

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
July 22, 2015 at 6:00 pm
Minutes

Present: Diane Chapman, Tom Fitzgerald, Jake White, John Gannon and Susan Haughwout

Others Present: Town Manager Scott Murphy, Deborah Kingsley, Mike Eldred, Chris Mays, Wendy Manners-Seaman, Carolyn Palmer, Peter Wallace, Roberta Carey, Vincent Rice, Anna Drozdowski, Thomas Hall, Melinda Coombs.

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda

-Murphy stated that a special events permit was added to the agenda.

2. Approve Minutes of July 7, 2015

-White moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2015, Gannon second; Susan Haughwout abstained because she was not present, all else approved.

3. Action Items

-A request for a new road name, Mountain Ridge Drive, was presented to the Selectboard to be approved. A question was asked about the exact location of the proposed new private road. The request was presented as well to the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Deerfield Valley Rescue, and was approved by them. A motion was made by Susan Haughwout to approve the new name, seconded by Diane Chapman, all were in favor. It is a private road, not maintained by the Town of Wilmington.

A request from Vt. Distillers Inc. for a Special Event permit to the Department of Liquor Control for the Blueberry Festival on August 8, 2015. He will be located on South Main Street. A motion was made by Susan Haughwout to approve the permit, seconded by Jake White, all were in favor.

4. (5) Diane Chapman moved to go into Sewer Commission Board

The Town Manager, Scott Murphy, explained to the Board that the sewer budget was approved in January, 2015. As a result of the budget approval the recommended rate for ECU is \$354.64 for the coming year. Last year's rate was \$352.72. A motion was made by Jake White to set the sewer rate at \$354.64, seconded by Diane Chapman, all were in favor.

Scott Murphy informed the board that an application has been received by Sandri Realty, Inc. to reopen the gas station with a Dunkin Donuts store and purchase extra sewer allocation so they might have 10 restaurant seats. This works out to an extra 500 gpd. This would be for a preliminary approval. A question was asked concerning the fee (\$1250) that must be paid before the permit is issued and what happens to that money if the final approval is not given. Scott will check and send e-mail to the board. Susan Haughwout made a motion to approve the preliminary application, Jake White seconded it, all were in favor.

The Board came out of the Sewer Commission.

5. (6) The board discussed the classification of a section of Haystack Road that runs from Mann Road to its intersection with Forbush Rd. A question was asked concerning the upgrade of the road to a class 3, no commitment has been made from the interested parties.

A motion was made by Susan Haughwout to classify the road as a class 4 road, seconded by Tom Fitzgerald, all were in favor.

6. (8) A discussion concerning amending the Wilmington Revolving Loan Program. This fund is to help new or existing businesses start up or relocate in the town; as well as help businesses that are already in the Town to expand. This fund is not available for non-profit entities. Susan Haughwout thought the Board should make some changes to Section A – Eligibility, add non-profit. Section B – Have an exception to the loan amount. Suggested Exemption “The maximum loan amount may be waived at the discretion of the Selectboard for projects that have special significance to the town and/or a positive town-wide impact.” Tom Fitzgerald inquired about the amount of money in the account. There is \$42,000 in outstanding loans with a cap of \$75,000. More discussion will be held at a later date.

7. (4) Mr. Timothy A. Hall came before the Board to be interviewed for a position on the DRB Board. The Board wanted to know why he was interested in becoming a member of the DRB. He responded that he wanted to give back to the community, since he owns a home in Wilmington. He and his wife come up every weekend and it would be no problem for him to be present at the Monday night meetings. He owns his own business, so he sets his own schedule-so attendance would not be an issue. They would like to retire in Vermont and set up a branch office here. The Board gave him a brief rundown of what he would need to do to prepare himself for the position. A motion was made to appoint Mr. Hall to the DRB, seconded by Jake White, all were in favor.

8. (9) Wendy Manners-Seaman and Carolyn Palmer came before the Board to discuss the changes that the Board might want for the Historic District. Do they want to extend the Historic District, have different districts within the town. Mr. Gannon has looked up the language in the Bennington District concerning demolishing buildings, which Wendy would like a copy of. No one seemed interested in

expanding the districts. Might consider have different districts with different requirements. The Board would like to get public input as well.

9. (7) Glebe land lease and well on Haystack Mountain. A letter was received from Attorney Chris Cady, responding to a request from the town to do research on the lease agreement between Wilmington and the Hermitage Club. Susan Haughwout withdrew from the Selectboard and sat with Roberta Cary of the Coldbrook Fire District, a representative of CBFDF to explain what needs to happen if the well is transferred to the District. The Fire District would need to be added to the lease in order for the well to be turned over to them. The Selectboard felt that as a courtesy Hermitage should have notified the town concerning the well. The well is not in the watershed district, so no permit was necessary. The Selectboard asked Scott to go back to the Hermitage Club and ask them to seek permission from the town if they are going to do any more wells, plus a map as to where the wells are. Section 14 of the Lease seems to state the Town should be notified.
10. Wilmington Water District update. Susan Haughwout is the selectperson that goes to the water district meetings. If the water district wants to move forward with the merger, it will be a long process. There would be a vote of all the residents, not just the residents in the district. Several concerns were brought up with the funding that is necessary to make changes within the district. If/when the merger happens who will take over the balance of the remaining money owed and will the rate change? Some of the administrative employees of the water district want to leave their positions, so what will happen with billing and collecting funds? A timeline needs to be established as well. Scott informed the selectboard that the town has already offered help to the district if they need it. Scott will get in touch with Ashley Lucht and Wayne Elliot to help with the funding issues and timeline questions.
11. The board went over the correspondence-no comments.
12. Other business-no comments
13. Selectboard comments and Other Action Items:

-Jake White talked about the paving that was done at the Buzzy Towne Playground. There were 4 boys at the park when Jake was there and a suggestion was made to get patches for the boys and make them rangers of the park!

-John Gannon and Susan Haughwout made comments concerning the police department. Scott and the Board agreed to invite the Chief in to discuss the workings of the Police Department.

There was a request from Dennis Richter, as a member of the Wilmington School Board, to setup a meeting to discuss the use of the High School. Diane said that she had spoken to Dennis, so now it was up to him to set the time.

It was mentioned that Scott's evaluation was supposed to be done last year and it was not done because the format was not an acceptable one. Tom Fitzgerald will look into other evaluation methods and will set a date for the evaluation for the 2nd meeting in September. Scott stated that his contract was up in October and it also included a provision for a merit increase or decrease. It has been a 1 ½ years since an evaluation was completed.

14. Town Manager updates:

Scott has received the preliminary design for the pedestrian footbridge elevation. It will need to be raise 4.5 feet on the Route 9 side. The other side will just need a ramp for access. The projected cost is approximately \$2,500, not to exceed \$5,000.

There is an application for new lights for the pergola in town. It was felt that it would be a good idea to withdraw the application and a reference was made to Section 550 Municipal Exemptions of the Zoning Ordinance that requires the Selectboard to decide whether it is in the best interest of the town, it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Scott mentioned to the Board that there was a hole in the pavement in the bridge near Dot's. The state will be down on July 23rd to determine how bad the hole is and the possible fix. Billy Hunt and the Town manager are concerned about the condition of the bridge.

The next meeting will be August 5, 2015 and Rep Ann Manwaring and Laura Sibilia will attend that meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Kingsley

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Diane Chapman, Chair

Thomas J. Fitzgerald, Vice Chair

Susan Joy Haughwout, Clerk

Jacob White

John Gannon