

TOWN OF THORNTON

April 10, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

6:45 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross, Jim Parziale, and Roy Sabourn

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Jim Demeritt, Scott Woolfenden, Jan Stearns, Giff Kriebel, Road Agent Tom Dubey (RA), Melinda Johnston, Sally Kriebel, Chris Litton for the Record Enterprise

6:45 Selectman Gross welcomed Roy Sabourn to the Board.

Crawford Field-Scott Woolfenden, School Board Member, stated there are safety issues regarding the field's use. Since the field is town property the school board is requesting permission to make some changes. One of the issues is that the bleachers are fairly close to the foul lines. He suggested moving the bleachers a little closer to the backstop and back. He also suggested erecting a 8' tall fence from the end of the backstop with an opening for players. The length of the proposed fence has not yet been determined and there is also the issue of the field being used for a soccer field. No prices have been gathered prior to speaking with the selectmen. Selectman Parziale agreed that the safety issue needs to be addressed. Selectman Gross agreed with the idea and asked if the school board could finance it. Mr. Woolfenden stated the school board would find the monies if permission is given to move ahead. Selectman Sabourn stated he has some concerns such as soccer players hitting the fence during play and getting injured He also expressed concern about the closeness to the highway. He inquired if it would be possible to put both sets of bleachers on the town house side of the field. Mr. Woolfenden stated that some trees might need to be removed. Melinda Johnston stated that the conversation of removable fence for soccer has also been discussed. Selectman Sabourn stated that there is no place to park off the road, and he is not prepared to sign off at this point.

Selectman Sabourn stated that the Selectmen had contracted his firm to survey the Old Town House property. This had occurred prior to putting his name in the hat to fill the position opened when Selectman Freeman resigned. Crawford Field will be surveyed as part of the process and removing some trees may be a good option. Road Agent Dubey stated that there is a barbed wire fence in the tree line area that may be the boundary. Permission to continue researching options was granted. PASSED (x3)

7:15 Road Agent, Tom Dubey. Selectman Gross stated that Jim Demeritt has a concern. Mr. Demeritt stated he is concerned with someone losing a front end on Mill Brook Road due to dome of the holes. The RA responded that he did not want to make it worse by bringing in heavy equipment. Mr. Demeritt stated residents shouldn't be penalized for living on Mill Brook Road. Jan Stearns inquired what 4-5 loads of gravel costs? She had his a pot hole and something popped in her car. Selectman Sabourn inquired if it is

potholes or mud? Pot holes. Mr. Demeritt stated something has to be done or the people should get something back on their taxes if the road can't be maintained.

Sally Kriebel stated she has a lot of empathy for the folks who live out there. She suggested that the board look at the road tomorrow with the Road Agent and come to some kind of agreement as to what can be done. Maybe some of the worst points need to be dug out and built right when the weather allows. Selectman Gross stated that the Road Agent is making an attempt and that he addresses complaints when received. Mr. Demeritt stated there are over 120 and possibly another 100 lots coming into Mill Brook Valley. Selectman Parziale agreed that the road is bad. The RA stated he had York raked Mill Brook Road last week; then we had snow again. Selectman Sabourn inquired if the RA could fill some of the pot holes with a truck and loader without damage. The RA stated he could.

Sally Kriebel stated she is one of the selectmen who appointed Tom as Road Agent. He is a hard worker and stands by him. She continued that she thinks it would be good for everyone to look at it and then make a decision. Selectman Gross asked if they can dump some gravel tomorrow. The RA agreed that he could. Mr. Demeritt stated that the stone really helped when it was done before.

Jan Stearns inquired if it has been a long term issue with the road? What are the future plans? The Selectman agreed that it is not scheduled for fixing in the near future. Prior property owners didn't want it. The road was designed for horse and buggy, and the base hasn't improved with the increased travel. Selectman Parziale stated that there is a property owners' association that doesn't want the road too well developed. Mr. Demeritt stated they aren't against fixing the road; they want it to stay rustic. They have said they will buy into a rural road. Selectman Gross stated many thousand dollars have been spent on Mill Brook Road over the years.

Road Agent Tom Dubey welcomed Mr. Sabourn to the Board and thanked Selectman Gross for sticking up for the department over the winter.

The RA shared a plan of Hidden Acres Road from Jim Sanborn. Mr. Sanborn would like to get together with the Board for a site visit. The possibility of one way traffic was discussed. The RA stated that if the road is cut down to a 5% grade, there may be drainage problems for some property owners. Selectman Sabourn inquired if a road profile was done for the Planning Board. No, Jim Ingram did some markings with Jim Sanborn and John March. Selectman Sabourn stated that the current grade is not good coming into an intersection. The measurements should start at the edge of the intersection and that will make the grade steeper. The RA stated the road could be made one way, but the road has been there for three years, and the intersection has a southern exposure. Selectman Sabourn stated it doesn't seem to be a hazard so the grade may not be an issue.

Mr. Demeritt stated the rules say 5% and accepting anything else is going to open a liability issue for the town. Selectman Gross stated the Planning Board has accepted the

road and not the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Demeritt stated that the rules were in place when the road was developed. The RA wanted to show the board the plan and let them know the grade variables. Sally Kriebel suggested the selectmen go through the whole road and noted that the pavement is crumbling near the ditch lines.

The TA told the board that the Board of Tax and Land Appeals have gone well thus far. Avitar Associates have informed the TA that adjustments (if any are approved) should be minimal. Mr. Mullen has expressed an interest in negotiating a settlement of the values. Avitar has recommended that the appeal process continue with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. A lot of time and research has already been spent preparing the town's defense. The Board of Selectmen agreed.

Transfer Station Keys-Dave Hilliard, Tsf. Sta. Mgr. is preparing a policy for distributing a key to Campton and Thornton Town Administrators to hold for use of others as justified. Mr. Demeritt stated he has a problem with that if there is hazardous waste or some other reason-why can't the facility be used during its regular hours with planning. He continued he is concerned about opening a can of worms. Selectman Sabourn stated he would have to see a good reason to distribute keys as arrangements could be made if needed. Selectman Gross agreed with the need to maintain control and work within schedules as much as possible. Mr. Demeritt stated he thinks that Dave Hilliard is doing a pretty good job with the facility and bringing monies in for the town. Selectman Gross agreed.

Selectman Gross thanked the RA for the listing of current highway equipment.

Melinda Johnston stated that a school building committee meeting will be held on Wednesday May 9 at 5PM. She continued that the ultimate goal is to set a floor plan to get engineering started. CCI engineers have also examined an alternative plan and the board is awaiting their review.

Selectman Gross noted that tomorrow morning at 9:30 am Councilor Burton will be here to view problem roads. Mr. Demeritt stated that whoever goes on the ride should take them down Route 3 and then Owl Street to see the condition a year after a 3" overlay it needs to be rebuilt, but the base was no good. The TA was requested to contact Lee Freeman in the morning to see if he is still planning to go on the road tour with Councilor Burton.

Minutes of the 4/2/07 Selectmen's Meeting were approved as amended (x2)

Minutes of the 4/5/07 Selectmen's Meeting were approved as amended (x2)

The board discussed that it might be a good idea to have an engineering firm look at areas of Mill Brook Road to give suggestions about what might be done.

The board discussed Upper Mad River Road and the possibility of volunteers clearing ditchlines and utilizing hand equipment.

William Manuel's Building Permit Application was not approved pending a septic installer and license number.

A Building Permit Application for the TAME trailer park was not approved pending review by Fire Chief Tobine checking on dwelling setbacks and Federal Building Codes. There are specific minimum separation requirements.

Scott Woolfenden returned a check issued for his moderating candidates' night. The Board of Selectmen thanks him for volunteering his service.

There was discussion about the board's review of the personnel plan and a need for updates.

APPROVALS:

Building Permits:

12 7 44	K.Hirsch	log home
16 6 25	D&N Merrill	attached garage
8 9 12	Paul Daley	20x24 shed
15 4 6A	P&K Holland	24x30 house
10 3 42	R.Daley	18x26 carport
9 1 3-03	T.Brown	28x24 cape w/garage
Current Use Application:		
7 2 7-13	Extin Development-G.Vela	

9:30 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting s
Will be
April 24, 2007
5:30 PM at the Municipal Building**