

**TOWN OF ENFIELD  
ENFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES APRIL 19, 2021**

**TIME:** 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** via Zoom Teleconference

**PUBLIC HEARING – (POSTPONED / RESCHEDULED)**

*6:30 PM Wastewater Planning Draft Report relative to wastewater treatment options*

**PRESENT**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN:** Meredith Smith, Katherine D.P. Stewart, John W. Kluge (6:06pm)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Alisa Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Jack Wozmak, Interim Town Manager

**OTHERS:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**Virtual Meeting Preamble**

*Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.*

*Please note that this is a virtual meeting only, as authorized by the Governor's Emergency Order.*

*We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board/Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the phone number and using the password provided or by clicking on the website address provided in the meeting posting on the Town's website and posted on the door of Town Hall*

*If anybody has a problem, please call 603-442-5401*

*Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.  
Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance.*

**ROLL CALL OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Ms. Smith opened the meeting and stated that the Public Hearing regarding the Wastewater Planning Draft Report relative to wastewater treatment options has been cancelled for the evening.

Mr. Wozmak stated that the State had inadvertently double booked a public hearing meeting, and therefore the consultants were not available to attend the public hearing. He stated it will be rescheduled to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to reschedule the public hearing of the Wastewater Planning Draft Report

relative to wastewater treatment options public hearing to May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm via Zoom. Ms. Smith seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (2-0).

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 5, 2021**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Ms. Smith requested a correction on page 5, under Board and Committee Reports the correct spelling for the person referenced as a member of the Lakeside Park Committee is '**Pattie Fried**', not Patty Green as presented.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

### **BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Kluge stated he had nothing to report.

Ms. Stewart stated that the Planning Board met Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed the request made regarding updating Old County Road for access to property owned by Mr. Jellison. She added that a balloon test was going to be performed for a cell tower which is planning to be placed along the Route 4 corridor near the Enfield/Lebanon border. She added that the Planning Board meeting for the 28<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

Ms. Smith stated that Lakeside Park has received a grant from the Eastman Foundation. She stated that a tree, which is a gift from the Eastman Foundation, has been planted and is hoped to be incorporated in Town events.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Wozmak stated:

- Encouraged a discussion of the continuation or modification of the current Town mask ordinance, based on the decision by the Governor to lift the statewide mandate. He stated that, most surrounding towns are going to continue with their mask mandate through Memorial Day weekend. He stated that many towns wish to wait until the density of fully vaccinated people is higher before reducing mask measures.

Ms. Stewart stated that the Town set up the ordinance in accordance with the State of Emergency, which is currently still in place.

Mr. Kluge supported keeping the mask ordinance in place and did not see a need to put an official end date at this time.

Ms. Piper stated that the death rate is very low and believes it would be good public policy to allow people to make the decision for themselves.

Mr. Kluge stated his disagreement with Ms. Piper, noting that a lot of the burden would fall to business owners. He added that, even with the death rate going down, things are still not going great in the State of New Hampshire.

Ms. Hutson stated that the Library is preparing to open, and it is a small space with little ventilation. She stated that many residents may choose not to get vaccinated, and if there is not a mask mandate, they will not wear one. She noted that she supports people's choices, but due to space and air circulation issues, there are still concerns for staff and the public alike. She noted the library is interesting to serving the residents in the safest environment and capacity possible, and she would support continuing the mask mandate at this time.

Dr. Beaufait urged the Selectboard to continue the current Town mask mandate considering the high-risk COVID status for Grafton County and the State of New Hampshire. He added that merchants should not be in the middle of health policy enforcement.

Mr. Cusick stated that, with the seasons changing, there will be an influx of people from out of state and stated it would be a big mistake to remove the mandate now. He stated he is proud that Enfield was the first town with a mask mandate. He stated he agreed with Mr. Kluge that there should be no end date at this time, at least until there are no new cases in our jurisdiction – and even then, people traveling from out of state should be considered.

Dr. Guyre, an immunologist at Dartmouth Hitchcock, stated she was disheartened that the Governor chose the death graph to support the data and his choice in not extending the statewide mandate. She stated that there is already an increase in the number of cases, and there are many risk factors outside of death to consider. She added that there are studies that show that people who are immunocompromised are not all developing an antibody immune response, which is necessary for them to be protected from the virus.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to maintain the present mandate until such a time that it seems evident that the community will be safer than it is now. Ms. Stewart seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

- We are approaching the time of year when the deeding process will begin, and the Selectboard will be voting on or around May 21<sup>st</sup> as to whether certain properties will be voting to take certain properties for tax deeds. He stated that the Town has a statutory obligation to take the properties, and while certain exceptions can be made as noted in the statute, the reasons must be clearly stated. He stated that it looks like there are about 15 properties that are at risk of being up for deeding if taxes are not paid soon.
- Correspondence from the Town attorneys indicates that Fairpoint has challenged some of the taxes assessed by the Town, with respect to equipment that they have in Town. It was noted that Fairpoint is taking this measure with many other towns as well, and not just Enfield. He noted that there were settlement options presented in the documents which were included in the Selectboard packet for tonight's meeting. He requested that members of the Selectboard review the information as presented to be discussed at a future meeting.
- There is excellent progress on the 200 solar panels that are being installed on the salt shed at the Department of Public Works. He stated he anticipates that the panels will be in

place by the end of April, and the hookup so they can generate electricity will follow soon after.

- A letter was received from the Conservation Commission regarding complaints of an abutter snowmobiling and cutting trees on the conservation land. He stated he has reached out to Chief Holland, who has also engaged with NH Fish and Game regarding the matter.

Mr. Wozmak stated his report was complete and inquired if anyone had questions.

Mr. Cusick stated the Internet Committee is working to find who is underserved in the Enfield Community and they have been having a difficult time getting information from service providers. He noted that the state does not have any data relating to what poles carry lines for what service providers. He stated it is being considered to hire an intern for the summer to assist in identifying what poles carry each service as it would be valuable information to assist in advocating and/or providing internet connections for the entire community. He stated he did not know if there was room in the budget for an intern, or if some of the money could be utilized from the Comcast payments to the town to get it done.

Mr. Clark stated that all the solar panels should be installed by the end of the week, and the crew completing the work is fantastic and great to work with.

Mr. Kiley stated that, related to Mr. Cusick's point, Comcast pays a fee which the subscribers pay to have cable access. He noted that the money goes through the Town of Enfield, but the only reason it is done is for Enfield TV purposes only. He added that, if Enfield TV shut down, then there would be no cable access and no money coming into the town. He stated that, related to CATV, the money received covers having an Executive Director and having a building space at Copeland Block, the cost of internet, as well as necessary licensing and subscriptions.

Mr. Kluge inquired about the efforts made by Steve Schneider regarding getting high speed fiber optic lines through the town. He stated his understanding the lines are in a limited number of lines in town.

Mr. Cusick confirmed. He stated that, up until recently, the company that owned those lines would not allow WiValley to run any lines into residential locations, stating they were only interested in commercial customers. He noted that Consolidated Communications owns all the poles, and he did not know if it would be possible to get information from them regarding what lines were on what poles. He noted that Hub 66 has helped by providing information regarding where their lines and connections are. He noted that, to draw in more professionals to the area and help the town grow, internet service is a priority to have accessible.

Ms. Stewart stated for the record that First Light owns the lines.

Mr. Gotthardt inquired if there were any updates regarding the Enfield broadcasting systems in place. He noted that, upon reading the contracts, it appeared that the funds were given to the Town, deposited to the general fund, and then expended from the general fund for Channel 8.

Mr. Kiley stated it was an accurate presentation, but to get the fee that is collected and paid to the Town, there must be a cable access channel. He stated he was unaware what may have happened with the last franchise agreement, but that was his understanding. He noted that, prior to having Channel 8, the town was not paid a franchise fee.

Ms. Smith inquired if an educational program could be set up with the school to support students who may be interested in videography.

Mr. Kiley stated that a program had been tested three times in the past, but it was found that students would ultimately not be interested and then members of the program would have to track the equipment back down to retrieve it.

Ms. Smith inquired if there were any further inquiries regarding internet access.

Ms. Stewart stated that WiValley and Hub66 are running through the same lines but are not running on the same equipment. She noted that WiValley had an outage last week that effected local departments, including disrupting services to the Department of Public Works for their phone and internet services. She noted that internet services were important because they impacted businesses, homeowners, and town operation.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Conservation Commission Correspondence: Cone violation on Town-owned Bicknell Brook/Colette Trail property**

Mr. Gotthardt stated that the Upper Valley Land Trust holds the conservation easement on the land, and it is town owned property. He stated that the land is open to passive recreation use such as hiking, walking, and skiing.

Ms. Smith inquired if there was any prohibition of use for motorized vehicles on the land.

Mr. Gotthardt stated that, from what he read in the documentation, the conservation easement is silent on motorized vehicles and it is up to the property owner to allow them. He noted that it would be a town policy restriction. He noted that there was a motion made by the Selectboard on April 15, 2019 to post signs on the specific property in question stating that snowmobiles were not allowed on the property. He noted that the issue of cutting trees and riding snowmobiles on town property has been ongoing since 2010 the protection of the land needs to be enforced.

Members of the BOS discussed the legal avenues, including the possibility of a no trespass order, if necessary.

Mr. Gotthardt stated that it has been brought up in previous minutes to follow up with the police department.

Mr. Wozmak stated that he had spoken to Chief Holland who noted that it may need to be brought to New Hampshire Fish and Game for further enforcement and he would follow up to confirm.

## **BUSINESS**

### **2021 Deeding – May 21 Deeding Date**

Ms. Smith noted that Mr. Wozmak covered deeding in his report and moved on to the next agenda item.

### **Donation for Mascoma Lakeside Park LWC Grant Match from Eastman Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 – Vote Required.**

Ms. Smith noted that this was the second donation to the Lakeside Park from the Eastman Charitable Foundation.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept the match from the Eastman Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 with thanks. Mr. Kluge seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

Ms. Smith publicly thanked Shirley Green for her support in getting the grant match.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Signatures Required – Please Stop by Town Offices Next Day)**

- Petition & Pole License (Vote Required) – Atherton Road
- Veterans Tax Credit (Pelton)
- Current Use Release (Mirski)
- Solar Tax Exemption (Doyle, Del Sesto)
- Elderly Exemption (Jordan)

**OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN / PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Kluge stated he was requested to bring a note to the BOS from the Conservation Commission. He stated that they would like to purchase a picnic table to be put at the Harris Brook Trail. He noted that the picnic table would be funded by the Crate Family to honor their parents who were very fond of that area.

Ms. Stewart inquired if the picnic tables were picked up and stored during the winter.

Ms. Smith stated they did not.

It was noted that no vote was required, and the communication was strictly informative.

Members of the BOS moved on to discuss logging in Enfield, including details regarding the Conservation Easement and if people were following the proper procedures and communications regarding logging.

Mr. Kluge stated that, based on recent court decisions, the Town has no say as to whether someone else's property can be clear cut or not.

Ms. Aufiero noted that there are logging laws in New Hampshire and management practices that need to be followed as well.

Ms. Smith requested if there were any more comments or questions.

Ms. Stewart stated that the first Enfield Market of the season will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 10a-1p at Huse Park. She noted that COVID precautions are in place, and it should be a great event.

Mr. Kiley stated that, because there was such a light winter, and the season was entered with a water deficit, the Selectboard may want to consider reinstituting the outside water ban.

Ms. Smith stated she recently contact Mr. Taylor regarding communications to consumers about conserving water use.

Mr. Clark stated that Town Meeting is coming up and inquired if, as outdoor event, whether masks will be required.

Ms. Smith confirmed that masks would be required due to being in close quarters with others.

Ms. Stewart stated that there is artwork hanging on the fence at Huse Park, which was coordinated by the art teacher for Enfield Village Elementary, Mr. Jarvis, and inspired by the EVS hosted artist in residence Kathleen Peters. The paintings were weather sealed and displayed at EVS prior to being moved to the fence at Huse Park.

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Bonnette noted there was one more item to be addressed by vote in the public meeting.

**Petition & Pole License (Vote Required) – Atherton Road**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept the petition and pole license as printed. Mr. Kluge seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- Update FairPoint Tax Litigation
- Wetlands Permit Application – Peter Rauert Driveway Crossing Project, Rice Road

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kluge made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 pm. Ms. Stewart seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

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Meredith C. Smith, Chair

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John W. Kluge

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Katherine D. P. Stewart  
Enfield Board of Selectmen