

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Tuesday, September 2, 2014 – 5:00pm
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Present: Barbara Miller, Liz Thomas, Tyler Ward

Also Present: Pamela Brenner, Seth MacLean, Rodney Bartlett, Scott Bradford, Loretta Lorenitus, Leslie Lewis, Joe Brennen, Cindy Slauser, Pat Cheney, Steve Holdly, Susan Mansfield, Mary Isherman, Patty Alexander, Scott Lumsden, Andrea Caldwell

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

River Drawdown Update

Rodney Bartlett, Director of DPW, provided an update to the board relative to the upcoming drawdown of the Northvillage Dam, and the Transcript Dam. Per Mr. Bartlett, the Town is working with Stephens Engineers to conduct the drawdowns, which will begin in August and continue through September. The drawdown is being performed for inspection purposes to develop repair strategies and plans for future work. The depth of the drawdowns will be 4', with a target daily drawdown of 6" per day. It is expected that the drawdown will last about 3 days. As part of the process, any debris that can be reached after the drawdown process will be cleared.

Chair Miller asked about whether there would be odors emanating from the river as a result of the drawdown. Mr. Bartlett indicated that there might be odors for a short duration, but that this is unlikely.

Mr. Ward asked about whether the project would be complete in time for the Town's upcoming 275th anniversary celebration. Mr. Bartlett responded in the affirmative.

Makerspace NHCF Grant Application

Mr. Bartlett provided information relative to a NH Charitable Foundation grant program called "Entrepreneurs of NH Pitch Camp". This program asks interested grant seekers to describe an emerging community project, with a select group of 30 projects being selected for an opportunity to go to "pitch-camp" to learn how to better sell an idea to charitable foundations. The Town, in collaboration with the "Monadnock Makers", has been selected as one of the 30 semi-finalists to refine the grant proposal at the pitch-camp. Six organizations will be chosen as finalists to present a three minute pitch on October 16th, with two of the six organizations being selected for a \$25,000 NHCF grant.

Mr. Scott Lunsden, the designated "Monadnock Maker" representative that will attend the pitch-camp, spoke in more detail about the proposed makerspace project for Peterborough. Mr. Lumsden talked broadly about the collaborative makerspace concept, some of the machines and technologies that the space would feature, and how this concept can help to connect makers with interested artisans and students.

Mr. Ward made a motion to support the NHCF grant application as a town; Ms. Thomas seconded. Mr. Ward, Ms. Thomas, and Chair Miller voted in favor the motion; the motion carried.

Recycling Center Overview: Current Policies and Options for Going Forward

In light of recent issues and discussion about the "picking" policy at the Recycling Center, Mr. Bartlett provided a list of potential options for the Select Board to consider. The list included the following options:

- 1) Status quo, no changes.
- 2) Status quo for the public with work time restrictions on employees

- 3) Realignment of drop off areas to separate weekly volumes from long term volumes, no picking in the long term areas.
- 4) Staff picks all materials perceived to be valuable to the public and places in a separate area for picking, no access to long term areas.
- 5) No public access to picking areas
- 6) Establish a task force of 5-7 people to provide an overview of today's operation and where the future should go. Scott Bradford and Seth MacLean would provide staff support.

Mr. Bartlett recommended option 6; the formation of a task force to comprehensively evaluate current and future operations and policies. He added that Peterborough is uniquely positioned to involve the public in this process, especially given the community value placed on this facility.

Loretta Laurenitis asked that Scott Bradford, the Recycling Center Supervisor, speak to the current policy in place at the center. Mr. Bradford stated that the current policy is centered on reduction by letting the public take whatever they would like, with the exception of valuable commodities such as brass. If the public requests something in particular, the Center doesn't go looking for it specifically but will keep an eye out for the item and set it aside if the staff runs into it. If more than one person is requesting the same item, the first person that requested the item get priority. Mr. Bradford added that the current method does not diminish productivity, and that the Center receives anywhere from 5 to 20 requests for specific items per week.

Leslie Lewis asked why this has recently become an issue? Mr. Bradford responded that this issue has come about as a result of an issue with a resident.

Mr. Ward asked if there has been more than one complaint. Ms. Brenner responded that there have been numerous complaints over the years regarding the Recycling Centers picking policy.

Pat Neary asked if Mr. Bradford could elaborate on the composition of the work-force of the Recycling Center. Mr. Bradford responded that there are 3 full-time employees, and 1 part-time employee.

A few residents spoke in favor of leaving the current policy alone, indicating that they are pleased with the staff and the way things are current running.

Steve Hoadley spoke about 2 large piles in the back of the facility that are posted as no picking. He commented that he felt that these piles should be listed as saleable.

Leslie Lewis offered the idea of a creating and implementing a sign-up sheet to take the pressure off of Mr. Bradford and eliminate the perception of favoritism.

Susan Mansfield indicated that she would like to hear from Ms. Brenner about other complaints she has heard. She also shared statistics from 2013 relative to the Peterborough Recycling Center, indicating that it had produced about \$96,000 in revenues in a "bad market".

Ms. Brenner responded with a positive recognition of current employees, stating that they are "unsurpassed in the state". She added that while it is one complaint that has prompted the recent discussion on the Recycling Center, she has received many inquiries about recycling center policy in recent years. Some examples of complaints include questions about fairness and staff taking items home for personal use. She added that there is currently no formal policy for picking at the facility, and that many residents have indicated that they are unaware of the informal policy outlined by Mr. Bradford. Ms. Brenner next detailed a story that highlighted the inherent problem with leaving policy informal and to the discretion of employees. She added that she felt option #6 was the appropriate next step to coming up with a formal policy that works for the residents of Peterborough; and, that this policy should be comprehensive so as to outline formal guidance for things such as picking, hours, cash management, staffing, and so on.

Mr. Bartlett added that this is an excellent opportunity to revisit this issue and see what direction we want to head in the future.

Chair Miller agreed with the idea of a task-force, and commented that it should also be asking questions and researching opportunities for efficiency.

Mr. Ward stated his support for the task force, and volunteered to be directly involved with it.

Ms. Thomas also stated her support for the task force.

Andrea Caldwell commented that civic responsibility is a big part of this, as the Recycling Center is an important way to share with people in need.

Chair Miller asked how the Town would go about recruiting for the task force. Ms. Brenner responded that sign-up sheets will be created and that information would go out to the local paper and social media to recruit interested individuals. She also added that those in attendance should sign up for consideration.

Cindy Slauser commented that she feels the number of task force members should be limited.

Chair Miller made a motion to create the Recycling Center Task Force; Mr. Ward seconded. Chair Miller, Mr. Ward, and Ms. Thomas voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Review and Approval of Minutes for August 3rd, 2014

Mr. Ward commented on an error found in the August 3rd, 2014 minutes in which Andrea Caldwell was appointed to the Agricultural Commission, and not the Conservation Commission. He requested that the minutes in question be revised.

Chair Miller made a motion to accept the August 3rd, 2014 Select Board minutes as amended; Ms. Thomas seconded. Chair Miller, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Ward voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

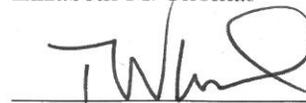
As there was no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Seth MacLean, Intern

PETERBOROUGH
SELECT BOARD:


Barbara A. Miller, Chair

Elizabeth M. Thomas


Tyler Ward

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST