

**Town of Grafton  
Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

**Members Present:** Leon Dugan, Chairman, Steve Darrow, Jennie Joyce, Sue Smith (recorder)

**Others Present:** John Babiarz, Chris Fournier, Sandy Griffin, Catherine Mulholland, Janet St. Laurent, Maureen O'Reilly, Bob Bassett, Elaina Bergamini

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Steve motioned to accept the public and non-public minutes of May 7, 2019. Jennie seconded both sets of minutes. Motion passed.

**Selectmen Announcements:**

Leon announced that the 2019 1<sup>st</sup> half property tax bills have been mailed.

**Ex-Officio Reports:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Appointments:**

Chris Fournier, HEB Engineers, met with the selectmen to give the following updates on current projects stemming from the October 2017 storm:

- Wild Meadows Rd Culvert #1 – NH DES is not permitting the wetlands application that was submitted March 2019. However, NH DES did state that the town can either 1) clean out the culverts, which is a temporary fix or 2) culvert replacement, which FEMA stated they won't cover. Chris informed the selectmen that he could push FEMA to fund under 'codes and standards'. A response to NH DES is due July 7<sup>th</sup>. Both Steve and Leon stated that a culvert replacement is the better option and gave Chris the go ahead to start on this project. Bob stated that he will clean out the current culverts in anticipation for the replacement ones.
- Wild Meadows Rd Culvert #2 – A grant, up to \$128,250 was awarded by NH-HSEM. This project is currently under FEMA review for formal award. Once awarded, HEB will provide proposal, design and permitting. This will be a 4' wide by 8' high box culvert. Construction is proposed for 2020.
- Wild Meadows Stone Culvert – this is located near the old gravel pit and is on the historical register. This proposal was provided in 2018 but is on hold at this time.
- Wentworth Rd Culvert – FEMA is not funding. A 4' diameter culvert has already been purchased for this project and a maintenance notification will be sent to NH DES.
- Culvert Assessments – The town needs to choose 5 culverts for a study to be done by HEB. The following three locations have been chosen: Johnson Lane, Davis Rd, Razor Hill Rd/Snug Harbor Rd

- NHDOT State Bridge Aid Projects – Wild Meadows Rd Bridge #210/107 and Prescott Hill Rd Bridge #136/050. NHDOT has not programmed the project and likely not funding until 2032+.
- Millbrook Rd Bridge #161/135 (Dam Bridge) is currently rated ‘6-Satisfactory’. Possibility of have this repaired in the future.
- Davis Rd Bridge (new) – dual culverts meet NHDOT’s definition of a bridge, however NHDOT is not accepting new projects at this time.

The selectmen thanked Chris for meeting with them and for providing the updates.

Sandy Griffin met with the selectmen to discuss placing a sign on the Town Common. Sandy submitted a proposal from Myers Designs, LLC for the selectmen to review. The sign will be two-sided, made from 3/4” PVC up to 4’ x 8’ with vinyl overlay, which is digitally printed and laminated. Should the town submit a design, the fee is \$25 for set-up with print file ready instead of \$55 per hour. The estimated time of delivery is 4-6 weeks. Cost of a completed sign ranges from \$600 - \$1000 dependent on the complexity of the design. After a brief discussion, the selectmen gave Sandy permission to proceed with having a sign made for the Town Common.

Janet St. Laurent stated that 40 starter trees are soon arriving and have people willing to plant the trees throughout the town. She asked the selectmen if some of the starters could be planted on the Town Common, Town Hall and recreation field. The selectmen gave her permission to plant in these areas. Janet asked Bob if the Highway Dept had any wiring that could be used to place around the starters. Bob stated that the Highway Dept did not, but the Recycle Center does get quite a bit in and he will save some for Janet.

Elaina Bergamini met with the selectmen to continue a discussion regarding a purchase and sales agreement between Mascoma Valley Preservation (MVP) and Peaceful Assembly Church (PAC).

- Selectmen are not in a position to give away more of the Town’s resources without consent of the voters.
- The Town will not enter into any further agreements with PAC as the court has delivered final decision.
- Should MVPS wish to approach the Town in the future for additional resources, they would need to petition the town and add to the Warrant.
- The most that the Town would consider waiving would be the 2017, 2018 and 2019 property taxes because these are not part of the lien.

It was decided that this discussion would be continued between the Town’s attorney and MVP’s attorney with selectmen input.

**New Business:**

338 Dean Rd (tax deeded property) – The selectmen were informed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bidder of the auction of 338 Dean Rd is interested in purchasing the property for \$25,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bidder’s original bid. The 1<sup>st</sup> highest bidder decided he could not pay for the property. After a brief discussion, the selectmen agreed to allow the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bidder to purchase the property. The previous property

owners will be sent a 90 day repurchase notification as the Town has not owned the property for more than 3 years.

**Other Business/Correspondence:**

The Board reviewed and signed the following:

- Abatement Application – Desilets (Map 17 Lot 490). Steve motioned to accept the recommendation from the assessor to deny the application. Jennie second. Motion passed.
- Cemetery Trustee – the Board signed the cemetery deed with John Babiarz notarizing their signatures.

Bob Bassett informed the Board that the #2 10 wheeler, still under warranty, left on a tow truck today for repairs. Bob also stated that he will pick-up the Roll-off Truck either this Friday or the following Monday.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Approvals for Operations for Map 11 Lot 339 and Map 6 Lot 575-15
- Email from Sandy Griffin, Trustees of the Trust Fund re: custodial change from Bearing Point Wealth Partners to Fidelity.
- Grafton County Commissioners’ proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

**Public Comment:** None

**Final Comments from Selectmen:** None

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Steve second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant