

**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**October 13, 2016**  
**Draft Minutes**

Present: Casey Mathieu Brent Meacham  
Dave Tilton Nanette Rogers

Guests: See List

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

The following changes were made to the agenda: added Purchase and Sales Contract to the Executive Session section.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Gauthier discuss the recently installed “Do Not Pass” signs on Woods Hollow Road near the Reynolds farm and horseback riders riding in the middle of the road. He came upon a rider who was riding a horse in the middle of the road. There were no cars or people in the area. He found it unusual. Dave G. asked what the intention of the signs was for – not passing vehicles, horses or both. It was noted the signs were for other vehicles. Dave G. suggested that the Reynolds post a sign in their barn advising that riders not ride in the center of the road, especially near the corner.

Dave Tilton offered to contact the Reynolds.

John Quinn advised that State law provides horseback riders with the right of way.

**MINUTES**

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the September 26, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Casey Mathieu. Motion passed: 2-0.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE FY’18 BUDGET REQUEST**

Bekah Gwozdz was present. The Recreation Committee is requesting \$5,000 for operating expenses and an additional \$3,500 for a snowmobile. The snowmobile funds are in addition to what was included in the current year’s budget. The snowmobile is used to groom the trails and needs to be replaced.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION FY’18 BUDGET REQUEST**

Sarah Pinto was present. The Commission is requesting \$1,800, which is level funded. The funds will be for mapping of the school trails, implementing goals in the town plan and identify and come up with a plan to eradicate the invasive species present on the school trails.

**BRICK MEETING HOUSE SOCIETY FY’18 BUDGET REQUEST**

Greg Barrows and John Doane were present. Greg advised that BMHS had a small surplus in from the previous year due to a mild winter. These funds will be put aside renovation work in the vestibule.

John Doane advised that the building is utilized by a lot of groups. Most of the usage is from the Westford Rec Dept. Other usage consists of regular monthly meetings as well as a couple of annual gatherings.

### **UPDATE ON FIRE ALARM FOR TOWN GARAGE/FIRE DEPT**

Casey advised that he has not heard back from Sunray. After a brief discussion it was decided that John Quinn will obtain another quote combining security and fire. The quote should include an integration of the system over a two year period.

### **DOG COMPLAINT**

Ken and Heidi Tardie were present to discuss incidents whereas their neighbor's dog Jessie has killed their chickens over a period of 12+ months. Each time Ken and Heidi contacted the dog owners, they were promised that it would not happen again. The most recent occurrence, Jessie entered the barn and coop on the Tardie's property and killed at least two chickens. Ken sees the owners walking Jessie up and down the road, not on a leash.

Laurie Wight advised that the Tardie's chickens are free range and has seen them in the road and on her property. She expressed sorrow for the killing of the chickens. Laurie stated that she and Harry offered to pay for a chicken when the first occurrence happened almost two years ago even though they were not convinced that their dog killed the chicken. Compensation was offered again at a subsequent event, again not knowing if their dog had killed the chicken. After the most recent incident, Laurie advised that she and Harry discovered their fence had been damaged, more than likely by a bear. The fence has been repaired. Up until the most recent even, Laurie stated that Jessie has either been within the fenced in area or on a leash. Within the past few weeks, Laurie has taken Jessie to the vet for anxiety, hired a behavior specialist and have installed an invisible fence. Training for the invisible fence has begun and is expected to take approximately three months. Laurie feels that they have taken measures to ensure Jessie does not attack a chicken.

Heidi advised that they have a dog that has vicious tendencies. Knowing this, they have an electric fence and their dog is on a leash when necessary. A muzzle and shock collar are also used at times. The dog is allowed to roam on their property after the chickens are safe in their coop. Heidi expressed concern that Laurie and Harry will not walk Jessie on a leash once the training is done.

The Board recognized that Laurie and Harry have taken steps to try to prevent subsequent events. An order based on the hearing instructing what needs to be done moving forward will be sent issued to Laurie and Harry, with a copy going to the Tardies.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS**

The Board approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

Casey questioned the invoice for a radiator for the 2014 truck. He feels this should probably be covered under a warranty. Brent advised that he is looking into it.

### **ROAD SCHEDULE**

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the October 13, 2016 through October 26, 2016 Road Schedule, seconded by Casey Mathieu. Motion passed: 2-0.

Karen Munson contacted the Town Office again with regard to the culvert near her property on Old Stage Road. Recently after some rain, water pooled in her yard. Brent advised that he has looked at the culvert and noted that Karen Munson had removed some topsoil lowering the land. Brent does not see a problem with the way the culvert is discharging.

The Board revisited the hours worked by Brent that are not paid. The Board would like to look into different scenarios of compensating Brent to ensure the Town is compliant with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board received an email from Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator, with regard to the area around the town common. Westford's tax mapper intends to significantly revise the tax map in the area of the common. Based on his research, he believes that the boundary of the common is stepped, the upper common between Brookside Road and Common Road is owned by the church, a portion of the Spiller lot is also owned by the church and that the Spiller lot is significantly smaller than what is in the deed. Last year, the Town hired Warren Robenstein to survey the southern boundary of the town common. The survey has numerous errors/inaccuracies. The Planning Commission was going to work with Mr. Robenstein to correct the survey however with the potential sale of the Spiller lot the Planning Commission feels it would be best for the Town to work with the tax mapper or other qualified surveyors to determine the ownership of the Town, church and Spiller properties.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:13 p.m. Casey Mathieu made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation and a Purchase & Sales Contract, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 2-0. People in attendance were Casey Mathieu, Dave Tilton and Nanette Rogers. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:58 p.m

Dave Tilton made a motion to accept an offer submitted by Jeff Hutchins to purchase the Spiller lot, seconded by Casey Mathieu. Motion passed: 2-0.

Casey Mathieu made a motion to for Amanda Lafferty to represent the Town of Westford in connection with the Ted and Michelle Pelkey appeal by entering a notice of appearance on the Town's behalf, and authorize funds to be spent for such purpose, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 2-0.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Adams, Chair  
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers  
Town Administrator