

**Holderness Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024**

Select Board Members Present: Chair, Jill White, Vice Chair, Woodie Laverack, Sam Brickley, Peter Francesco and Kelly Schwaner.

Others Present: Town Administrator, Michael Capone, Fire Chief, Jeremy Bonan, Police Chief, Erik Difilippe. Holderness Residents, Jim Chapin, Keith Farrell, Richard Farrell, Priscilla Farrell, Sara Weinberg, David Haley, David Horton, Diane Downing and Jacque Jewell

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM in the second-floor meeting room of the Town office.

Correspondence Items: reviewed the payroll and accounts payable manifests, and other correspondence.

5:30PM Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. White led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5:30PM Agenda Items: in the second-floor meeting room of the Town office.

New Business: Pemi Fish and Game abutters – abutters to the Pemigewasset Fish and Game Club were present to speak with the Board regarding some of their concerns with the activity at the club.

Mr. Keith Farrell, a Beede Road resident, spoke on behalf of the group providing some background on the topic. He noted that some of the residents in the area had been in their homes for twenty to thirty years. They consider themselves good neighbors and feel they have gotten along well with the club. In the past they have opposed plans for a 1000-yard range and plans to have a gravel pit on the property.

Mr. Farrell and others showed a series of google earth images of the club spanning the period from 1993 to the present which they claim show changes in the property including areas that have been cleared or otherwise altered. Mr. Farrell stated that new ranges and targets had been put in at the club and no notification was given to the residents. He stated that two ranges had been put in near abutting properties and questioned if there was a requirement for them to be a certain distance from abutting properties for safety reasons.

Ms. Downing spoke to the photographs as well and expressed concern regarding well water due to possible pollution from lead that might be leaching into the soil.

Mr. Farrell asked if any of the Board members were also members of the club and if there had been any conversations with the club outside of normal business. The answer in both instances was no.

Ms. Weinberg expressed concern regarding the recent low light shooting events and the notifications placed in residents' mailboxes advising them of that fact. Chief Difilippe commented that State RSA allows them to shoot as long as they comply with Town Ordinances, which they do.

Mr. Horton expressed his concern that the club was being inconsiderate.

Mr. Farrell mentioned that he had a letter from the abutters' attorney that he would share with the Board. It discusses the issue of grandfathering and site plan review. He also generalized Chief Difilippe's comments as meaning there was nothing the Police could do about the night shooting.

Mr. Brickley expressed his concern with the Mr. Farrells gross generalization of Chief Difilippe's comment and noted that the abutters had previously discussed many of these same issues with the Board. He wanted to know if there was anything new the group wanted to bring before the Board this evening.

Ms. White commented that the correspondence from the group's attorney would be forwarded to Town Counsel for review.

Mr. Farrell expressed his concern that the club could do pretty much what they want.

Ms. White mentioned that the club predated zoning and that limits the Board's ability to address the concerns raised by the group. She again suggested that the Board will have counsel review the attorney's correspondence. The Board was here to listen and not to engage in a point for point conversation.

Ms. Farrell expressed her concern regarding the noise and dust generated by the club.

Mr. Farrell expressed his concern that the Board was saying that any entity in Town could do anything they want.

Mr. Brickley commented that we are discussing the gun club this evening. The correspondence from the attorney is helpful and thanked Mr. Farrell for providing it to the Board. Mr. Brickley also noted that the Town must follow the law.

Mr. Farrell mentioned that he would provide photos for the Board's review. He also asked how grandfathering applies town wide.

Mr. Brickley noted that the Board will rely on Counsel to provide comment on the materials supplied by those in attendance this evening.

Ms. Jewell noted that she has had fish and game club members on her property. She also has concerns with the increase in traffic and moving what she feels is contaminated material on the property. This could impact groundwater and wells.

Mr. Francesco commented that the water issues might be a question for the abutter group to check with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Ms. Weinberg also questioned why the club did not have to file special event permits for their events.

Ms. Downing expressed her concern that what the club is doing affects abutters and something should be done about it. She was also concerned with violence given the climate in our country at this time. She feels threatened by the club.

Mr. Farrell indicated that he had one more document he would like to share.

Ms. White suggested that Mr. Farrell put together any material he wished to share and get it to the Town Administrator so it could be forwarded to Counsel for review and comment.

The abutters expressed their gratitude for the Board taking the time to listen to their concerns.

The Board thanked the abutters for attending the meeting.

Approval and Signing of Payroll and Payables Checks: Ms. Schwaner made a motion to approve the payroll and accounts payable manifests and to issue checks accordingly. There was a second from Mr. Francesco. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2024: Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve the public meeting minutes of January 29, 2024 as written. Mr. Laverack provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Consent Agenda: Special Event Permit Map 241 Lot 040
Boundary Survey Agreement and Environmental Assessment for LCHIP Project
PSU Police Officer appointments

Mr. Laverack made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was a second from Mr. Francesco. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Laverack left the meeting at 6:50PM

Old Business: 2024-2025 Budget Update: The public hearing on the budget is February 14 at 6:30 in the Holderness Central School cafeteria. All budget documentation is available for

download from the website. A second hearing, if necessary, will be held on February 20. The deadline for the Budget Committee to submit their proposed budget to the Board is February 21.

We did receive one petitioned article to accept Pleasant Place Drive as a town road. The Board briefly discussed contacting the petitioner to provide some history on this article.

Old Business: ARPA projects update: A list of other potential ARPA requests has been reviewed. Among them are a request from the Police Department to purchase a new radio for their new cruiser and replace their ten-year-old sidearms. Mr. Brickley made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for the purchase of the aforementioned items. Mr. Francesco provided a second. Ms. White asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

There was also a request to set aside \$5000 in ARPA funding to cover possible overruns in the Police Department overtime line in their operating budget. Mr. Francesco made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for that purpose. Mr. Brickley provided a second. Ms. White asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Public Participation: None

Town Administrators Report February 12, 2024

1. A request for proposals for the solar array at the Transfer Station has been distributed to four vendors for their consideration.
2. All of the material for the Town Report is set for the printers. Once we have the final approval on the budget from the Budget Committee after the Public Hearing on the 14th, we can submit the remaining pieces to the printer and produce the reports.
3. There are two projects on Shepard Hill that may require a road bond to be secured if they wish to continue to work on the projects while our roads are posted. This will protect the Town should the road be damaged. Would like to get a sense from the Board as to if you wish to have one in place for these projects.
4. Carl Lehner has indicated that he will be resigning his seat on the Planning Board. I have asked him to prepare a resignation letter to the Board. We can discuss more at the meeting.
5. The Lakes Region Planning Commission is collecting information on how member towns can make their communities more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

6. The New Hampshire Municipal Managers Association is looking for mentors for their new Town Administrator, Town Manager training program. With the Boards permission, I would like to submit my name for consideration as a possible candidate. The program is on an as needed basis with a minimal time commitment. *The Board had no objection to the Town Administrator participating in the program as his schedule permits.*

7. The Bridge House in Plymouth has submitted a request for a contribution in support of services provided to a Holderness resident. The request is being reviewed by Welfare Director, Krystal Alpers.

8. The Recreation Board is scheduled to meet to further discuss possible options for assisting with the Holderness Central School after school program. Will provide an update as available. *The Board discussed this briefly, noting that is no current funding in the operating budget to support the program in any way other than to contribute toward paying a subcontractor. They would welcome any input more from the Recreation Board.*

Public Participation: None

Board Reports: None

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Schwaner moved, with a second from Mr. Francesco, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator