

**Town of Woodstock  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 15, 2018  
7:00 PM – Room A**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Michael Alberts, Frank Olah, Chandler Paquette

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dawn Adiletta, Joni Cullan, Mitchell Eaffy, Paul Lynn, Megan Bard Morse, Kevin Withers

**1. Call to Order**

First Selectman Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Paquette moved** to change the order of the agenda items to move item 7, Citizen's Comments, prior to item 6, Correspondence and Announcements. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

**Olah moved** to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Review and Acceptance of Bradford-Marcy Cemetery Historical Properties Study Report**

Alberts stated that the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery Historical Properties Study Report was reviewed at the last meeting. No action was taken at that time because there was a question about whether the town could claim ownership of the property. The Selectmen received correspondence from the Town Attorney addressing whether the town can take ownership of the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery as there is no formal documentation of ownership. His response included two legal processes to make a claim for ownership of the property. Those are by a means of either a) Connecticut's Abandoned Cemetery Statute or b) Ownership of Cemetery by Adverse Possession. In the Town Attorney's conclusion, he reflects that initiating the ownership process under the Abandoned Cemetery Statute appears to be the optimum way to address the situation if the facts support it. **Paquette moved** to accept the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery Historical Properties Study Report. **Motion carried unanimously.** This will allow the committee to move forward.

**4. Discussion of Open Space Land Acquisition Committee's Next Project**

Dawn Adiletta, Chairperson of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, reported they have been working on purchasing the development rights of property at 210 Child Hill Road (Valleyside Farm), totaling 129 +/- acres. The family wishes to protect their property. Adiletta reviewed the process with the Selectmen. After review and approval by the Board of Finance, Conservation Commission, Agriculture Committee, and Planning and Zoning, the

Open Space Committee will ask for the Board of Selectmen's approval to bring the purchase of the property to a town meeting and referendum. This project conforms to Woodstock's Plan of Conservation and Development and meets the State of Connecticut's guidelines for participation in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) also known as the Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR). The State of Connecticut and Federal Government have allocated their portions of the necessary funds (\$350,000+) to purchase the development rights for this land. The town's expenditure of up to \$140,000 will need to be brought to a town meeting and referendum as it is over the \$100,000 maximum. The town's share will come from the money available in the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Fund, a designated fund that can only be used for the acquisition and/or preservation of open space and farmland. They are beginning to provide the information to the public. It is important for people to understand that the funds do not impact the budget. If approved, Woodstock would not be purchasing the land; Woodstock would be a partner with the state to purchase the development rights of the land. Adiletta received a strong consensus by the Board of Selectmen to move forward.

## **5. Tax Rebates**

None.

## **6. Citizen's Comments**

Mitchell Eaffy spoke on behalf of Bill Brower regarding three special projects that the Arboretum Committee wants to complete at the Arboretum. They are: 1) fixing the drainage, 2) putting crushed stone on the path, and 3) placing pads under the benches to prevent the legs from sinking into the ground. Eaffy asked for a consensus of support by the Board of Selectmen for the Arboretum Committee to ask the Board of Finance for approximately \$5,000/\$6,000 from the CNR account to pay for these projects. The Board of Selectmen gave Eaffy their consensus and suggested the Arboretum Committee ask for up to \$10,000 to be sure enough money is appropriated. Eaffy expressed his support for the purchase of the development rights for the Valleyside Farm property.

Paul Lynn asked for clarification about who has been mowing the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery and who has been funding the mowing. The Selectmen said the town has been paying Mark Parker to mow the cemetery.

Dawn Adiletta asked if the Cemetery is abandoned, would anyone who owns a plot be able to be buried there in the future? Discussion took place about the cemetery. There have not been any burials in the cemetery since 1982.

## **7. Correspondence and Announcements**

Alberts spoke about the following:

- a. The Treasurer submitted her monthly report. Alberts highlighted collections to date that totaled \$17,225,674.76, exceeding the budget projection of \$17,181,785.00.
- b. The Selectmen have heard from Muddy Brook and Bungay Fire Departments who are concerned in town about the quality of QV Dispatch's services. The Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association reported they have not experienced any issues with QV

Dispatch and believe it is in the best interest of the people they serve to continue with QV Dispatch services. Representatives from QV Dispatch will be making a presentation at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting. Joni Cullan will invite David Elliott, John Bottone and the chiefs from all the fire departments to the meeting.

- c. A resident of Bull Hill Road sent the First Selectman an email reporting the Land Trust will be holding an event in June. The resident wanted to know what the Board of Selectmen's decision will be so they can coordinate with their legal counsel. The Selectmen will get a surveyor to measure the road when the weather improves and in the meantime, they will continue to maintain the road as usual.
- d. A letter was received from Robert Kirk thanking the Board of Selectmen for appropriating money in next year's budget for the Community Kitchen of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock.
- e. Alberts reported 10 transfer station permits have been purchased by Pomfret residents. John Navarro indicated that the "hours of operation" sign for the transfer station is currently at Bear Paw Signs to reflect the updated change in hours. He said he will check on the status of the sign.
- f. Alberts explained that he was asked by the Board of Finance to negotiate with Headmaster Sandford about Woodstock Academy and payment in lieu of taxes. Alberts said Sandford was open to a meeting but reminded him of all the things the Academy does for the community. Olah asked if the Assessor could look at the buildings the Academy owns to determine whether or not those buildings are being used for educational purposes as it relates to taxes. Alberts asked the Assessor to meet with the Board of Selectmen to review the grand list which would encompass Olah's question.
- g. After reviewing the Roseland Lake report, Olah questioned using the impervious cover for the Town Hall parking lot vs. possibly using a material that allows the water to seep into the ground rather than collecting in a catch basin. The Selectmen discussed it and thought the maintenance cost could be significant and the plowing snow could be problematic.
- h. Alberts notified the Selectman that he had a discussion yesterday with the Town Attorney because we are still waiting for guidance regarding the Prop 46 discussion. The Attorney indicated he wants to fully give the Board of Education's Attorney proper respect and review the town's past practice as it relates to state mandates. The Board of Finance would like the Selectmen to present the General Government budget at the Board of Finance meeting next week. Because of the specifics with the budget the Board of Selectmen approved, Alberts scheduled a meeting with the staff at the Town Hall for next Wednesday at 5pm and invited the other Selectmen to attend. The proposed agreement with the building official has not been presented to him yet. The Attorney wants to be sure that what is included in the agreement is as accurate as possible.
- i. Alberts attended a meeting held at NECCOG. Alberts indicated that Woodstock was not interested in the social services/veterans services at this time. Brooklyn confirmed their interest in participating in a shared planner for the upcoming fiscal year. He expressed interest on behalf of the Town of Woodstock for joint auditing services knowing that the Board of Finance has the final decision on the auditor for the Town. He also expressed the Town's interest in the concept of a shared assessor which could be considered later by other towns. Olah asked if NECCOG was an

optional membership. Alberts reported that every community in the state is a member of a Council of Governments and that it is not an optional membership.

## **8. Adjournment**

**Paquette moved** to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Joni Cullan, Recording Clerk