

NEW DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN

New Durham Community Room

July 2, 2019, 8:00am

DRAFT: These minutes are strictly a draft copy and are awaiting amendment or approval at a subsequent, duly noticed public meeting. Amendments to these minutes will be noted in the minutes of said meeting. The draft will be posted on the website as a draft copy for public informational use only.

Present

Chair David Swenson

Selectman Cecile Chase

Selectman Dorothy Veisel

Also Present

Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator

Mike Gelinas, resident

Dana Berry, resident

Chad Chase, resident

Clayton Randall, resident

Susan Randall, resident

Ellen Phillips, resident

Call to Order

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

Chair Swenson stated Selectman Chase would be present for the meeting but would be late.

Agenda Review

Chair Swenson suggested postponing Approval of Minutes due to time constraints.

Selectman Chase joined the meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Kinmond stated he was approached by Mr. Gelinas, in preparation for the Birch Ridge Community Ridge Celebration, scheduled for July 13 as well as the land acquisition, to put down some gravel and clean up garbage on the sides of the Class VI road, around the cabin and in the woods. Mr. Gelinas stated hikes are being planned and will be meeting at the school on 9:00am on July 13. More information is available on the Town and SELT websites. Town Administrator Kinmond stated it will be the financial burden of the SELT but wants the Board of Selectmen to be aware of the upgrades being planned for this section of the Class VI road, which is above the section of Class VI maintained by Mr. Edwards. Mr. Gelinas explained the road is owned but the Town with a gate across. It was noted there is no sign indicating its Town own and suggested there should be that information posted.

Chair Swenson made a motion to approve the one time only gravel spread on the Class VI road portion of Birch Hill Road as described at the July 2, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting and to be completed by July 21, 2019. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Chair Swenson made a motion to waive the disposal fees for the Birch Ridge cleanup, to expire July 31, 2019. The names of the individuals responsible for the cleanup to be supplied by Mike Gelinis to the Solid Waste Facility. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Parks and Recreation

Chair Swenson stated over the last 4 to 6 weeks, there were public and nonpublic discussions to look at options for ensuring a continued and sustainable program. He stated one of the options is to contract out the youth sports programs to companies to organize and assist in facilitating the sports. Chair Swenson stated a presentation was made by Revolution United and the Board of Selectmen has asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to look into some options as well. Selectman Veisel stated there was a lot of concern last fall regarding the attention to detail by the position of the Director and they started looking at ways to maintain the opportunities and keep the position hours contained. She noted they have already been in the league with the Revolution United sports and stated she is mainly looking for someone to take over the administrative portion of the programs. Selectman Chase explained the management of the sports is very time consuming, on top of managing all the other programs and is really more than a 28 hour position. The Board discussed the role and responsibilities of the director if sports are handled by someone else. The director would be able to focus more on activities and programs for all ages.

Dana Berry, resident, stated when doing the playground project, they were directed by the Board of Selectmen to go to the Parks and Recreation Commission but the posted meeting was cancelled and then a meeting was held but she didn't know about it. She stated if people knew about the meetings she knows more people would be involved. Ms. Berry stated the baseball is already being handled by Cal Ripkin, it is going well and doesn't want to see that part changed. There was discussion of how meetings are to be posted as well as the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen and committee to make sure posting is done; Selectman Veisel explained she was not even aware that Revolution United would be attending the commission meeting referenced. Ms. Berry asked that the Board of Selectmen facilitate the improvement of communications with the commission and the public. There was also discussion about the condition of the fields and the fact that none of the league games can be played in Town. Chair Swenson suggested people compile a list of desired changes and improvements to the soccer and ballfields for the Board of Selectmen to consider. The residents voiced their concerns and challenges trying to work with the Parks and Recreation Director and questioned who is responsible for the fields. Chair Swenson reiterated the need for a list of the main concerns to be submitted to Town Administrator Kinmond. Ellen Phillips, resident, stated it is also important for public input at meetings for the Budget Committee as a lot of things start

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there. She stated she too thinks the amount of work and hours for the Director were unreasonable.

Municipal Software

Chair Swenson explained the Board of Selectmen recently granted a conditional approval for the financial piece of it. Town Administrator Kinmond stated he obtained the requested references and these were reviewed and discussed. He noted that the preferred vendor has noted the finance charges were waived; full functionality would be expected the first quarter of 2020. Town Administrator Kinmond explained a significant benefit to this program is for the people utilizing the system, it will be a single software. The Board agreed by consensus to move ahead with the information presented.

Chair Swenson made a motion to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) – the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee; (b) – the hiring of any person as a public employee; (c)- matter which, if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant & (e)- Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Roll Call: Selectman Veisel –aye; Selectman Chase – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 9:25am.

The Board reentered public session at 10:07am.

Other

Chair Swenson recognized Police Officer Saltzman and his life-saving work on a call response in the early morning hours, and noted the fully staffed Police Department has allowed for some extended hours of coverage.

Adjourn

Chair Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary