

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

**MINUTES OF JULY 30, 2012**

Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.

Others Present: Dan Lawrence–Weston and Sampson Engineering, Mary Sabourin and Saunders Whittlesex – Franklin Land Trust, Joan Rockwell, Nina Martin Anzuoni, Nick Anzuoni, Megan McDonough, Hale Johnson, Bill Cole, Sara Wik, Betsy Corner Kate Amaral – Shelburne Falls and West County Independent - Paula Harrison, Office Clerk; and Kevin Fox, Colrain Town Coordinator.

Meeting was called to order by at 7:00 PM

Minutes: **MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Voted unanimously.**

Warrant: The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.  
**Moved: Eileen Sauvageau moved to accept warrants is presented. Duane seconded. It was voted unanimously.**

Appointments: Dan Lawrence – Weston and Sampson Engineering  
Kevin introduced Dan Lawrence to the board. Dan discussed the USDA pre-development planning grant with the select board. He had identified potential study areas in town for possible growth and improving septic issues. Discussion continued regarding septic systems and options on how these systems will be paid. Dan informed the board this grant has a rolling application process. He explained what information the planning stage of this grant process would give the Selectboard and that brownfields in town may be looked at as areas of limited growth.  
There was further discussion regarding other grant programs Mass Works, STRAP grants and Block grants. Dan described the USDA Search Grant as additional option which is a \$30,000 grant with no match from the town.  
**Moved: Eileen Sauvageau approved going forward with the USDA Pre-Development Planning Grant Application with Weston & Sampson, Duane seconded.**

Continued discussion on who decides what the future growth of the area will be. Dan said it would be a combined effort with the local planning board, Board of Health. There is discussion on improving the traffic flow

in the center of town. The TIP process will help with the traffic issue. Kevin informs the board that the FRCOG handles the TIP program and will be coming to see the board in the future

**Voted unanimously**

Mary Sabourin and Saunders Whittlesex– Franklin Land Trust – D2R2 Bike Event

Kevin checked with the police and fire chiefs and they do not have any concerns with the race and the route. The board discussed their concerns with the traffic issues combined with the large bicycle groups and would like the groups to ride in single file. Discussion followed on how the race is conducted. Saunders informed the board that only a few racers start at a time so there would not be big groups. Saunders informed the board that he talks to the riders regarding courtesy towards motor vehicles and they are encouraged not to ride in large groups. The approximate number will be around 800 riders.

New Business:

Rescind Appointment – Assistant Animal Control Officer

Kevin explained to the board the difference between being an Assistant Animal Control Officer and the Animal Control Relief Officer. The Board is requested to rescind the Assistant Animal Control Officer and appoint an Animal control Relief Officer.

**Moved: Eileen moves to rescind the appointment of Ed Grinnell as the Assistant Animal Control Officer, Duane Scranton seconded. It was voted unanimously.**

Appoint Ed Grinnell – Animal Control Relief Officer

**Moved: Eileen moves to appoint Ed Grinnell at Animal Control Relief Officer, Duane Scranton seconded. It was voted unanimously.**

Cultural Council Resignation and Appointment

Kevin explained situation with the cultural council and that Tracy Dery has reach her term limit and needs to step down from her position for at least one year. Eugenie Shearer has been recommended by the Cultural Council to be appointed to the board to fill the empty position. Selectboard asked Kevin Fox to send a thank you letter to Tracy Dery.

**Moved Eileen moved to accept resignation with regret of Tracy Dery of the Cultural Council, Duane seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Moved Eileen moved to appoint Eugenie Shearer to the Cultural Council, Duane seconded and it was voted unanimously**

## Appointment

### Colrain Planning Board Discussion regarding new zoning bylaws

Meeting reconvened at 8:13 PM. The Planning Board introduced themselves to the selectboard. Mark addressed the Topitzer decision. He informs the planning board that the way this was handled did not inform the abutters. Joan discussed the process the planning board followed and the background that went into their decision. The planning board determined the proposed parking lot was an accessory to the already existing farm stand. The Selectboard discussed that Chapter 60 and 61A would have regulated this as a change of use. The planning board did not view this as a change of use. There is discussion on the exempt clause in our current zoning bylaws. The Selectboard asked the planning board for better communication with the Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Inspector, and Assessors in the future. It was asked if the State had been contacted about removing guardrail. Joan informed the board that the Topitzer's have contacted the state and are in the process of meeting their requirements. It was suggested that if another case comes up that has gray areas the planning board should get together with other board or committees for their ideas and recommendations.

Mark asked how the progress with junk cars is coming along. Joan informed the board that they have a letter drafted. Discussion followed how to deal with the issue in town. The planning board and Selectboard discuss the future of Colrain and the possibility of revitalization of the Town.

### Formal complaint -2 Jacksonville Road

Hale Johnson, as an abutter to the property below the brick meeting house, formally registered a complaint regarding accumulated junk at 2 Mountain Road. Mark informs him that the Selectboard have already sent that property owner a letter.

There was discussion on the progress of properties in the town which that are in disrepair or are in violation of the zoning bylaws. The Selectboard will ask Jack Cavolick of the Board of Health to follow up on this.

Eileen would like the boards in the town to get together soon in order to brainstorm and set up a good communication system. The Selectboard would like Kevin to organize this meeting for the boards and elected officials to gather. Try to organize this in September 2012.

There was discussion on the properties that are to be demolished in town. Kevin informs the Selectboard and planning board that the town is waiting for the asbestos report to be finalized in order to proceed forward

**MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20PM.  
Seconded by Duane Scranton and it was voted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Harrison  
Office Clerk