

Town of Stoddard
Monday, December 13, 2021
Town Hall – 7 PM

MINUTES

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees include Robert Fee – Chair, Chris Madden – Selectmen, Stephen McGerty – Selectmen, Michelle Pong – Town Administrator, Harry Power – Compliance Officer, Vickie Williams – Secretary and many residents of Stoddard.

Public Hearing – Unanticipated Funds from County Government (\$37,000.00)

Money is to be spent within the next 2 years. Has to be spent on Water/Heath and Storm Water Management.

Granite Lake Association – Bob Maden – President

Spoke on the needs for headwater protection, the sediment degrading the quality of the water from sediment from driveways and roadways. Catch basins not working properly or full. Work on culverts or buried culverts. Would like the Board to consider using some of the money on these issues. \$30,000.00 dollars would take care of most of the work.

Granite Lake Village Association – Butch Roeder

Responsible for the flow of water on Granite Lake from the Dam. Draw down in the fall and bring up in the spring. In 2017 the annual review from the NH Dam Bureau reclassified the Dam as a high hazard dam. With the amount of rainfall and weather changes very narrow margin to control the water flow. They would like an Engineer to look at the Dam. Wants Stoddard to help defer the cost of the Engineer with the Town of Nelson.

Environmental Concerns – The trout and amphibians that burrow in winter. It would have a negative impact on the lake species and the nesting bald eagles. Taking out the dam would shrink the Lake itself drying out parts.

There is no public access to the Lake from the Town of Stoddard

Island Pond Beach – Noreen Durand

Culverts on both sides of the Public Beach need to be replaced or fixed, it is dangerous to the people and children who use the Public Beach and is a concern.

Chris motioned to close the Public Meeting. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.

Appointments:

Harry Power – Compliance Officer

105/3 – Christopher & Renee Maurer – Shedd Hill Road – Extending the Kitchen onto the porch. Using dumpster. Pd \$150.00

137/33 – Jean Fontaine – Sandy Beach Road – Harry has sent letter to the Septic Designer. Has only a holding tank. Year round resident. The Septic Designer is working with the State on this issue.

108/27 – Northbound Ventures – 2 bedroom – no septic – permit expires in March. Harry is working with them on this issue.

109/01 – Geoffrey Post – Old Kings Highway – Property Line does not come right up to the road. Wanted to cut trees along road. Was given the okay, by 2 Selectmen, to do the work but any damage occurring to the road because of these actions will be up to him to repair.

126/55 - Busto Property – Is still waiting on NHDES Approval for the septic system, for 2 Bedroom only. Based on complaint from neighbor, new owner building deck, was told permit required, took down the fixture. Has a Construction Approval **ONLY** for 2 bedroom. 1 copy sent to Busto, New Owner and Harry Power.

420/13.2 – Peter Athearn – The owners son taking down the carport on the 50 foot right of way and placing the structure on his Mother's property.

To Be Signed/Approved

1. A/R and/or P/R Manifest
2. Minutes of 11/29/2021
3. Notice of Intent to Cut
4. Building Permit

All Signed and Approved

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

None

Skipped to New Business:

Post Office

Bob Fee addressed the Residents gathered for a civil conversation, information on the internet has gotten out of hand, limit of 3 minutes to speak, can speak again only after all others have spoken for a first time.

Bob opened the discussion with the following statement – “The Selectmen do not have any jurisdiction in regards to the opening/closing of any United States Postal Service branch, however as your elected officials, we are willing to facilitate local volunteer efforts to maintain the Postal Service in the Town of Stoddard. Any tax dollars spent on this endeavor must be

approved at Town Meeting. We encourage residents to keep communication open and to share ideas with each other towards a solution.

Many people spoke on the issues, with many concerns and questions. This is a list of Concerns and possible Solutions.

Concerns:

Effects on the Elderly

Effects on private road residents getting a mailbox

Home business's that receive their goods through the mail

Expense of having a box in Marlow – gas prices – commute

Unnecessary hardship on residents of the town

Closing February 1 2022 – Time issue

Rumors on Facebook regarding this issue – Why did the residents have to find out from a Post on Facebook about the Post Office Closing

Official word was given to The Town Administrator on Thursday, December 16 in the afternoon by the Owners of the Mill Village Store. There has been no official word from USPS. The Administrator has been trying to call the Marlow Post Master since, can not get in contact with him. She has also contacted the Keene Office to get any information available.

In reality there is no official word on the Status of the Post Office, just rumor at this point. Facts and information have to be gathered. How we move forward has to be based on factual information.

Not getting any information from our State Reps Dan Eaton or Ruth Ward.

Solutions

Contact your State Representatives as this is a Federal issue. The USPS is a federal entity.

The Town itself taking over the Post Office

Placing it in the Old Fire House/ Gould House and building a Post Office.

People are willing to pay more for their boxes if this will help the issue.

The Residents of Stoddard are going to set up an Ad Hoc Committee for the issue of the Post Office sanctioned by the Board of Selectmen and report to the Board with this information. Michelle has started a sign in sheet. She will contact the people on the sign up sheet with an email in the morning for the committee to get started. She will help with facilitating the committee but will not be in charge.

THIS ISSUE WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR EVERY SELECTMEN MEETING TIL A RESOLUTION IS FOUND

Fire Department – Brian Michaud

Has 2 Purchase Orders to be signed –

Purchase Order for meals for Liam & Kendra for 3 day training \$736.00– there is a per diem on meals that the town will pay. Michelle will look into this order.

Oxygen bill for \$1,000.00 – new contract with Airgas – other contractor went out of business.

Contact the Post Office to get a mailbox for the Fire Station at the Road or attached to the building. Was told yes.

Permission to use the Town Hall Parking Lot for Santa –

Chris motioned for the Fire Dept to use the Parking Lot. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.

Returned to Old Business:

Clarification of Town roads plowed – Based on the list of the plowed roads in Stoddard, there are no private roads being plowed.

A/R A/P Manifest Clarification

Will print out the full report and leave for the Selectmen to review with detailed information at their convenience.

New Business:

Holiday Policy

All regularly scheduled employees shall receive their regular compensation for the following holidays, or any other day proclaimed by the Selectboard as a day of holiday observance.

Regularly scheduled employees shall receive holiday pay equivalent to the regularly scheduled hours normally worked on the holiday. Holiday pay shall not be given to employees not regularly scheduled to work on that calendar day. Holidays “observed” by the State of NH shall fall on the dates determined by the State.

Holidays will include but not limited to: New Year’s Day, Civil Rights Day, President’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

The holiday policy shall not apply to employees of the Police Department, Fire Department or Emergency Medical Services. Nor shall it apply to seasonal, on-call, or other employees scheduled on an as needed basis.

Chris motioned to accept the Holiday Policy as written. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.

Budget – Library

Increase in Oil, technology expenses and payroll. Suggested by the Town Administrator that they should also increase there maintenance line to \$850.00 dollars.

Public Comment (Non Agenda Items)

Auto deposit for Town Employees – Treasurer has set up training to implement this – it is in the process of being established.

Previous issues on Shoreland Permits – Gazebo on Fox Run. Believe they are attaching something else to the house. Fire Pit to close to the house. This will be checked on.
West Shore Circle – new stone wall – he has received a permit from NHDES. Took down trees along the shoreline and clear cut was fined for this violation.
What about getting lists of outstanding shore violations and the follow up on these issues.
If a residence changes to a year round residence they must get a NHDES septic approved system installed. Seasonal can make improvements with no permit as long as it is in the existing building footprint.

Island Pond Boat Ramp
Can this be improved – Not without a NHDES permit

Chris motioned to go into Non Public Meeting 91-A:3, 11(d). Stephen Seconded. Motion Carried.

Chris motioned to come out of Non Public Meeting. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.

Chris motioned to seal non public session. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.

Chris motioned to adjourn. Stephen Seconded. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:19 PM

Submitted
Vickie Williams – Secretary

Robert Fee_____

Christopher Madden _____

Stephen McGerty_____