

Town of Colrain
Select board Meeting
55 Main Road/Town Office Building
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF February 25, 2013

Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton

Others Present: Emily Boss and Alain Peteroy - (Franklin Land Trust). Ivy & Jon Palmer, Bill Cole, Sgt. Chris Lannon, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk, Town Coordinator – Kevin Fox

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Thibodeau at 7:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes February 11 and 20, 2013

MOVED: Eileen moved to accept the minutes for 2/11/2013, 2/20/2013, as written, Duane Scranton seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Warrants: Vendor and Payroll Warrants
Select board signed warrant.

Appointments Emily Boss (Franklin Land Trust) – Ivy Palmer Property Conservation Restriction
Kevin introduced Emily Boss to discuss a conservation restriction regarding Ivy Palmer. The board asked if they have seen the Colrain Conservation Commission. Emily explained they have seen the Conservation Commission and were recommended to see the Select Board. The Board asked is hunting allowed currently? Emily explained hunting was not included in this restriction so it can be at the property owners discretion. There was discussion on where the access to this property is located. The Palmer land was under chapter 61B in Colrain. Duane informed the owner that the land cannot be restricted from hunting under 61B. Ivy believes that the Chapter 61B has been allowed to lapse and is not currently in Chapter. Discussion on property taxes and it was noted the property is currently delinquent in taxes and in the process of going into tax title. The Board would like the owners to become current on their taxes. Ivy will speak to Leah Coburn – Tax Collector regarding the back taxes. Kevin asked if the Town will have any custodial duties for this property in the Conservation Restriction. Yes, but Land Trust will perform annual inspection. Ivy explained that the Colrain property is very steep and would not be able to be developed. Emily informed the board that the public access will be through the state forest not past the owners dwelling

Bill Cole

Bill informed the board that the \$1000 agreed to Wired West was a one-time payment for 2012. After a recent meeting this does not seem to be true. Bill understand there are two things that has to be done, first – Wired West will need and additional \$1000 and Colrain needs to get 50% of the town's residence to

response in favor of wanting Fiber Optic Cable. He informed the board that if there is indeed 72 vacant houses in town then we have achieved our 50%. There was discussion on the future fees for the services, internet, phone and TV. Discussion on the original fee and how it keeps increasing. Bill explained that all this work is to show the town supports having fiber optic cable. Bill informed the board that as of June 2013 the first stretch of cable will be lit. Then Colrain is in the area to be lit next. There was discussion on the companies that have approached the town for internet service using the fiber optic cable. Kevin informed Bill that he has not heard anything regarding a \$1000 fee from Wired West in a letter. Bill explained that Mass Broadband is starting to have seminars in the member towns. Bill is trying to get ahead of the curve in order to get Colrain in a good position to receive fiber optic soon. Discussion on how Colrain Broadband has recorded the survey for Wired West. Discussion on how the seed money for Wired West will be raised. The due date for the 50% and \$1000 is due by March 15th. Wired West covers 42 towns west of interstate 91. Exception is Great Barrington and Leverett. Bill has a meeting this Saturday and will keep the Select Board informed on any updates. Discussion on where the Fiber Optic is currently running and the potential cost of getting it to the last mile.

New Business

Franklin Land Trust "D2R2" Bike Race Notification

Kevin informed the Board that the Land Trust has notified the Town of the bike event to be held in August of 2013. He has checked with the police Department and Highway Department and they do not foresee any problems with the race. Discussion on the routes and the danger that could come about on Route 112. The Selectmen would like a copy of the routes the bicyclist will be riding.

Old Business

Town Coordinator Review/Goals and Objective Setting for New Year

Kevin asked the Select board to review his goals and objectives. Will be continued at next meeting.

Pitt House Lease Agreement

Kevin informed the board that the lease is not ready and, hopefully, will be brought to the next meeting.

Approve Submittal of Project Initiation and Project Need Forms (TIP)

Kevin asked if the Select board has been able to review the project initiation and project need forms. The Board has reviewed and agrees it is okay.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the Project Initiation and Project Needs Forms for the TIP programs, Duane Scranton seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Not Anticipated
At time of posting

Budget FY14

Kevin and the board discuss FY14 budget process. Discussion on the Town Office and Police budget. The board supports regionalization of Police Departments with neighboring towns. Discussion with Sgt Lannon regarding the possibility of regionalization. Sgt Lannon explained that this idea has not been received positively within the hill towns and does not believe it is viable in the

future. Discussion on regionalizing training so towns could hire one training for all the towns. Discussion on how training is currently done.

Appointed COA

Kevin informed the Board that Larry Bezio has been recommended to be appointed by the Council On Aging as a new member.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to appoint Larry Bezio to the Council On Aging, Duane Scranton seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Article regarding school tuition

Kevin explained this article shows the difficulty other towns have had with out-of-district tuitions and noted that two bills have been filed to relieve this burden. He asked if the Selectmen would like to send a letter of support for these proposed bills. The selectmen agreed to send a letter of support.

Discussion on school consolidation and whether we would ask the state to waive current loans. Kevin explained that there is an upcoming meeting to discuss consolidations of school and what steps would be needed to go forward.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Seconded by Mark Thibodeau and it was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

Paula Harrison
Office Clerk

Mark Thibodeau - Chairman

Eileen Sauvageau

Duane Scranton

Documents

- Selectmen's minutes for February 11 and 20, 2013
- Warrants
- Pitt House Lease Agreement
- Franklin Land Trust – Ivy Palmer Property Conservation Restriction
- Franklin Land Trust “D2R2” Bike Race information
- TIP – Project Information and Project Need Forms
- Memo from Board of Health regarding Blue Block and Bailey Block