, Jessie Stark, Jay Heinrichs, Michael Skuhersky, and Gulley Dunlap.

Meeting opened on the front lawn at 6:00 p.m. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of July 14, 2020 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Class 6 road use: Paul Currier and Jim Bilodeau (Hardy Snowmobile Club in Groton) expressed their dissatisfaction that a “jeep club” was allowed to drive over New Colony Road from Orange to Groton, most of the trip being through Mount Cardigan State Forest. Paul said he asked Bob Hardy (NH Forest and Lands) to close the state forest gate at the Class 6 section in Orange but that subsequently “headquarters from Concord” directed Mr. Hardy to leave the gate open. Paul and Jim felt the Orange Select Board had the authority to close the gate in order to obstruct unwanted travel. It was their opinion that the road should be open to only snowmobiling because of the road damage the jeeps could do. Jim summarized some of the work the Hardy Snowmobile Club has done on the Orange roads which are part of their trail network.

Aaron stated that he would not want to discriminate on who uses Class 6 roads and that the town has on no occasion barred registered vehicles from driving on them. He felt that owners of registered vehicles are paying their registration fees and taxes and should be allowed to drive on roads open to the public. Aaron felt that both the snowmobile and jeep clubs are conscientious of the area, including picking up any roadside litter they see. Dorothy reported that a resident emailed Sandi saying that the jeep club passed the homes on New Colony in less than ten minutes with no noise and no problems. She added that a member of the club walked the road prior to the drive to be sure their passage would not harm the road due to excess mud.

Paul asked if the town could post signs indicating roads that are Class 6 and not maintained by the town. The Board concurred to refer the request to the road agent. Sandi explained to Paul and Jim that in June of 2010, after a public hearing by the town, the Select Board prohibited all Off Highway Recreation Vehicles (which includes ATVs and snowmobiles) from riding on all Class 5 and 6 roads in the town of Orange. This has never been rescinded. She said that former Hardy Snowmobile Club member Miles Sinclair brought forth a petitioned warrant article at the 2011 Orange town meeting and made his case to the townspeople to allow the snowmobile club to continue using their existing trails (the Rangeway and upper sections of Tug Mountain and New Colony roads). The town voted in favor of the article. Sandi also noted that improvements to Class 6 roads by private parties are by permission of the Select Board [RSA 236:9]. Dorothy

explained the problems that some residents had experienced from snowmobiles which led to the public hearing. She said the problems were not from the Hardy Snowmobile Club.

Town Clerk: The Board concurred to procure a different mentor for the town clerk. (Due to COVID 19 all State training for new town clerks was cancelled.) After discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of signing a letter to Kami Stone thanking her for her assistance in the town clerk's office and notifying her that her services were no longer needed. Canaan Town Clerk Vicky McAllister has offered to assist Michelle Gofredda with her training. Because of Vicky's schedule, the Orange town clerk's office will be open on Thursday nights instead of Wednesdays. Sandi will send out an email on the town's listserv about the schedule change and Jay Heinrichs will post it on the website.

Tax-deeded property: The Board signed a required notice to the former owner of the tax-deeded property at 200 Tuttle Hill Road notifying her that she has a 90-day repurchase option before the town has the authority to sell it by way of a realtor. Sandi will send the letter out by certified mail and the 90-day period will begin upon the recipient signing the confirmation of receipt. Health Officer Doug Weekes stated that Hammonds will clean up the property in August. He said the DMV is guiding him on how to obtain titles to the two junk vehicles abandoned on the property so they can be legally disposed of. Doug also recommended having Scott Sanborn mark out the boundaries of the property. The Board concurred.

Posting property: The Board signed a letter to Dean Vanier asking him to take down the No Trespassing signs he placed on an abutting property unless he has permission from the property owners to do so. Health Officer Doug Weekes said that he did a home inspection on the abutting property per the request Mr. Vanier and that Mr. Vanier said he had permission to go on the property. Doug sent a copy of his home inspection analysis to the Select Board's office that he sent to Mr. Vanier.

Building regulations: The Board tabled discussion on Building Inspector Doug Weekes' recommendations for revisions to the Orange Building Regulations. At the next meeting they will revisit Doug's building permit fee schedule recommendations.

Other:

- The Board was in receipt of a list compiled by Emergency Management Director Brent Stevens of residents with machinery that may be of assistance during an emergency. The Board expressed appreciation for Brent's due diligence.

Secretary's report:

- The NH Electric Co-op bill went from the usual \$60 range to \$80, yet town house usage should have decreased due to the Corona virus. The Board asked Sandi to contact the NHEC to see if the rates have changed or if their power usage has in some way increased.
- Forest and Lands reimburses the town each year for the state forest depending on the value of the acreage. The problem is that the DRA, NH Forest and Lands, the Cardigan survey map, the tax map, and the assessment cards all list somewhat different acreages. Sandi said that Scott Sanborn advised that the town should use the most recent survey map done by the State. After discussion, the Board agreed that Sandi should ask Avitar to

amend the assessing cards to reflect the survey map and to use that acreage and land value on the town's Request for State Reimbursement for Forest Land (an annual form signed by the Board). The survey has the state forest at 5,076 acres in Orange which Avitar assessed at \$3,323,300.00.

- Amerigas (d/b/a Young's Propane) will be servicing the Rinai heaters in the Select Board's office on August 10. The Board agreed the company should also check the heaters in the meeting room and town clerk's office.

Reports from Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

- Jay Heinrichs expressed concern about the excessive feces left by the thousands of dogs that hike with their owners on the Cardigan Mountain trails and are not properly disposed of. He said this is a threat to the public drinking water supply as waters running off the mountain feed three watersheds. The Board and Jay discussed placing a dog waste bag dispenser at the trailhead. Like for some area trails that supply dog waste bags, it was noted that the results are some of the bags containing dog waste being left on the trailside. Jay suggested a dog waste receptacle for the bags and a schedule of pick-up done by Conservation Commission members. Sandi will follow up with what other recreational sites are using. It was agreed that the purchase of a disposal set-up could come out of the Conservation Commission budget.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 7:02 p.m.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Tamara Fairbank

Aaron Allen