

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018
7:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Adams, Nancy Adams, Bill Brower, Marla Butts, Michael Dougherty, Dorothy & Wayne Durst, David Fortin, Brian Griffith, Paul Lynn, David Mullen, Paul Oleszewski, Jean Pillo and Chris Sandford.

1. Call to Order: First Selectmen Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the June 7, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting and May 30, 2018, and two June 1, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen's Meetings.

Selectmen Frank Olah would like to amend the minutes of the June 7, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes under section **6. Discussion with Fire Chiefs re: QVEC** at the end of the discussion to add **Frank Olah was very concerned with items #1, #2 and #7 of Bungay Fire Brigade Chief Roy Chandler's memo that was included in tonight's packet. He feels that the situations described are quite disturbing and border on incompetency.**

Selectmen Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes of May 30, 2018, the two Special Meeting minutes of June 1st as presented, and the minutes for the Regular June 7, 2018 as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider the Appointment of Nancy Adams as an Alternate Member of the Arboretum Committee for the term of June 21, 2018 through November 19, 2019.

Ms. Adams informed the Board that she had grown up in Woodstock, and had spent the last 32 years residing in Hawaii. She and her husband returned to Woodstock two years ago to care for aging parents. She has volunteered time at the Arboretum and feels that it is a hidden treasure.

Chairman of the Arboretum Bill Brower highly recommended Ms. Adams for the position of Alternate Member of the Arboretum Committee and mentioned that she is completing her UCONN Master Gardner's credentials.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to appoint Nancy Adams as an Alternate Member of the Arboretum Committee for the term of June 21, 2018 through November 19, 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Brower informed the Board that the construction cost of the stone bridge at the Arboretum came in lower than expected, and that the Committee was able to buy more stone dust for the paths.

4. Consider the Reappointment of Members of the Crystal Pond Park Commission for the term of June 21, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

- Brian Griffin as a Full Member**
- Paul Oleszewski as a Full Member**
- David Mullen as an Alternate Member**

Brian Griffin updated the Board on the projects at Crystal Pond Park. They are currently painting and doing other maintenance work on the cottages. The Disc Golf Course is doing extremely well. Currently the care taker cottage is empty. Past experience has shown that having a live-in care taker caused more problems than it was worth.

Mr. Olah made a motion to reappoint Brian Griffin and Paul Oleszewski as Full Members of the Crystal Park Commission and David Mullen as an Alternate Member of the Crystal Park Commission for the term of June 21, 2018 through June 30, 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider the Reappointment of Jean Pillo as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the term of June 21, 2018 through March 31, 2023.

Jean Pillo informed the Board that the Conservation Commission and the Last Green Valley have worked to bring programs to the area such as one recently held on Gypsy Moths. The forestry program on Town property on Quarry Road is almost complete.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to reappoint Jean Pillo as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the term of June 21, 2018 through March 31, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Recreation Director Update.

Crystal Adams, Recreation Director, announced that the Recreation Department now has a Facebook page with over 160 followers at this point. The Summer Fun Guide is out, and is available at the Town Hall, the libraries and the schools. The Town Beach is open and the bathrooms are open on the weekends.

Both Mr. Alberts and Ms. Adams expressed their enthusiasm over the possibility of Woodstock Academy leasing, improving and maintaining the tennis courts located at the Woodstock Middle School. Mr. Alberts stated that the Town Attorney would be approached about drafting a long term lease agreement, and that it may need to go to Town Meeting for approval.

Ms. Adams stated that there were 30 people on the map for the Town Wide Yard Sale, and 13 people signed up for space in the Town Hall parking lot. This event raised \$1700.00 for TEEG.

The Memorial Day Road Race was well attended.

The Woodstock Middle School Playground is 98% funded. There will be a Wiffle Ball game fundraiser in the future, and the Kiss-a-Goat fundraiser raised \$700.00. Mr. Alberts is the lucky winner for the Town of Woodstock, and he will kiss the goat at the opening of the playground this summer.

7. Discussion of NECCOG Engineering Services.

Mr. Alberts explained that the current contract with NECCOG for Engineering Services expires on June 30, 2018. Highway Foreman John Navarro has gotten notification from the State Department of Transportation that there is money available for bridge work through the State of Connecticut and possibly through a STEAP grant. NECCOG's engineer does not have bridge engineering experience. However CME Associates Inc does have extensive experience on bridge projects, and they have agreed to be available to the Town for those projects. Mr. Alberts would like to renegotiate the engineering contract to be based on an hourly rate, for projects that NECCOG engineering services are used for, instead of a contractual amount paid up front for engineering services.

Mr. Wayne Durst remarked that there is a lot of encouragement for regionalization. He questioned if there was a way to file formal complaints.

Mr. Alberts stated that if people has concerns that they should work with NECCOG to work things out. If that fails than go to the Town. Mr. Alberts also explained that NECCOG works for the Towns that they service, and fees are based on population. Services can be billed for services or paid in a lump sum.

8. Discussions of Possible Changes in By-Laws by the Woodstock Academy's Board of Trustees Regarding the Board of Education Representation.

Mr. Alberts stressed that this agenda item was purely conversational and that the Board of Selectmen has no input on changes to Woodstock Academy's by-laws.

Headmaster Chris Sandford explained that Woodstock Academy's by-laws have not been updated since 1992, and the Board of Trustees decided to form a subcommittee to review and update the by-laws. Since 1992 more towns have started to send students to Woodstock Academy. Two of those towns, Union and Canterbury currently have no representation on the Board. Because there can only be a certain number of people on the Board of Trustees the subcommittee is suggesting that each sending town Board of Education only send one representative. This will allow Canterbury and Union to have a representative on the Board. Mr. Sandford also pointed out that most of the members on the Board of Trustees are Woodstock residents. Mr. Sandford explained that the new by-laws will be voted on at the next Incorporators meeting.

Mrs. Megan Bard Morse assured the Board of Selectmen that the Board of Education's representative has been keeping the Board of Education updated on the possible by-law changes.

Mr. Olah thanked Mr. Sandford for attending the meeting and clearing up any confusion there might have been on this issue.

9. Tax Rebates.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve a tax rebate to JP Morgan Chase Bank for tax adjustment of a leased vehicle trade in the amount of \$292.23 and a tax rebate to David E. and Janice L. Ash in the amount of \$1000.00 for the over payment of Real Estate taxes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

10. Correspondence and Announcements.

The resignation of Iride Pearce from the Arboretum Committee has been received.

A letter of resignation from Bet Zimmerman Smith from the Conservation Commission has been received.

NECCOG has sent a copy of the 2018-2019 Work Plan and Budget and a complete work sheet from the State of Connecticut on how to calculate State Aid Options to fund COGs. A Lease to Purchase agreement between the Town of Killingly and NECOGG has been signed. NECCOG still wants to build a hazardous waste facility, however NECCOG is having a difficult time finding a site to locate the facility due to the fears that the State may renege on the funding.

An email has been received from Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick stating that \$191,714.84 will be received from the State tomorrow for Town Road Aid.

The Agricultural Committee will be available to meet with the Board of Selectmen on August 20, 2018, at 1:00pm to discuss reviewing ordinances pertaining to farming. CCM has sent copies of ordinances from other towns for them to review.

An email from Brad Cheney of CME Associates Inc was received confirming that they have staff available to help with the bridge projects.

An invitation from the Wyndham Land Trust has been received for a program on their Bull Hill Road property on July 12, 2018, from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Aaron Gosselin is the new representative State Trooper for the Town of Woodstock. Mr. Alberts further explained that there is only one State Trooper assigned to the towns of Woodstock, Hampton, Chaplin, Thompson, Eastford and Pomfret. He feels that it may be time to look into the Resident State Trooper program and see if there are any Federal or State grants to fund State Trooper.

Mr. Alberts announced that a Building Official and a Zoning Official has been hired. He will be setting up an appointment with the Inland-Wetlands Chair and others to discuss how to go about assisting the Inland-Wetlands department.

Marla Butts, a member of the Inland-Wetlands and Watercourses Agency stated that it was unrealistic to expect a volunteer member of the Agency to be available to receive applications.

11. Citizen's Comments.

Amy Neal, representing YMCA Camp Woodstock and Jessica Katinas expressed their disappointment in how NECCOG handles feral cat problems, especially the feral cat colony located at the YMCA camp. Melissa Messier from South Killingly also informed the Board on the lack of response that she has gotten from NECCOG in regards to barking dogs in her neighborhood.

Mr. Alberts stated that he has not received similar complaints about NECCOG from Woodstock residents and that Ms. Messier needs to make the Town Manager of Killingly aware of her complaints. He also stated that once the new animal control facility is built at NECCOG it will be able to handle more animals.

Ms. Neal stated that according to the grant for the new facility NECCOG needs to form a committee that includes a local vet and two rescue groups before the plans could be released, which they did not do. Mr. Olah expressed his concerns with the health hazard of having children around feral cats that could possibly be infected with rabies.

Mr. Durst and Mr. Fortin expressed their concerns in regards to minutes not being posted on the town website in a timely manner.

Mrs. Butts stated that State Statute dictates when an agency does not have a staffed office that the Town Clerk's office must act as a repository for that office. Mrs. Butts feels that the Town Clerk's office must be available to receive Inland Wetlands & Watercourses applications. Mr. Alberts reminded Mrs. Butts that State Statute is often contradictory. State Statute also says that an elected official can set their own hours of operation.

Mr. Alberts stated that the visit to the Emergency Centers will need to be postponed.

Mr. Alberts would also like to hold a Special Board of Selectmen's meeting to be held after the results of the referendum on June 25, 2018 to discuss any possible action that may need to be taken.

Christine French announced that former Assistant to the Assessor, Dorothy Berube passed away this morning.

12. Adjournment.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 8:37pm. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine G. French, Clerk

