

MINUTES

March 19, 2007

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Town Office. Present were Selectmen Charles Wheeler, Charles Cheney, James McGarr and Craig Keeney. Selectman Davis is out of Town this week. The Board spent the first half hour reviewing and signing the manifest. They also signed two residency applications, two Intents to Build, and one abatement form.

At 6:30 p.m. Town Clerk Hannah Joyce came in to swear in newly elected Selectman Craig Keeney, and incumbent Selectman Charles Cheney.

Next on the agenda, the Library Trustees were scheduled to speak with the Board. Diane Morrison came before the Board, and explained that fellow Trustee Isabel Barach unfortunately was unable to come due to illness. Diane wanted to advise the Board that she and Isabel had spoken about filling in the third Trustee position. She then went on to explain that over a year ago Martha Aguiar had expressed an interest in being a Library Trustee. Martha has been out of Town for the past week, but has returned, and is still interested in the position. The Board indicated that they had no objection to the suggestion, but would like the opportunity to meet and speak with Martha next week.

The Board had some time before their next appointment, and decided to go over some of their correspondence. A letter was received from Jerry Zoller from the NH Department of Transportation. Mr. Zoller has been in contact with Ann Marie about work the State is scheduling this coming summer for two bridges to be painted. One of the bridges is on NH Route 49 before the intersection of US Route 3, and the other bridge is on Route 3 past Chesley's Mini Mart. Mr. Zoller will be posting this meeting as a public hearing on the State's plans as to how this job will be conducted with regards to hours of operation, length of job, traffic control etc. He is also meeting with members of the Snowmobilers Club as they have a bridge constructed beside the NH Route 49 bridge. Selectman Wheeler suggested that the residents and businesses in this area be contacted about this meeting so they can attend and get any questions that they may have addressed by Mr. Zoller. Copies of the last Conservation Commission minutes were distributed to each Board Member as well as some demographics information about Campton that Selectman Sharon Davis had left in each Board Member's mailbox.

The Board went on to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Selectman McGarr had one sentence that he wished to have stricken from the Non Public part of the minutes. With a motion from Selectman McGarr, and seconded by Selectman Wheeler, the minutes, both public and non public, were approved with the one correction by all.

At 7 p.m., Lester and Rita Mitchell came before the Board to discuss two items of concern to them. Mrs. Mitchell indicated that they had received the bill for their land use penalty on the lot where they built their house. The Mitchells felt that the value assessed on this penalty was excessive, and questioned how the assessor arrived at the figure. Ann Marie had given the Board

and the Mitchells copies of the paperwork that Assessor Mark Nieder gave our office to use for the billing. Mark's notation included the statement that there were no sales within the immediate area of the Mitchells' lot, and also that he had used a January 2005 market value. Ann Marie had put together some similar sized lots that were penalized in that time period, but the Selectmen did not feel that they were comparable. They instructed Ann Marie to set up an appointment between Mark and the Mitchells, and have him go to their property and meet with them.

The other issue that Mitchells wanted to discuss was junkyards. Mr. Mitchell explained that his family and he have been involved in the Town's activities all their lives. Lester served as Road Agent, Town Moderator and elected Police Chief over the years. He is also a member of the Campton Historical Society, and has done a great deal of research of the Town records which he has shared with both the Town and the Society over the years as well as finding some Town artifacts that had been stored away in basements and closets. Mr. Mitchell felt that the number of properties throughout the Town that have yards full of junk have created an eyesore in the community and are endangering the property values as well as fire and health concerns. He has called the Police over the years on some of these issues, but has been advised that they cannot do anything without the Board of Selectmen adopting an ordinance. He had suggested this at last year's budget hearing, and just wanted to ask the Board to consider looking into it, again and getting something in place. He thought that perhaps the Town could then get people to clean up their properties, and if they did not, the Town could do it, and put a lien on the property. He also thought that there were probably some State and Federal funds available for these purposes. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would like to see an ordinance which would cover anything that could be seen from a Town road.

During the meeting, Ann Marie had received a call from Chief Warn about a potential candidate for the vacancy in the Police Department. He was willing to come in tonight and discuss it further. The Board agreed that they would schedule him for next week's agenda.

Under other business, Selectman Keeney discussed the piece of land that was referred into in the Conservation Commission minutes.

There being no other business or input, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Town Administrator