

Selectmen's Meeting
February 27, 2006

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Office. Present were Selectmen Charles Cheney, Jon Homer, Charles Wheeler, James McGarr and Donald Johnson, Jr. The Board spent the first 15 minutes going over the manifest, and signed it along with a land use penalty form and warrant, two residency applications, and one Intent to Build.

At 7:15 p.m., the Board met briefly with Road Agent Dick Giehl who wanted to discuss a few matters. He has been having some issues with one of the sub-contractors as far as the billing of the use of their backhoe for Town Roads versus private roads, and concerns about the use of the Town's off site sand pile. He wanted to let the Board know that he was trying to work it out, but if he could not, he would do away with that off site pile and have them come down to the Town's pile off of NH Rte 49. The Board agreed that it was his call to make, and they would support his decision. The road bans have been put in place, and due to the extremely cold weather, Dick has been using a number of waiver applications for truckers to haul on the posted roads. The process seems to be working well.

At 7:30 p.m., Robert Barach, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment came in to speak with the Board. Chairman Wheeler thanked Bob for coming in, and indicated that the Board had a few issues they needed to discuss with him in regards to the ZBA. The first issue dealt with the timeliness of the meeting minutes. Minutes are required to be available within 144 hours or 6 days after a meeting. The last meeting minutes were not received by the Board until well after that time, and the Board had some concerns about a matter heard at the meeting, and the deadline to act on anything had passed by the time the minutes were available. Bob indicated that they need not worry about that issue as he had spoken to Pamela Avery, the long time secretary for the Board, and she advised him that she can no longer continue with the duties of this position. The Board ask Bob if he had anyone in mind to replace Pamela, and he indicated that he did not. Selectman McGarr suggested that Planning Board Clerk, May Brosseau be ask if she would take over the position for the time being, and that Pamela be sent a letter accepting her resignation and thanking her for her service. The matter that brought all of this to a head, was the issuance of a variance for 60 feet for a property on Bog Road, owned by Ron Bastille. Bob indicated that all the members were present at the meeting, and did not see any reason not to grant the variance, and that the purpose of this variance was to give the owner the ability to divide the parcel into just two lots which they did not see as a problem. Selectman Johnson indicated that he was at the Planning Board meeting where Mr. Bastille indicated that he is trying to buy a piece of land abutting his which would give him the required frontage needed, and would make the variance unnecessary, but this has not happened yet. Selectman McGarr indicated that he thought that there were was certain criteria that had to be applied to grant a variance, and that something like this sets a precedent. Bob disagreed that he felt that it actually does the opposite, and that any further activity on the property would be within the Planning Board's authority if in the future some further activity was to be addressed. Bob mentioned a particular meeting where Lester

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Mitchell had come before the Board for a variance to further subdivide a lot, and at the meeting an abutter pointed out that the covenants of the development did not allow any further subdivision. Selectman Johnson commented that they did their job, and said no on this one. Selectman Homer commented that the ZBA has to look at not aggrieving a person, and that there are other criteria besides hardship that need to be looked at and the ZBA is the Board to look at these matters. Charles Brosseau, who was present at tonight's meeting, indicated that he also was present at the ZBA the night of this hearing, and that the minutes did not reflect a lot of the conversation that occurred. He indicated that Mr. Bastille could actually put cluster housing on this lot, but instead chose to just put two houses on the lot, one for himself and the other his son. Charlie indicated that sometimes you need to bend a little when dealing with some of these issues. Bob Barach indicated that the ZBA works to stay within the spirit of the zoning, and spoke about a case heard a number of years ago when a special exception was made to allow a doctor's office within a residential area. The exception specifically allowed only a physician and this allowed the office to be located here to meet the needs of the residents of the Town. Selectman Cheney spoke about the hardship criteria, and that this had to be proved. Bob indicated that each case had to be considered individually. Selectman Homer indicated that he felt that the real problem with the concern of this particular case was that the minutes were not precise enough, and the lateness in receiving them. Selectman McGarr felt that there should be a different process.

Next on the agenda was Chris Bolan and Darlene King-Jennings. Darlene had faxed over a letter in regards to what they wanted to discuss tonight, and Chairman Wheeler said that they had received the letter, but unfortunately had only had about 45 minutes to digest it. Darlene indicated that with a heavy heart, she comes to advise the Board that Neighborfest is being dissolved. Both she and Chris indicated that while they are still committed to the original goal of having a recreation center for the community that with the amount of grants dried up for recreation in this time of national security, and the small group of dedicated volunteers just plain worn out, the decision was reached to disband Neighborfest. Some of the original founders of Neighborfest met and decided to do this. They have also been advised by their legal representative that they should give the land to a non profit or one of the Towns involved in Neighborfest. The members present voted unanimously to offer the land to the Town of Campton as the Town has always been very supportive of Neighborfest plans and goals. They would gift this land for some kind of recreational use. Selectman Wheeler indicated that we actually have an article on the warrant this year to authorize the Selectmen to accept land as a gift. Once this article is approved, the Selectmen then have this authority. Previously they have had the authority, but a change in law made it advisable for us to include it again at this year's meeting. The Selectmen would then have a public hearing to see how people feel about accepting the gift. Selectman Johnson inquired as to whether the deed that Neighborfest received from Pike had any restrictions on what they do with it. Darlene indicated that Pike did not want the land back, and that Owls Nest had first refusal on the land, and had passed on it. The Board indicated that they could continue discussion about this matter after Town Meeting.

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David Thompson who had been in a few weeks ago about the NH Homecraft stopped by as he was having some difficulties finding the non profit internet site. He had gone into the IRS website, and was confused as to what form he needed to fill out.

Selectman McGarr indicated that he had some time tomorrow, and would go online, and do some research, and get back to him.

Executive Councilor Ray Burton's representative Tim Sayers was present, and he was welcomed by the Board. The Selectmen had high praise for Ray, and all the help he provides to his constituents.

Correspondence was reviewed. Ann Marie gave each Selectman a detailed letter from our Insurance Company which indicated that our coverage does not meet the criteria to be covered for the Spritzes Beverage lawsuit. The letter also indicates that Beebe River Village District would not be covered under our policy either. A very unpleasant letter to George Romaine was copied to the Board from Attorney Sheila Kaulfold. She had all sent a copy to both Attorney Tim Bates and Deputy Attorney General Bud Fitch, both of whom felt it was not very professional.

The minutes of the February 13th Selectmen's meeting, and the February 16th budget hearing were then reviewed. One correction was made, and with a motion from Selectman Cheney, and seconded by Selectman Johnson, the minutes were approved by all.

Under Selectmen's input, Selectman McGarr indicated that he had spoken to Supervisor of the Checklist Kathy Tobine about the voter checklist being put on the internet for the State project to have all Towns connected for the same day voters registration and state wide voters register, and that the Supervisors also need to have access here at the Town Office. He indicated that rather than have the wireless adapter and router, a cable could be connected, and this would avoid the security issues and difficulties sometimes associated with wireless reception. He also indicated that while at the Beebe River Meeting, he had walked around the school, and found that they have a weak signal from wireless somewhere in the building, but that a cable would be the way to go there as well. He was willing to put this cable in, and just needed to check the back of the Town server to see if we have the space on the system. The other Selectmen agreed that if this was more secure and less expensive that they agreed to go this way rather than the wireless.

Also under Selectmen's input, Selectman Johnson indicated that he was pleased that the other Board Members had success in talking with Pike, and congratulated them on a good job.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ann Marie Foote
Administrative Assistant