

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
July 10, 2017

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon
George Glines
Art Hudson

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

Administration

The Board signed: A/P Manifest
P/R Manifest
4 Employee leave requests
3 Forest Fire Warden Appointment Slips
Timber Tax Levy – Tax Map 231 Lot 3

New Business

The Board reviewed the Barn Preservation Easement for Barbie Tilton on Pickard Road. Art made a motion to keep the easement assessment at 15%. George seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Ken reported that he attended a seminar last Friday. Davis & Towle will be starting a risk pool, beginning with workers compensation. We will be sending information to them so they can send a proposal. The rates would stay the same or less for 3-years. Our current provider, Primex will guarantee our rates for 2018 with a maximum increase of 10% per year through 2020. This guarantee needs to be signed by the end of July. Ken will contact them and ask for an extension.

Ken received a quote of \$4,360.00 to strip and wax the floors at 4 of the Town Buildings. Ken will be looking for additional quotes.

Ken reported that the permits for small campfires, etc. are now being done on-line. The link is on the Town website.

Ken explained that Chief Newbery noticed that the Old Forestry truck has not been used in a long time. There is a program that the Feds would purchase a truck and if the Town maintains it for 1 year, we can keep it. Chief Newbery is looking into that program.

Ken reported that the Security Camera grant has been received and he will be working on getting them installed.

Ken received information that the Historic District Commission would like to increase their fees. The Board asked Ken to research what other Towns are charging.

Ken explained that the final bid for the Sam Lake House came in at over the amount of the Warrant Article. And that the project will not be able to be done this year. Cheryl asked Ken if

he would contact Town Counsel to see how to proceed bringing this forward at town meeting next year.

Appointments

Paul Ramsey, Donna Keeley and Ovid Rochon from Eversource

Paul, Donna and Ovid were here to discuss the Northern Pass. Paul distributed maps of the project, and explained that there is 6 miles of r-o-w in Canterbury. The project will be using the same r-o-w. One line will be relocated to the side of the r-o-w to make room for the new line. There will be 62 new towers and the heights will vary between 65' and 115' with a common height of 80'. Any environmental issues will be incorporated into the construction plan. They may be a need to build access roads to the r-o-w, they will be working with the landowners.

The Town can file a memorandum of understanding to be filed as a condition of the towns concerns and will work them into the construction plans.

Ken will be the contact person and will review the letter of memorandum with the Police, Fire and Selectmen.

The Board thanked Paul, Donna and Ovid for attending.

Church Trustee Jim Wieck and Fair Committee Chairman Lisa Carlson attended the meeting.

The Selectmen asked them to attend the meeting. Art explained that he is very sensitive to the Church needs and that at Town Meeting it was discussed that the Town Hall would be used as a temporary office for the summer during the construction of the Sam Lake House.

The Town and the Church have been "good neighbors" for many years. Unfortunately there have been some current issues that have caused this relationship to come into question.

The Town administration and Sam Lake Committee did not schedule the construction of the Sam Lake House to interfere with the Church's use of the Town Hall and other property for the annual fair. The construction was scheduled to take advantage of the best time of year for construction. These concerns were discussed at Town Meeting. But, recently there have been bad feelings that exist on the part of some of the fair committee members. A Facebook post on the town's official Facebook page contains the quote ".....The needless inconvenience to the Red Barn owners....the lack of bathroom availability for those pricing and sorting, not to mention the potential traffic dangers and parking issues is not warranted!" Art explained that he had received a phone call at home from the same person. There seems to be an expectation of entitlement by some that the "Fair" takes precedence over all else.

Jim stated that he is sorry that Art had a confrontation and said that Lisa had said it quite well at the Town Meeting that they want to have a good relationship with the Town.

Art explained that up until this past Wednesday morning we were still going forward with the project.

Jim said he and Lisa can have a meeting with the fair committee to discuss the lines of communication that would be appropriate. Jim stated that he finds this very stressing as well. Lisa is concerned that it is the responsibility of the Church to resolve this. Art explained that the Church is a sponsor of the Fair. Jim stated that he sees this as a responsibility of the church and they will talk to everyone to explain that the town's relationship is important.

Lisa explained that she is troubled while sitting in the Town Clerk's office, a lot of people are asking about the Sam Lake House project. They do not know what's going on and feel that is not their place to try to explain the project. Lisa explained that the project did not start on April 1st and has been no communication on the progress. Ken explained that he put notices on the Website, Town email and on the Town's Facebook page. How can we communicate more?

Lisa explained that there will be a Fair Meeting Wednesday and will address this with the committee, she invited a Board Member to attend.

Art explained that the Sam Lake Committee has worked very hard and it is disappointment that they could not get the project started this year.

Jim will meet with Church Counsel and discuss this.

Ken asked Jim if they have had any progress on the proposed septic system. Jim stated that Mark Stevens is coming up with a few plans. Once he has a set of plans, he would like to set up a meeting with the Selectmen.

Art mentioned that the back doors of the Church have not been changed yet. The Church had worked with the HDC a year ago to resolve this. Jim will speak to the Trustees again.

Jim thanked the Selectmen and appreciate the relationship with the town.

The Board thanked Jim and Lisa.

Sandra Steenbergen, Keith Brown, John Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Pinard and Kim Ramsdell attended the meeting.

Sandra asked the Board where they were at on the roads in Sherwood Forest since she last met with them. Art explained that the Selectmen had not changed their opinion from the last meeting.

Keith feels that the number of millions of dollars to bring the roads up to town standards is an exaggeration. They have made improvements to the roads at a cost of \$5,000 - \$7,000 per year. What are being requested are 20 loads of gravel and grading annually. It's not that complicated, they want to work with the Town. Ken explained that not only some gravel would be needed but also there would have to be surveying with easements for drainage done for the entire area as well as the drainage work itself. Many of the roads are higher than the houses and runoff would be an issue. This would be a large part of the cost of bring the roads up to town standards.

John Mitchell asked the Board if they knew how many permanent, residents live in Sherwood Forest. The Board did not know the exact number. John replied that they are 238 with an additional 200 seasonal residents.

George asked how many residential dwellings are there. Keith replied that there are 75 houses. They have installed stop signs and the dam has been re-classified after the mother's day flood. Keith explained that they are not asking to have the hill plowed by the dam, they are asking to have the roads that have been built out maintained. They want to work with Town.

Sandra asked if any member of the Board had visited the area. Ken replied that he and the Road Agent went up and said that the roads are in good shape right now. There is no denying that the Association has been working hard on the roads, but it's illegal for the Town of Canterbury to plow private roads. The 1975 Town Meeting vote to plow a few areas within the association was illegal.

Sandra explained that the area is also in the workforce housing overlay. Ken explained that overlay only pertains to new developments and that area is not a new development.

Sandra asked if anyone had read the Master Plan. The objective is to keep Canterbury a nice community, what happened to her rights a resident. Sandra says it is stated in the plan that that area is hurting.

John asked why the Town is giving out variances to build a 2,400 sq. ft. home with a septic and well on a quarter lot. The Board stated that the Town is not giving out variances for that. George explained that the development as a whole was started in the 60's (prior to zoning) and if someone who owns a quarter lot and wanted to build, the Town can't deny the request.

Keith explained that they are not asking the town to take over the roads, they are just looking for additional plowing. John stated that if he can't get his road done, then the Town shouldn't do any of the roads.

John and Mr. Pinard expressed concerns about ambulances not being able or willing to come down because of the road conditions in the winter. On one occasion John drove himself to the hospital because he didn't want to chance the ambulance getting lost.

Sandra stated that she wanted the letter she sent to the Board to be in the minutes in its entirety. Ken explained that we will make her letter an attachment to the minutes.

Keith said that he wants to move forward, they are not looking for the Town to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on the property. Keith further stated that he has trimmed brush along the roads, jackhammered some ledge and gained an addition 6' in width on some of the roads. He measured some of the existing town roads and they do not meet the road standards of the Town.

Cheryl asked them if the Association had a board. Keith said yes they do. Cheryl suggested that they have a member of their Board attend the planning/zoning meetings. She also asked if they had ever contacted the Code Enforcement Office of any potential violations they see. Ken

reported that recently the Health Officer has been out there twice for septic related issues. The Town worked with the resident to solve the issue.

John stated that this is the 4th time he's been before the Selectmen. He's lived in town for 18 years. When he moved in the maintenance of the roads was possible, now it keeps getting harder and harder. Recently two houses have been built. One of them had a septic system installed right next to the road drainage pipe.

Sandy stated that the minutes are not giving a good representation of what their concerns are. If the Planning or Zoning Board should read them, they may not fully understand. Cheryl again suggested that they have a representative to attend the meetings.

Keith stated that they brought to a Town Meeting to warrant article that asked to have all the road plowed by the Town. This warrant article lost by 8 votes. At that time, there was mention of creating emergency lanes. Art suggested that another avenue for them to submit a warrant article asking for money to help with their roads.

John stated that there are a number of residents in Sherwood Forest, Belmont Fire Department said that they told the Town of Canterbury that if there was trouble with the roads they wouldn't come down. Ken explained that that information may have gone to the Fire Chief but never came before him or the Selectmen.

Ken will talk to the interim Fire Chief and discuss fire lanes.

Keith stated that he would like to work with someone to have a dry hydrant installed.

Sandy, Keith, John, Mr. & Mrs. Pinard and Kim thanked the Selectmen.

Cheryl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM. George seconded he motion.

The next Selectmen's meeting will be held on July 24, 2017, at 5:00 at the Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant