

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
August 9, 2017 at the Town Office

Members of the board present: Toni Pippy (chair), John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Stephen Marx, Kate Siepmann

Also present: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk) and Jon MacKinnon (Road Foreman), Jennifer Brown (*Herald* reporter), Tim Brigland (State Representative)

Participating citizens: Robin Jacacci, Rod Maclay

Citizen concerns

Robin Jacacci came to talk about whether the Town would add another tile to her well, which is in the Town right-of-way. The answer was that it is responsibility of the land owner to maintain objects in the Town right-of-way.

Highways

Jon reports that the work on bridge #29 is on schedule. A communication from Roz Finn requested that she have full access to her driveway when she returns to town on August 16th. Jon will talk to Miller Construction and see that her letter is forwarded to the State. It was decided to postpone installation of the traffic calming sign near the Catholic church until bridge construction has concluded, lest the installation interferes with work on the bridge.

Storm damage report – July 1 flooding. The Board discussed with Jon, Lisa, Rod, and Tim Briglin, options for dealing with the extensive work needed to repair town roads from the July 1 storm. It was decided that we needed to move ahead with the repairs to get them done before winter even though a disaster declaration triggering federal funds while anticipated has not yet been declared. Toni moved, Stephen seconded to authorize putting road projects out to bid. All approved. The Board also decided to send a letter to townspeople with information on storm recovery efforts and to reserve the first half hour of our Special Selectboard Meeting to work on the Town Plan (6:00 p.m. on August 16) for questions and comments raised by the letter.

32 Brook Road flooding update. Jon, Brian, Rod Sloat, and Karl Johnson met with an official from ANR and Karl received permission to alter the Brook to help alleviate periodic flooding of the Sloat and Sillovich properties. The Town will do ditch work along the culvert on Brook Road as well. It was refreshing to see the neighbors working cooperatively to resolve the issue.

Toni moved, Brian seconded to accept an emergency State bridge grant to replace the bridge near Kendall Road which had a side wall collapse early this summer. All were in favor. The bridge is currently safe for travel, but we hope for its repair before winter

Problems with the fire hydrant at the Town Pond are in the process of being repaired.

Approve minutes

Toni moved, Steve seconded, to approve minutes of the July 26 regular meeting. All agreed.

Correspondence

Mike Hebb wrote a letter to the Board with suggestions about handling the delinquent Stanley property on Mine Road. Lisa referred the letter to Town Attorney, Paul Gillies, who urged against holding a tax sale. The Board agreed to table the discussion until we have made our way through more demanding issues at hand.

The Board reviewed a letter from Kevin Sprague regarding an ongoing conversation about signage on Furnace Flats road to prevent wheeled vehicles from using that access to Whitcomb Hill. Kate will communicate with Mike Hebb about making more signs at the bottom of the access and will report back to Kevin and the Board.

Observations about the Town web site were received from Gus Speth. Lisa will attempt to incorporate his suggestions and will encourage every committee with a web site to do the same.

Town Governance Report

The Board voiced gratitude to the Committee for their constructive efforts and we look forward to serious implementation of the recommendations—again, after we deal with current emergencies and ongoing work on the Town Plan.

The Board was scheduled hold a Special Meeting at 6:00 on August 16 for concentrated work on the Town Plan. Given the special circumstances surrounding the July 1 flood event, we will be available for any questions or concerns from citizens for the first half-hour—from 6:00 to 6:30

Lisa summoned the Board to meet on Monday, 28 August for reviewing the bids on flood damage repair.

Toni moved, Steve seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:15, a record.

Faithfully submitted,
Kate Siepmann, recording secretary