

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009 AT 7:00 P. M.
FRANKLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PRESENT: Scott Choiniere, Peter Kittell, Harvey Bushey, Lynn Paradis and Lisa Larivee, Town Clerk

GUESTS: Robert Irish, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Alyson Racine, Bryant Reynolds, Jennifer Ploof, Polly Gadbois, Jennifer Wright, Justin Rainville,

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ZONING BYLAW CHANGES:

Scott discussed the Planning Commission Nov meeting minutes and the changes requested from Robert Irish of the bylaws by the boards. The selectboard started working on changes to a few zoning bylaws in July. Scott went to the Sept Planning Commission meeting to discuss these changes. Changes were written by the Selectboard and warned for the approval of the Planning Commission at the November 17 meeting.

1. Section 320 **District Land Use Control**

C) 3) Uses not listed as Permitted or Conditional in any district may be considered by the Zoning Board of Adjustment as a Conditional Use, if the proposed use is of the same general character as those Permitted or Conditional in the district in which the use is proposed. This section shall not be construed to allow a use to be considered in a district, when it is clear that the use is Permitted or Conditional in a different district.

Mr. Irish was asked to expand on the above requested change. He advised that this would allow the Zoning Board of Adjustment to make the motion to approve/deny any action request by a party that was an exception to and not stated in the zoning rules as they see fit for the changing times. All members voted in favor as written for adoption.

2. Section 330 **District Objectives, Allowable Uses, & Dimensional Requirements**
B) Rural Residential/Agriculture District:

1) Permitted Uses: Also Seasonal Dwellings.

The board discussed the input of the Planning Commission of the wording change to “*Also Seasonal Dwelling*”. After review of the use for no more than 180 days consecutive use as stated in the bylaws currently, the board voted all members in favor of the adoption with the above change.

3. Section 417 **Mobile Home Parks and Mobile Homes**

All mobile homes erected in the Town of Franklin must be placed on a cement pad being at least 4 inches thick.

The board discussed the questions raised by the Planning Commission on the short term use of a mobile home. Robert Irish had spoken with a P.C. member regarding the use as a starter home with future plans to build a home. The members of the board feel it should stay as written for safety concerns. All members voted in favor as written for adoption.

The board discussed the resignation of William Mayo from the Planning Commission on written request dated Dec 11th. Peter/Harvey accepts resignation, all members in favor.

Robert Irish spoke of the Selectboard’s ability to adopted changes to the zoning bylaws in the interim of a complete rewrite after one warned meeting and a 30 day wait period. Mr. Irish feels it would take about one year to do a complete zoning bylaw rewrite. NWRP may work with the town on zoning needs to be in compliance with Act 117 for 2010. The board would like the town clerk to warn the

WATERSHED:

Heidi Britch-Valenta from the Watershed group updated the board on the projects for 2009.

- Dewing stream project was completed by Jim Dewing
- Mike Benjamin has received a state grant to construct a cement pad at the loading site of his manure pit for erosion control and runoff.
- Heidi has had an assessment done on the hot spots of culverts on private roads around the lake for erosion and silt soil carrying. She has some proposals for Patton Shore Rd work. Work near intersection of Rte 120 may need state permission.
- Camp Rd has had work on the brook done and will be doing more.
- The Watershed group will be doing a community brunch in Jan for input and project goals for 2010.
- Final reports for the 319 funding grant has been completed.
- Heidi has received 57 camper surveys on soil testing and septic work
- A membership drive is in progress for the community; Heidi would like selectboard members on board.
- Dewing Shore clean and clear grant for the repair of the remainder of the shoreline was denied. Heidi will look at applying for a Better Back roads grant next year.

HASTON LIBRARY:

Alyson, Chairperson, Bryant and Jennifer presented a letter and data sheet to the board members regarding the library budget and a request for an individual line article. They feel last year the voice of the town was not to cut the library budget and the selectboard did make cuts. The trustees are working on their budget now and will get it to the board for review by the Jan 11 meeting. The Selectboard will then advise the trustees of their decision on the presented budget. The board will then discuss the option of a separate article for the library budget line if necessary. Alyson has spoken with the Secretary of States office on their options. The board thanked the trustees for their input.

FRANKLIN RESCUE:

Jennifer and Polly entered the meeting to discuss Franklin Rescue services. Jennifer advised it is with a heavy heart that she has to advise the Selectboard that Franklin Rescue will discontinue transport services on January 1, 2010. With the state requirements the squad does not have enough volunteers for necessary coverage. Enosburg is the closest location and will be contracted for coverage. Franklin will continue to provide First Responders coverage. Enosburg charges \$19/capita at 1200-1300 residents equaling \$23,000-25,000 per year for coverage to be billed monthly. Franklin Rescue has approximately \$17,000 left from the 2008 appropriated funds for Enosburg coverage that will be turned back over to the Town funds by year end 2009 for payment of the Enosburg contract. Rescue will continue to do the subscription drive and use those funds for their own coverage when they may have available crew members. Enosburg will also honor the subscriptions of our residents. In 2009 Enosburg ran 22 trips for Franklin, we ran 137 trips. Peter/Harvey made the motion for Scott to sign the contract with Enosburg Rescue Service for coverage in 2010. Polly advises they are still trying to get new recruits to be able to run our own service in the future and may discontinue with Enosburg with 90 days notice. Polly will give a copy of the contract to the Clerk's office for filing.

TOWN CLERK'S CONCERNS:

Sidewalk: Lisa updated the board on the sidewalk progress. The project went out to bid on Dec 7 with posting in the Burlington Free Press and the town & state websites. There will be a pre-bid conference on Wed Dec 16 @ 11:30 in the clerk's office for contractor's questions. The bids are due to the clerk's office by Wed Dec 30 @ 11:00 am and will be open at 7:00 pm by the Selectboard.

Town Hall: The town hall septic was acting up in the last few weeks. The board discussed options and prices of 2000 gal holding tanks. The toilet seems to be ok for now so the board is tabling replacement work. Peter and Harvey will go look at the property and location of current tank. Lisa has gotten price quotes for refinishing the floors which are showing wear. Abbott Flooring is \$4900 and Floor Rescue is \$1251.00. The board approved of refinishing the town hall floors by Floor Rescue for \$1251.00 before the end of the year. Lisa will set up work.

Town office: Lisa has received prices to replace the carpets in the clerk's office which are 15 years old and showing wear. Venture Flooring/Paul Gates has given a price of \$4000 and \$250 for the cove/moldings if needed. The board suggests that the highway crew can assist with furniture moving and removing the old carpet for a better rate on labor. All members approve of Venture Flooring to replace the carpet in the clerk's office for the price of \$4250.00.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting were presented. Peter/Harvey made the motion to accept the minutes. All members voted in favor, minutes approved.

BILLS:

Board signed bill and orders.

BUDGET:

The board discussed options of what to do with the remaining unexpended funds from this year's budget. Peter suggested moving some monies to the equipment fund for future purchases or making a large payment on the new truck to reduce interest charges.

MEETINGS:

Dec 22 at 7:00 pm at Lynn Paradis' home – Selectboard meeting for year end gathering and business as necessary.

Dec 30 at 7:00 pm Town Clerk's office for Sidewalk bids opening and Selectboard year end bills/business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Harvey discussed use of his mower by the highway dept. There have been some repairs that needed to be done. He expects the town to pay these repair bills. Scott will talk with the highway crew about proper use of the mower. Harvey requests an increase of hourly rental to \$40/hour as of tonight's billing. Peter would like to see the guardrails on Morses Line Rd done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris Billido requested an under the road utility line on Pidgeon Hill Rd for a new home. Peter/Harvey made the motion to approve the line with conditions that it must be sleeved under the road. All members voted in favor.

Steve Danyow requested use of the town land for haying in 2010. The board discussed and suggested it needs to be put in the newspaper out to bid for other residents to have the chance of use. Lisa will post in the County Courier for bid opening at the Jan 11, 2010 meeting.

SELECTBOARD FOLDER:

Franklin County Court assessment meeting Dec 18 for town input if interested.

MVU Substance Free party donation request – all members voted not to make a donation on the town's behalf.

Stanley/Korhoren applied for a state permit for a solar panel installation. Notification of selectboard required.

Missisquoi Bay watershed group newsletter.

VTrans letter regarding the salt brine mix that is available to towns to purchase if they wish to try on town roads for the 2009-2010 year. Board not interested in this salting method.

Thank you from FCIDC for the 2009 assessment.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Planning Commission has 2 positions available to be filled. The selectboard discussed people who may be interested in serving on the P.C. Scott/Lynn made the motion to appoint Peter Kittell for the term to expire in 2012. Peter/Harvey made to motion to appoint Kyle Lothian for the term to expire in 2011. All members voted in favor of the appointments. Lisa will do appointment letters.