

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 6:00 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

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Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Road Foreman Dan Tetreault; Visitors Dan and Dimples Mucherino, Mark Chouinard and Tricia Austin, Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin.

**Cree Farm Road:** The Mucherinos addressed the Board to inquire about the status of the road discontinuance. The order to discontinue the road was signed but the Board instructed the Town Clerk to hold it and not record it until they receive an easement. The discontinuance does not take effect until it has been recorded. The Board will send a letter to Mr. Datner giving him 30 days to complete the process by granting the Mucherinos an easement. If he does not grant the easement, the discontinuance will not be recorded and the zoning violations will be enforced.

**Overweight Log Trucks:** Mark Chouinard addressed the Board. He is asking that when townspeople complain, the Town should follow up on the complaints. On March 10, he notified Dan and Chris that Earl Shatney was hauling logs on soft muddy roads. Dan and Chris were not able to go up to the logging site, so Mr. Chouinard spoke to Mr. Shatney. He stated that Mr. Shatney almost ran over him with his log truck, and Mr. Chouinard hit the truck with a stick. He was then issued a citation. Dan had given Mr. Shatney permission to haul only early in the morning when the road was still frozen, but he was actually hauling at 4:30 in the afternoon. Chris has spoken with AOT enforcement about it.

**Curb Cut:** Helen notified the Board that she ran into Bob Light and Rich Baker, who questioned why the Board approved a curb cut for a property on Upper Depot Road. Rich asked whether there were any conditions attached to the permit. Dan told the property owners that the location is not ideal because if we get significant rain, the driveway will likely wash away because there is a cross culvert at that location. The property owner wants to keep the curb cut location because it makes a better building site, and it meets site distances. The Town will send the property owner a letter reiterating Dan's concerns and his suggestions to minimize damage.

**Cemeteries:** Dan rebuilt the wall at the back of Wooster Cemetery. He noted the wall looks rough because of the rough-cut stones. He cut trees and removed stumps. He noted that he found the remains of an old granite fence. The Board would like to see the fence posts re-used at the cemetery.

John got an estimate from East Hill Tree Farm to plant the new trees at the Eaton Cemetery. The quote is for \$1,367 for 13 trees at the Eaton Cemetery and also 3 trees at the covered bridge. This price assumes that the Town would pick up the trees at the nursery. Chris would donate the use of a water tank. The Board feels that two trees would be enough at the covered bridge. Chris moved to hire East Hill Tree Farm to plant the new maple trees at Eaton Cemetery and the Martin Covered Bridge Park, and to authorize Bobbi to issue a check to B&B Nursery for up to 50% of the cost of the trees as a deposit. John will check with Nicko from East Hill to see if he would go and pick out the trees. Nicko, Joe Mangan, and Dan Tetreault will be invited to the next meeting to discuss

logistics.

**Flood Repairs:** Chris moved to authorize Dan to hire Phil Willey to do the railroad bed repair project and rip-rap the river bank by the Martin Covered Bridge. He bid on these jobs last fall after tropical storm Irene. FEMA has paid the Town for these projects. Helen seconded. John abstained because he has Willey Construction do work for his business. FEMA would not pay for the slide on Beaver Meadow Road because the damage did not immediately reach the road bed. Dan will hire help to fix this.

**Harwood Mountain Road:** Dan notified the Board that the logger (Brian Stone) has hired a contractor to fix the road and Dan feels that he has done a good job.

**Stranahan Town Forest:** John presented the Board with a proposal for logging the forest. John feels that we need to look at more than lost taxes. Helen agreed but feels that if the timber is there, it would be a waste to let it go, and she noted that it can improve the forest. She feels that we need to log cautiously. Chris agreed that we need to approach logging slowly. He feels that we need to take into account whether we are losing timber by waiting. The Board looked at the management plan and noted that many stands were recommended to be cut within 5 years, some to maximize revenue and some to improve the health of the forest. Helen suggested that the committee should take a look at the plan and take into consideration what the county forester suggested to see what stands are recommended to be cut within the 5-year period, taking into consideration accessibility, but proceed cautiously. John added that they should take into consideration environmentally sensitive areas. The Board suggested that it might be helpful to go through the management plan and highlight areas that are recommended for harvest, and also highlight environmentally sensitive areas and trails. They will attend the next meeting of the Stranahan Stewardship Committee to talk about goals for the forest.

**Executive Session:** At 9:40, Chris moved to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter. John seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at 10:00.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. The Board approved the minutes of the July 24, August 7, and August 21 meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the September 4, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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