

**Holderness Select Board
Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022**

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

Others Present: Town Administrator, Michael Capone, Fire Chief, Jeremy Bonan, Roger Larochelle and Doug Hill from the Squam Lakes Conservation Society.

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 by the Board members.

5:30PM Agenda Items: Second Floor Meeting Room

Fire Chief-Jeremy Bonan: Was present to have the Board sign reappointment paperwork for the Forest Fire Wardens.

Approval and Signing of Payroll and Payables Checks: Mr. Laverack made a motion to approve the payroll and accounts payable manifests and to issue checks accordingly. There was a second from Ms. Schwaner. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2022: Mr. Brickley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 21, 2022. Laverack provided a second. There being no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor approving the minutes as written.

Consent Agenda/ Signature file: 2023 Select Board Meeting Calendar
2023 Holiday Calendar

The Board deferred action on these items pending a follow up on the status of the June 19th Holiday.

Old Business: Town Operating Budget 2023-2024 – The Town Administrator mentioned that the first joint meeting for budget review by the Board and the Budget Committee will be on Wednesday, December 7 beginning at 8AM. Police, Fire, Highway, Sanitation (Transfer Station), Recreation, Beach and the Library will all present their draft budget materials.

The Town Administrator and the Board also discussed some possible changes to the amounts set aside for Capital Reserves in the draft submitted. The changes would increase the overall amounts set aside for capital reserves, but would be more in keeping with the discussions the Board had at their meeting on October 17th.

New Business – Squam Lakes Conservation Society – Roger Larochelle and Doug Hill were present to provide an update on the “Forever Squam” campaign. The program would provide assistance with surveys and appraisals to property owners looking to place their land in Conservation. Roger and Doug reviewed some of the more current projects with the Board.

Roger, Doug and the Board then discussed two Town parcels that might be possible candidates for the Society to manage. The first of these is an 8.5-acre parcel at the eastern end of White Oak Pond currently managed by the Holderness Conservation Commission. It is adjacent to the 45-acre Haskell Preserve recently acquired by the Society. The goal of the Society would be to manage these combined lands as a wildlife preserve.

Ms. White asked the Town Administrator how this process would move forward should the Board wish to consider any action. The Town Administrator noted that since the Conservation Commission currently manages the property, the Board could not convey it. However, there are no provisions in current law that would allow the Conservation Commission to convey the property of its own authority so the matter would have to go to a vote at Town Meeting. The Town Administrator mentioned that he had discussed this with Town Counsel and confirmed this to be the case. Mr. Hill was also in agreement with how the process should go forward.

The second parcel, a 14.8-acre lot located on Route 175 was acquired by the Town in November of 2021 through a Tax Collectors Deed. This parcel’s only access is a twenty foot right of way and it rises steeply from Route 175. It has been deemed unbuildable by the Holderness Planning Board. This parcel is in proximity to the West Squam Rangeway, but not directly adjacent.

Ms. White mentioned that there had been interest expressed in this property by abutters and the Board would need to consider that as a possible option for the parcel. The Town Administrator noted that the Board does have the authority to convey the property as long as they follow the process as defined in RSA 41:14-a. Mr. Hill asked that the Board also advise any abutters of the Society’s interest in the parcel as well.

Ms. White asked if there were any other questions from the Board. Mr. Brickley suggested that the Board take the matter under advisement and follow up with Counsel to see what else the Town may need to consider prior to taking action. There was general agreement from the other members of the Board.

Mr. Larochelle and Mr. Hill thanked the Board for their time and consideration of their request.

Public Participation: None

Town Administrators Report

December 5, 2022

1. We have received another application from PSNH for their Z180 Electric Transmission Line Rebuild. The line is 3.4 miles long originating at the Huckins Hill Substation and terminating at the Beebe River Substation in Campton. There are only two structures in Holderness and the line runs mostly through our industrial area. There are eight abutters to the project. I spoke with Counsel and they have suggested we follow the same procedure as before. Cindy will schedule a review by Planning and Conservation at their December meetings and the Board can hear it at their January 16 meeting w/abutter notifications. Not certain a technical review is required given the limited scope of the project.
2. The furnace at the Town Hall has been replaced and is back online. The folks at Lakes Region Heating and Air Conditioning were very responsive and did a quality job at a fair price.
3. Our Assessors are currently doing a full measure and list on $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Town parcels. This work needs to continue despite the anticipated update of values as it is required by RSA. Amy and Cindy are doing a review of all current use parcels as well as reviewing Elderly and Veterans exemptions.
4. The Highway crew is back up to full staff and working a 5-day schedule for the winter months. Kevin contacted our paving contractor, GMI regarding a minor issue with a portion of the paving on Shepard Hill Road. GMI has corrected the issue.
5. I will be reaching out the John McVeigh, Head of School for the Holderness School, to see if we can schedule time for him to visit with the Board later this month or in the new year.
6. The Police Department is currently exploring options to replace their existing phone system with a fiber-based option. Chief DiFilippe is putting together the pricing information for the Board to consider at a future meeting.
7. The Coalition Communities 2.0 group, of which we are a member, is seeking intervenor status in the current school funding case before the Rockingham County Superior Court.

Board Member Reports: None

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Brickley moved, with a second from Ms. Schwaner, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54PM. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone
Town Administrator