

TOWN OF THORNTON

June 25, 2008

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross, and Jim Parziale

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Ralph Perron, Jim Demeritt, Sally Kriebel, and Road Agent Tom Dubey

Minutes of the non-public meeting for June 11, 2008 were accepted as presented.
PASSED (x2).

Neighborfest property - Jim Demeritt stated the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) did not accept the application from Southern NH Housing/Neighborfest because they did not apply for 2nd variance that would be needed.

Mr. Demeritt inquired where money will come from to mail out 2500 surveys for updating the master plan. The TA noted that money was not budgeted for that purpose and in fact the postage budget line was reduced. Selectman Gross stated that the mailing might have to wait until the beginning of the year or may need to be pulled from the planning or zoning budgets if money is available.

Mr. Demeritt stated there should be a contingency fund for the planning and zoning budgets; possibly a capital reserve account. The TA stated that a capital reserve might not be allowed for an operational expense like postage. Mr. Demeritt responded that the state mandates that towns keep a master plan current, so they shouldn't have a problem with setting up an account for the purpose.

9:15 Ralph Perron reported that the Southern NH Housing group is not currently putting any effort into purchasing the Neighborfest property. They are working on other applications that are more viable for the July 10 deadline. The Neighborfest property is still on the market for \$250,000.

Selectman Gross suggested that the next selectmen's meeting will be rescheduled to **7/2 at 5PM**. Selectman Parziale agreed. Mr. Perron asked if the board would be reviewing applications at that time. Selectman Gross responded that he was not sure as the Local Government Center will be involved in the process. Mr. Perron asked if the interviews would be public. Selectman Gross responded that the LCG will be helping with the process and he does not see why they would not be public.

The TA reported that the captive air tank at the fire house is being replaced and a drain pan added to help remove moisture from tank sweating.

Road Agent, Tom Dubey reported the trailer has been moved to the highway garage. Stone Dam Road from True Lane to the guardrails has been rebuilt and graded to improve drainage issues. A roller was rented to compact the added material. Mt. Woodlands Road is being trimmed and crushed gravel added. GMI Asphalt has reviewed proposed paving projects and will be sending a fax or e-mail with current pricing. Dirt Designs and Doug Johnston have both looked at the proposed sand harvesting area.

A paved apron will be placed on the end of the new road at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Demeritt asked why the hold up with the transfer station road. The TA stated her understanding that the entrance conversion is the next item on the agenda after the brush pile has been taken care of. They can only grind brush when the facility is closed.

Selectman Parziale inquired if the engineer that looked at the Covered Bridge has gotten back to the town. NO. The RA reported that the requested Jersey barrier is in place. Selectman Gross thanked the RA for his prompt attention.

Selectman Gross inquired if the RA has looked at the Benton covered bridge. NO. Mr. Demeritt stated there are no engineering plans or verification of quality specifications along the way indicating that the bridge has been properly built. The concrete strength should have been verified.

Windmill application – Mr. Demeritt stated it is not a permitted use within our zoning ordinance, so a variance will be required. The zoning ordinance also does not address covered bridges so that may be another item that will need a variance. Items such as fire suppression and wood decking, etc should also be considerations.

Selectman Parziale stated he has no problem with the revised driveway permit. The RA stated he is revamping it further per Selectman Sabourn's suggestions and will have it available for the next meeting.

Selectman Gross inquired if they are doing anything on Hidden Acres Road. The RA did a site visit during last week's heavy rains. The upper driveway swales are not deep enough, and the area built up at the side of the road redirecting some water back up the driveway, but it will still fill with sand during winter maintenance. The road wasn't plowed well last year which negatively impacted the road's maintenance and drainage. Selectman Parziale stated it is up to the association to remedy the situation.

Selectman Gross inquired how the newest highway employee is working out. The RA responded he is working out very well; he is courteous and cooperative, good with the equipment and not afraid to ask questions.

The RA has talked with Gloria Kimball about the big maples on her property on Mill Brook Road. Her neighbor is going to take them down for the wood and town won't be involved. The RA is going to talk with some of the other neighbors to ask permission to

trim some branches overhanging the road prior to going to the Planning Board due to Mill Brook Road being classified as a scenic road.

APPROVALS:

Building Permit

11 1 76

3 8 15

Intent to Cut

16 7 45

16 7 44

M&P Towers

Syphers Trust

G.Sampson

J&K Roper

log home

rem L/add screened porch

10:01 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
July 2, 2008
5:00 PM at the Municipal Building**