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APPROVED
TOWN OF PELHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN - MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 2020
APPROVED – August 18, 2020

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CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Haverly called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30PM

PRESENT: Robert Haverly, Heather Forde, Jaie Bergeron, Hal Lynde (remotely via Zoom), Kevin Cote

ABSENT: Town Administrator Brian McCarthy

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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MINUTES REVIEW:

July 21, 2020:

MOTION: (Cote/Lynde) To approve the July 21, 2020 meeting minutes as amended.

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Forestry Committee and Conservation Commission OHRV Press Release: Mr. McCarthy stated he had a virtual meeting with Deborah Waters, Bill McDevitt, and Police Captain Stephen Toom regarding some of the Town trails that were falling victim to vandalism and ATV usage. He said Ms. Waters asked to create a plan to educate people regarding safe/permitted usage of the trails and to ask people to report vandalism to the Police. He informed there had been a significant financial impact (approximately \$18,000) to the Conservation Commission during the last year and a half for repairing the Town's trail system. Starting this month in an effort to reduce vandalism the Pelham Police Department, partnered with New Hampshire Fish and Game, with conduct extra patrols and educate users of the rules and regulations of trail use and ensure vehicles are properly registered and operators are properly licensed.

OPEN FORUM

No one came forward.

APPOINTMENT(S)

Health Officer Karen McGlynn and Fire Chief James Midgley– COVID-19 Pandemic update

Ms. McGlynn provided information regarding the latest statistics in Pelham and the State. Presently the State has 395 people infected with Covid-19; the positive cases continues to remain steady. Pelham currently has 5 cases. She and Chief Midgley continues to work with the School District for when the schools will open. They also continue to work with Nashua for 'point of distribution' for when a vaccine is available. She said they are also working with the election committee to ensure they have things in place so people can vote safely.

44 Chief Midgley stated the Deputy and Town Clerk were doing a great job procuring equipment for the
45 election that is based on actual numbers from previous elections.

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47 **Town Beach update**

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49 Mr. McCarthy stated there had been a decrease in beach usage during the past couple weeks. Mid-
50 week numbers were in single digits; July 20th had the highest count of 20. Weekend usage has been
51 steady, although the high counts were lower than the past weekends. July 25th had a count of 36, July
52 26th had a count of 26, August 1st had a count of 3 and August 2nd had a count of 13. Subsequent to the
53 Board's last meeting he met with Health Officer Karen McGlynn and Parks and Recreation Director
54 Brian Johnson; they concurred to issue additional beach permits. There are approximately 25 people
55 currently on the waiting list. Mr. McCarthy noted the beach pavilion was working out well. To date
56 there have been approximately 400 beach permits issued; there are 25 on the wait list. Ms. McGlynn
57 felt the 25 permits on the wait list could be released based on the beach usage numbers. Mr. Haverty
58 said the wait list could be cleared. Mr. Cote agreed.

59

60 **Gilbert Brown/Freedom Energy: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Town Hall.**

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62 Mr. McCarthy informed the Board they were working on a reschedule date.

63

64 **DISCUSSION**

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66 **2021 Budget review questions**

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68 Mr. Haverty said the intent of the conversation was to determine if there were any high-level questions
69 the Board wanted the department head to come in front of the Board to discuss. He asked if Board
70 members had any questions or if there was a particular department, they wanted to bring in.

71

72 There were no questions at this time. Mr. McCarthy noted there were two meeting prior to the Board's
73 vote, or they could schedule a meeting if necessary.

74

75 **Drought update**

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77 Mr. Haverty stated the Town had been and continues to be in a 'moderate' drought. There was currently
78 a voluntary/cooperative water use restriction in place. Mr. McCarthy said they continue to recommend
79 moderate water usage and will continue to monitor the (drought) situation. Just prior to the meeting he
80 checked the State's website and saw the map remained unchanged.

81

82 Mr. Cote commented there was no significant rain in the forecast for the next week or two and asked
83 the Board if they wanted to discuss a mandatory ban. Ms. Forde noted every major storm had missed
84 Pelham and felt it may be a good time to move ahead rather than waiting two more weeks of people
85 watering.

86

87 Mr. Bergeron inquired if any of the surrounding town had a water ban. Mr. McCarthy wasn't aware
88 of any.

89

90 Ms. Forde asked that lawn watering be restricted to 'odd' and 'even' days. Mr. Bergeron questioned
91 what would happen if a resident were 'caught' watering. Mr. McCarthy replied the Town could impose
92 a fine. He discussed the last time the Town had a mandatory ban (2016) and what actions were put in
93 place for the Town to enforce. At that time, they never went past 'door knockers' (leaving a note on

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94 the door); no fines were issued. He believed they would need to provide a 3-day notice prior to moving
95 to a water ban. This would have it go into effect Saturday, August 8, 2020.

96
97 Mr. Lynde felt they should be ‘ahead of the game’ and didn’t believe it was too much to ask residents
98 to water every other day. He believed they should impose the requirement. Mr. Cote confirmed there
99 would not be a watering restriction on vegetables/harvesting. Mr. Haverty replied that was correct;
100 there were a number of exemptions, such as vegetable gardens, agriculture, sod etc. He informed the
101 public the Board was given the ability to limit private well usage in the case of a drought per New
102 Hampshire law (RSA 41:11 A).

103

MOTION: (Cote/Lynde) To move the voluntary water ban (for outdoor lawn watering) to a
mandatory ban (outdoor lawn watering) using calendar days (odd / even) with the
same exemptions specified with the voluntary ban (i.e. vegetable gardens,
agriculture)

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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105 **Installing a boat ramp at Pelham Veteran’s Memorial Park (‘PVMP’)**

106

107 Mr. McCarthy stated he received inquiries whether the Town would consider installing a boat ramp at
108 PVMP. He said there was currently no access to Long Pond from Pelham. He contacted the
109 Department of Environmental Services regarding doing so. He said they if they were to do so there
110 were things to consider such as where it would be located, the road access, type of ramp, proximity to
111 swimming area, parking accommodations for trucks/trailers, etc. He was also informed if the Town
112 installed a ‘public’ boat ramp it would have to be open to all public from anywhere. Mr. McCarthy
113 believed with all considerations the cost would be upward toward half a million dollars.

114

115 Mr. Haverty commented if the location was off a main road the conversation may be different. He said
116 it fell apart for him when talking about two boat trailers trying to pass along the park access road,
117 parking for trailers, trying to launch boats with limited space while trying to operate camp, etc. Mr.
118 Cote noted public boat launches during the weekends were nightmares to access. He didn’t feel it
119 would be a good idea. Mr. McCarthy noted the benefits didn’t justify the costs. Mr. Haverty said with
120 all the consideration it wasn’t worth doing it.

121

122 Mr. Lynde agreed a boat launch didn’t belong near the swimming area. He said the only feasible place
123 to locate it was in the southern-most end of the land; however, there would need to be a separate access
124 other than the existing road. He suggested if people wanted to create a fund raiser to pay for it, maybe
125 it could be done that way. He thought it was a nice idea but PVMP shouldn’t be disrupted for the
126 children and residents.

127

128 Mr. McCarthy told the Board the Parks and Recreation Director indicated his feeling that PVMP was
129 not a good location for many safety reasons. Mr. Haverty didn’t believe the Selectmen wanted to do
130 anything therefore they didn’t need to take a position or vote.

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132 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR / SELECTMEN REPORTS**

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134 Ms. Forde commented the Town was coming up on it’s 275th anniversary and she would begin looking
135 for volunteers. Mr. McCarthy stated he created a press release but had held off sending it until he spoke
136 with the Historical Society. He said they had nothing planned, therefore he will send out the press
137 release with Ms. Forde as the contact person.

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139 Mr. Cote announced the first Agricultural Commission meeting will be held August 6th at 7pm in
140 Sherburne Hall. He then discussed the cases heard during the Planning Board meeting and the actions
141 taken.

142

143 Mr. McCarthy updated the Board regarding the Marsh Road sidewalk project, which was nearing
144 completion. The final coat of pavement will be installed. The sidewalk will be completed prior to
145 school opening in September. He reminded the Board they would be holding the first of two public
146 hearings August 18th regarding the Livestock Ordinance. The second hearing will be September 1st, at
147 which time the Board will vote.

148

149 Ms. Forde felt everyone owed a big thank you to the School Board and the work they put in to
150 navigating a reopening.

151

152 Mr. Cote told the Board the Capital Improvement Plan was presented to the Planning Board. He noted
153 a Master Plan committee was being formed to review/update the information.

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155 **ADJOURNMENT**

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MOTION: (Forde/Cote) To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: (5-0-0) The motion carried.

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158 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Charity A. Landry
Recording Secretary