

**Center Harbor Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

Chairman Randy Mattson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Selectmen Charley Hanson and Richard Drenkhahn. Lakes Region Planning Commission Representative Mike Izzard, Barbara Merrill, Gene Manville, Doris Smith, Palmer Smith, Maureen Criasia, Tony Halsey, David Walker, Laura Stuckey, Amber Paquette, Laconia Citizen reporter Erin Plummer and Selectmen's Secretary Robin Woodaman were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hanson motioned to approve the minutes of April 9, 2008. Mr. Drenkhahn seconded the motion; the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS:

MIKE IZZARD: Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) representative Mike Izzard reported meeting with the Board of Selectmen last year regarding forming a committee to work on the corridor study from the Center Harbor/Meredith town line to Route 109 in Moultonborough. He reported the committee met six times. Mr. Izzard explained a consulting engineer and the Police Department were asked to identify five areas that need improvement. He reported Main Street issues: vehicles speeding, the timing of the traffic lights and pedestrians having difficulty crossing the street. Mr. Izzard suggested the Town develop a Town-wide sidewalk plan for pedestrians. Mr. Izzard reported the topic of speeding vehicles was often discussed, with differences of opinions on ways to change driver behavior. He reported a speed count was conducted at the end of August, 2007 by the Canoe Restaurant, which indicated 75% of the traffic was either at the speed limit or below. He suggested another speed count study during the spring or fall because with less congestion, the speeds may be above the speed limit. Ms. Merrill, a member of the committee, reported she feels the speeding vehicles by the Canoe Restaurant and her property are becoming more and more dangerous. She reported seeing a lot of accidents and stated people are driving crazy. Ms. Merrill explained she feels the speed limits are not enforced. Mr. Hanson explained Route 25 is a busy road and the Police Department does spend time enforcing the speed limit. Ms. Merrill explained she has talked to people in other towns who said they would speed in Center Harbor because who would stop them? Mr. Halsey, who was a member of the Route 3 and Route 25 task force in Meredith, explained that due to they type of road just outside of Town, cars tend to maintain speed even after the 35 mph sign. He suggested if the shoulders are reduced, the travel lanes made smaller and sidewalks installed people would slow down because the road would appear more street-like.

Mr. Izzard suggested the Selectmen follow up with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Ms. Mattson explained another speed count would be necessary before approaching the NHDOT. Mr. Izzard reported the study has to be submitted to the NHDOT by April 30, 2008 and asked the Selectmen to endorse the study. Ms. Mattson explained she and Mr. Hanson reviewed a February 2008 draft (submitted by Maureen Criasia, a member of the committee). Ms. Criasia explained maps have been added to the February 2008 draft. Ms. Mattson reported the Selectmen would review the April 2008 NH Route 25 Corridor Study submitted by Mr. Izzard and additional copies would be in the Town Clerk's office for citizens to review.

DAVID WALKER: Mr. Walker reported he had a few issues that he feels need discussion and resolution and feels it is necessary to go on record to address some of his immediate concerns. He reported background information on his sump outlet:

- The sump line has been connected to the municipal storm water system for approximately thirty years,
- throughout the course of planning and continuing through the beginning of the construction on Kelsea Ave. he voiced his concern about his sump drainage and perforated pipe that drains into the old system, and
- he has previously discussed the change-over of the 4” perforated drainage pipe and basement sump pump line with the Selectmen, engineer, road agent and contractor. Mr. Walker reported all parties involved knew, and discussed, the pipes being connected into the new system.

Mr. Walker explained Phase 2 of the construction calls for the disconnect and removal of the old storm water system and reported in the fall the contractor moved forward with some elements of Phase 2 earlier than planned without sending letters of agreement to go on the properties to remove the old system. He reported, to his knowledge, no one has received letters to date. Mr. Hanson explained the contractor disconnected the old system and was able to perform some aspects of Phase 2 (removing the pipes from the Welch property). Mr. Hanson explained the Welch’s had been in earlier to report that they had authorized the contractor to remove structures from their property last fall. The Board was not aware of this, but the work was performed. Mr. Hanson reported property owners should receive letters of agreement within two days to address the remaining structures.

Ms. Mattson clarified that the drainage water is not coming out of the Center Harbor drainage system. Mr. Hanson explained all the water flowing down Kelsea Ave. goes into the new drainage system. Mr. Walker reported a minimal amount of groundwater (no pooling like there used to be) until last week. He explained the sump pump worked fine until last week. He reported the basement flooded causing further damage to his home and the sump pump; he reported that put him into a state of emergency that required his immediate attention – he missed work, was late for an evening job and lost money because he wanted to do everything he could to minimize the damage.

Mr. Walker wanted to get clarification from the Board as to the state of his concerns. Mr. Hanson asked Mr. Walker if he had his issues written down, which Mr. Walker said he did. Mr. Hanson asked Mr. Walker to leave the questions for the Board and that they would respond to them within approximately one week. Mr. Walker thanked the Board for their time.

AMBER PAQUETTE: The Selectmen reviewed correspondence received from Thomas Paquette, of Granite State Aggregate, asking for an extension of time to crush at the gravel pit until June 1, 2008 due to the extended winter weather. Ms. Paquette explained the ridge where they would blast is snow covered, they have no materials to sell and if the extension is not granted they may not be able to open for business. Ms. Mattson read the Zoning Board of Approval’s third condition: “A portable crusher may be used for a maximum 3 week period in the spring and fall. The crusher may not be used after May 1 or before October 1. If the weather is bad enough to not be able to work in the spring, there should be some flexibility for the Selectmen to extend the crushing period for 2 weeks”. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to extend Granite State Aggregate’s crushing period for two weeks, until May 15, 2008. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

KELSEA AVE./KELLEY COURT DRAINAGE PROJECT: The Selectmen signed letter-agreements as part of Phase II of the Kelsea Ave./Kelley Court drainage project giving the Town permission to enter onto their property to do the work outlined below:

- Remove old drainage structures
- Fill in and compact old drainage areas

- Loam, seed, replace shrubbery as needed
- Reinstall driveway areas as needed

The letter-agreements went to the following property owners:

- Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Burgess
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry Welch, Jr.
- George Davy Trust
- Mr. David Walker

SHEAFE HARBOR HOUSE (SHH): Mr. Hanson reported asking Attorney James Steiner if the Selectmen had to respond to the letter submitted by Constance Strand last week; it was explained the Town’s recent motion to the court is the response.

BUILDING RENOVATIONS: Mr. Drenkhahn reported speaking with contractor Richard Dow regarding the construction of shelving in the lobby area. He reported receiving an estimate of approximately \$535 from Home Comfort and \$350 from Plymouth Furniture for the installation of blinds in the Police Department. He explained he spoke to Luke Dupuis, from Home Comfort, about the possibility of using less expensive materials therefore lowering his price. Mr. Dupuis contacted Mr. Drenkhahn and reported he cannot find any shades as inexpensive as Plymouth Furniture. The Selectmen agreed to order the shades from Plymouth Furniture. Ms. Mattson and Mr. Hanson thanked Mr. Drenkhahn for overseeing the renovations.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUILDING COMMITTEE (BC): Mr. Hanson reported he has not spoken with Police Chief Mark Chase; Chief Chase, but that he will forward a list a list of potential members for his input.

HIGH HAITH BRIDGE: Mr. Hanson reported he has a draft “Request for Qualifications” (RFQ) for the High Haith Bridge project for the Selectmen to review and send out in the near future.

DENTAL INSURANCE: The Selectmen reviewed information on an employee funded dental insurance policy offered through Davis and Towle Agency. Ms. Woodaman reported there are three employees interested in this dental insurance plan and explained they would pay for it through a payroll deduction; there is a ten dollar per month administrative fee. Ms. Mattson explained this administrative fee was not discussed during the budget process; therefore the Town cannot cover this cost. The ten dollar per month administrative fee will be included in the employee’s weekly payroll deduction; there will be no cost to the Town.

CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE: The Selectmen reviewed, and approved the payroll and accounts payable manifests.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (LGC): The Selectmen reviewed an email received from Wendy Lessard of the LGC informing them that LGC received notice that as of April 15, 2008 the contract expired between Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and LRGHealthcare physicians. The email reported that covered services provided by LRGHealthcare physicians between April 16, 2008 and July 29, 2008 will be allowed as in network as required by New Hampshire law. Ms. Lessard reported negotiations are ongoing and hopes there will be a positive outcome. LGC will be sending letters regarding this matter to all the subscribers.

SENATOR DEBORAH REYNOLDS: The Selectmen reviewed correspondence received from Senator Reynolds reporting she is monitoring the status of HB 1645 and expressed her concern about the cost of any increases in the property tax if responsible steps are not taken to shore up the New Hampshire Retirement System. She reported she is holding a public forum in the Center Harbor Municipal Building on April 22, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Hanson suggested the Selectmen should attend the public forum to discuss the constitutional amendment for school funding and the status of the New Hampshire Retirement System.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION (DRA): The Selectmen reviewed correspondence received from DRA Property Tax Advisor Robert Boley reporting the DRA has reviewed the final report submitted by Commerford, Nieder, Perkins LLC for the 2007 revaluation. Mr. Boley reported the review indicates that the report is compliant with Standard 6 of the 2005 edition of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice as required by HB 1206.

STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF ACTION TO CONSERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT (SPACE): The Selectmen reviewed correspondence submitted by Donna Robie, Executive Director of SPACE, New Hampshire's Coalition for Current Use. Ms. Robie requested the Town add the SPACE website www.nhspace.org as a link on the Town's webpage. The Selectmen are in favor of Ms. Robie's request as it has a great deal of information about current use.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS: The Selectmen reviewed the following property tax exemptions:

- **SOLAR ENERGY HEATING OR COOLING SYSTEM:** adopted in 1978 for a property tax exemption on real property equipped with a solar energy heating or cooling system, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to the assessed value of such solar energy heating or cooling system.
- **WIND-POWERED ENERGY SYSTEM:** adopted in 1978 for a property tax exemption on real property equipped with a wind-powered energy system, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to the assessed value of such wind-powered energy system.
- **WOOD HEATING ENERGY SYSTEM:** adopted in 1978 for a property tax exemption on real property equipped with a wood heating energy system, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to the assessed value of such wood heating energy system.

PRESERVING COMMUNITY CHARACTER CONFERENCE: Mr. Hanson reported he and Ms. Mattson attended the Preserving Community Character Conference; the registration fee was underwritten by Paul George. He reported it was an interesting, valuable and informative conference. The Selectmen appreciate Mr. George's generosity.

PLANNING BOARD (PB): Mr. Hanson reported the PB elected new officers: Lee Mattson will continue as Chairman and Barbara Lauterbach will continue as Secretary. He reported Rusty McLear and David Graham met with the PB to discuss the planned New Hampshire Music Festival project, which they plan to scheduled for completion for the 2010 season. Ms. Mattson explained Police Chief Mark Chase and Fire Chief John Schlemmer feel the project will need significant attention by the Police and Fire Departments due to the size of the project. Mr. Hanson explained Mr. McLear and Mr. Graham discussed access lanes for traffic control and fire suppression cisterns as well as getting that type of feedback from the Town as they move forward.

