

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
ENFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 17, 2022**

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Public Works Facility & Zoom videoconference
74 Lockehaven Road, Enfield

PRESENT

Board of Selectmen: John W. Kluge, Erik Russell, Kate P. Stewart

Administrative Staff: Ed Morris, Town Manager; Alisa Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Roy Holland, Chief of Police; Corporal Courtland Smith; Master Patrol Officer Amanda Lewis.

Members of the Public: Emily Curtis, Recording Secretary; Leigh Davis, Conservation Commission member; Dr. Jerold Theis, Conservation Commission Chair; John Welenc, Conservation Commission member; Harrison Drinkwater, Betsy Drinkwater, Celie Aufiero, Doug Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kluge called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Kluge and Chief Holland presented Master Patrol Officer (MPO) Amanda Lewis of the Enfield Police Department for successfully completing the Leadership Trilogy, including the Supervisor Leadership Institute, the Command Leadership Institute, and the Executive Leadership Institute.

Chief Holland stated that the Enfield Police Department is always striving to improve ourselves and one of the best ways to do that is to improve our leadership skills. MPO Lewis spent over 120 hours in training. He stated that it is a long and challenging training to complete, and he extended his congratulations to MPO Lewis.

Mr. Kluge stated that on behalf of the BOS he would like to thank MPO Lewis for her work and dedication.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –October 3, 2022

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the October 3, 2022, minutes as printed. Mr. Russell seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

BOARD REPORTS

Members of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) gave updates regarding their respective committee assignments.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Morris presented the following updates to the BOS:

- He stated that we have received multiple applications for the full-time officer position currently open in the Enfield Police Department and they will be performing the physical fitness test for candidates soon.
- We are currently accepting resumes and applications for the Highway Superintendent position.

- He stated there have been questions regarding funding that was received for the downtown sidewalks a couple of years ago. He noted that we are currently waiting on the Federal Byways grant as there are areas of sidewalk which were included in the grant, but he has discussed a plan with Mr. J. Taylor and coming into next construction season projects will be completed.
- Applications for the Johnston Drive applications for the Committee started being distributed today and applications will be discussed at the November 7th meeting.
- The roof on the Community Building has been completed.
- The town's Halloween event will be the Trunk or Treat and haunted house with carnival games at Huse Park from 3-6pm. He stated that to donate or get further information, please contact the Recreation Director, Kevin Marker at recreation@enfield.nh.us
- Trick or treating will be from 5-8pm on Halloween night and there will be police officers downtown to assist with crossing the roadways.

With no further comments or questions, Mr. Kluge moved on to the next agenda item.

COMMUNICATIONS

Old Home Days Committee Resignation (Tuttle)

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept the resignation with regrets. Mr. Russell seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

BUSINESS

Methodist Hill Discussion

Mr. Morris stated that the Conservation Commission has written a letter expressing their opposition for the town to sell the Methodist Hill property, which was discussed at the October 3rd meeting. He presented the BOS with information as brought forward by the Conservation Commission for discussion. He noted that the town acquired the land due to tax deeding, which was \$27,000 in arrears, but that is not the total value of the land. He stated that the money from the sale of the property, aside from the past due taxes and any fees, would go back to the landowner.

Mr. Russell inquired what would be the function for the town to continue to own it instead of putting it back in private hands.

Leigh Davis, a Conservation Commission member, stated that Enfield residents of Methodist Hill and abutters to the property have attended to give comments.

Harrison Drinkwater stated that landowners have allowed their family to hike the property for many years, but it is becoming increasingly common that people are posting their land and not allowing hikers onto the property. He added that keeping McAllister Road open has been emphasized in recent years, and he thinks that the Conservation Commission has brought forward interesting ideas about utilizing the land for wildlife conservation and recreation purposes.

John Welenc of the Conservation Commission stated it is a beautiful piece of property and it is a good wildlife habitat, and it is unique from the rest of Enfield. He stated that it is a great opportunity to explore as a town forest with the potential for developing more trails.

Celie Aufiero stated that with the development of the plans of the town it would be good for Methodist Hill to be kept for conservation and recreation purposes.

Dr. Theis stated that he would like to see the BOS halt their efforts to sell the property until the property is better assessed as to how the property could be utilized. He stated that a warrant article could be considered to establish a town forest, as we do not currently have one.

Mr. Kluge inquired about the difference between a town forest and town-owned land.

Dr. Theis stated that a town forest can be timber harvested and the land can be hunted. He stated there would also be hiking and trail opportunities, which are all excellent opportunities for the 100-acre piece of property. He stated that selling it for development would be a mistake.

Ms. Davis stated that it is worth going to investigate and she has heard that there may be historic buildings or stone hedges on the property.

Chief Holland inquired about how much land the town currently owns in conservation.

Mr. Morris stated that the Master Plan indicates there are about 8,000 acres in town, but he was not sure of further details.

Dr. Theis noted that more information could be found in the Natural Resources Inventory published by the Conservation Commission in 2021.

Mr. Russell stated that very little of the conservation land is town owned and controlled. He noted that a vast majority of the land is state land, and the town has a few small parcels owned by individuals, including the Collette Brook Trail, which is about 150 acres. He stated that the area of Methodist Hill is an underserved part of town, and he believes it is worth slowing down to further investigate.

Luci Wilson stated that she lives on Methodist Hill and abuts the 1,000 acres that has recently been developed, and she feels that it would be nice to keep some land in conservation and keep it available for hiking and mountain biking.

Jean Fay, a resident near Methodist Hill, echoed the sentiment that it is a nice piece of property with some historic value. She stated she agrees that the residents on that side of town would like to have it as an opportunity for recreation and urged the BOS to take a closer look and make an informed decision.

Ms. Stewart stated that there is \$27,000 owed in taxes, and the property itself would generate about \$4,200 in revenue on an annual basis.

Mr. Kluge stated that he was inclined to look at the property a little more closely and evaluate what is available.

Dr. Theis stated that the \$27,000 that the town is owed in back taxes could be made back by selective logging and sale of the wood.

Mr. Kluge stated a study of the land may provide more information about when it was last logged and what the quality of the wood available is.

Lori Decato of Methodist Hill reiterated the caution to preserve the land as it is valuable and a great opportunity for the town and more than just dollars and cents. She stated that her family used to hike out to Whaleback through an access road, but the area where they used to walk through to has been sold to another landowner and the property is now posted.

Ms. Aufiero stated that her neighbor logged their property, and the logger was supposed to do a select cut, but it was not done properly. She stated that it could be presented as a learning opportunity for the people coming into the town to have the forest.

Mr. Morris stated that with no further action at this time, we can look more into the property and would take specific questions from the BOS for further examination.

Ms. Stewart stated that the BOS has received feedback that there are too many projects going on right now and we are spending money and she would like to be cognizant of that. She stated she does not want to acquire another piece of property just to have it and we should look at it through the lens of the Master Plan.

Mr. Kluge stated that recreation opportunities fit in well with the Master Plan, and he added that if the route for a town forest was chosen then a group would need to be appointed to manage it. He thanked members of the public for their feedback.

Disposition of Property

Mr. Morris stated that he would like to move forward with getting rid of the trailer and the two sheds on the Johnston Drive property.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to dispose of the trailer and two shed type storage structures located on the Town owned property at the end of Johnston Drive at Map 14 Lots 3-6 and hereby authorize the Town Manager or their designee to take such actions and execute all documents that may be necessary. Mr. Russell seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

Award of Geotechnical Services for the Public Safety Building

Mr. Morris presented information regarding bids for the geotechnical work that will need to be done for the preparation of the public safety building. He stated that cost and timelines for scheduling were taken into consideration and his recommendation was to award the bid to S.W. Cole Engineering.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to award the bid for soil borings and geotechnical services to S.W. Cole Engineering and hereby authorize the Town Manager or their designee to take such action and execute all documents that may be necessary. Mr. Russell seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

Warrant/Budget Mailing Discussion

Mr. Morris stated that he and Ms. Bonnette wanted to discuss what the BOS would like to have sent out to residents regarding the warrant.

Ms. Bonnette stated that postage costs vary based on the size and weight of what is being mailed and stated that to budget the mailing expenses for 2023 she would like an idea of what information the BOS may want to mail out.

Ms. Stewart stated that she is in favor of printing the warrant and a brief description, with a reference to read the full document online. She stated that feedback from the Post Office was that many of the copies of the annual report that used to be distributed were left in the recycle bin and she does not want to see money going in the trash.

Ms. Bonnette stated that physical copies of the annual reports are supplied at the Town Meeting, but if we want to mail something extra, we will need to budget for that expense.

Mr. Morris recommended printing the warrant with a notation that explanations and details for each warrant are printed in the town report, which is available in physical and digital format.

Mr. Russell stated he has received the request from residents to have the annual reports mailed again and inquired if there was a way to have a paper copy of the annual report mailed to residents, even if it is on an individual basis.

Ms. Bonnette stated that yes, they can be shipped to residents at cost for the postage and it will only be done upon request. She added that they are available in the Town Offices to pick up for free as well.

Mr. Russell stated that the most important part is to make sure it is accessible.

Calendar Cost Discussion

Mr. Morris stated that out of pocket costs are around \$650, and it does take about 80 hours of staff time to get it together and wanted to ask if the BOS would like to continue the printing of the annual town calendars.

Doug Smith stated that he uses his on a regular basis.

Ms. Stewart inquired if we should increase the price for advertising and inquired if we wanted to save staff time by having an outside agency do the calendar.

Mr. Kluge stated that it is nice that the calendar is personalized and has a lot of useful information and includes photos taken by residents of the town.

Mr. Russell stated he supported continuing the use of the town calendar and added that it was a wonderful way for town members to be engaged.

Acceptance of Donations to Mascoma Lakeside Park Fund: \$1,350 in aggregate

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept the donations with thanks. Mr. Russell seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Land Use Change Tax (Carter, Fox, Hawson, Hillspoint, Moore)

Members of the BOS reviewed and signed documents as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mr. Kluge requested any other comments or questions to come before the BOS.

Ms. Aufiero stated that the town report should be one size and it should go back to the smaller format.

Ms. Bonnette stated that the larger size was made due to the size of the spreadsheets and charts as the smaller format makes them exceedingly difficult to read.

Mr. Kluge stated that they would take it under advisement.

Mr. Kiley stated that telephone poles were replaced on Crystal Lake Road three years ago and the old poles are still in place and have not been removed.

Mr. Morris stated that he has been in touch with Consolidated Communications regarding those poles, and he would be happy to follow up with them again.

With no further comments, members of the BOS moved on to adjournment.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION REQUIRED

- Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application Update (Regan)
- NHDES Request for More Information (NH DES File #2022-02531) (Regan)
- Statewide Tax Apportionment Report
- Statewide Tax Rate Comparison 2022-23
- Town Clerk's Report – September 2022
- Tax Collector's Report – September 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stewart made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 pm. Mr. Russell seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

John W. Kluge, Chair

Katherine D. P. Stewart

Erik Russell
Enfield Board of Selectmen