

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Selectboard Meeting
Town Hall - 16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
January 25, 2021

Call to Order

The Allenstown Selectboard Meeting of January 25, 2021 was called to order by Chair Sandy McKenney at 6:19 pm.

Chair McKenney called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following statement, authorizing the Selectboard to hold a virtual meeting and providing the guidelines for participation, was read for the record.

As Chair of the Allenstown Board of Selectmen, I, Sandra McKenney, find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is limited seating for observing and listening contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are utilizing a Conference Call Line (603-485-7321, password 1234), which is the official connection, and Zoom Video Conferencing. We will also be using Facebook Live, although it has a 20 second lag, and we do not follow the Facebook comments. All members of the Board of Selectmen have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through one of these platforms. If Facebook Live gets shut off, it cannot be restored, so listeners would have to tune in through ZOOM or call the Conference Line, which is the official platform. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the Town of Allenstown Board of Selectmen page attached to the agenda for the Meeting. If anybody has a problem, please call 207-595-0310 or email at: dgoodine@allenstownnh.gov. If the video begins to lag, or there are rare audio issues, then please call the conference line to listen to the meeting. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the conference line, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. The meeting will only be adjourned if the Conference Line fails to work. The meeting may be paused if the video links fail and a quorum of the Selectboard is needed on the conference call.

Roll Call

Present on the Board: Sandy McKenney, Scott McDonald, Maureen Higham

Allenstown staff: Derik Goodine, Town Administrator

Others present: Matt Weiczahlek-Seiler, Concord Hometown Heroes Banners; Bill Rohr, Organizer of Suicide Awareness Flag Displays; Kim Hebert, Organizer of Suicide Awareness Flag Display/Carrier of

Honor Bear; Michael Frascinella, EDC Chair; Captain Evan McIntosh; Town Attorney Sharon Somers, Tim Blagdon, Friends of Concord-Mt. Sunapee Rail Trail; Mike Tardiff, CNHRPC Executive Director; Chad Pelissier, Road Agent

Regular Agenda

▪ Suicide Awareness Flag Display

Mr. Weiczahlek-Seiler thanked the Board members for their time and explained that they had changed the venue for their Suicide Awareness Flag Display from the Town Hall lawn to the Police Station. Trish Caruso, he said, had checked with Chief Stark about the change. He said that their display includes 660 flags representing the 660 veterans who die each month of suicide; five (5) flags indicating the five (5) police officers and firefighters who die of suicide monthly; and one flag is for the active-duty National Guard member who commits suicide every month. He said the display will be left for 30 days; at which time they will return to take it down. He said that this is a lovely tribute which brings good public awareness. He added that the display is lit at night.

Chair McKenney asked about the dates for this event.

Mr. Rohr said it would probably be from mid-May to mid-June.

Ms. Hebert said that, Ideally, it would coincide with a local Allenstown event.

▪ Public Transportation

Mr. Goodine introduced Mike Tardiff, Executive Director of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC).

Mr. Tardiff stated that CNHRPC is seeking Federal Transit Administration money to fund a cost/benefit analysis of public transportation from Concord through Pembroke, then to Allenstown, and eventually to connect with the MTA. He said a letter of support from Town Administrator Derik Goodine would be helpful and very much appreciated. He said this would be great for seniors who travel to Concord for medical appointments, for example.

Chair McKenney stated that she thought this was looked into several years ago.

Mr. Tardiff said that it was, but there are more seniors now. He said that the funds are only available every other year, and there is no cost to the town.

▪ Rail Trail

Mr. Goodine stated that he and Chair McKenney met today with Town Attorney Sharon Somers, Tim Blagdon of the Friends of Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail, and four people from CNHRPC: Mike Tardiff, Matt Monahan, Dean Williams and Craig Tufts. They met, he said, to discuss the missing link on the Rail Trail which runs from Vermont to Methuen, MA., the section through Pembroke, Allenstown and Hooksett, he said.

Chair McKenney stated that she learned a lot at the meeting and doesn't want to miss the opportunity to complete Allenstown's portion of the Rail Trail.

Ms. Somers stated that Allenstown wanted a Phase I brownfields study as a condition of the purchase of the property for which they are now negotiating. However, the seller has rejected this condition. Ms. Somers said it would be up to the Select Board to decide about the study, but stated that there is no benefit to completing the study after the purchase, the risk of pollution being minimal. She said that they could be subject to DES requirements of well monitoring on nearby properties.

Mr. Blagdon said that it is unusual to do a brownfields study for a rail trail because the remedy for contaminants found is what is done to create the trail: sealing the surface with gravel and paving it over or placing crushed dust on the trail. He stated that he has done historical research on the usage of these railroad tracks. The trains through this area of Allenstown were just rolling, not stopping at industrial sites. Pollution is not a concern. Mr. Tufts has walked the trail and stated that it is not in bad shape. It is not swampy. In preparing the trail, Mr. Blagdon said, organic materials are pushed to the side and serve to hold the new materials in place. Continuing his report on his research, he said that he looked at the maps of Sanborn Fire Insurance Company from the late 1800's, as well as online historic topographic maps from UNH.

Mr. Goodine noted that Mr. Frascinella's research indicated that diesel fuel was used for only two years in the operation of the railroad. He said that the town already owns a lot of the land for the trail. Armand Verville, the local historian, does not remember any events along the trail area which might have caused pollution.

Mr. Frascinella said the only other possible pollutants would be coal ash and the railroad ties.

Mr. Blagdon said that doing a Phase I study was a prudent approach at the beginning, but unnecessary now. He said there were no buildings constructed along the trail until the 1960's.

Mr. Goodine asked how the town should proceed from here.

Mr. Blagdon said they should check for wetlands.

Mr. Goodine asked Ms. Somers to talk with the owners and let them know that the town wishes to proceed with the sale.

Ms. Somers agreed to do that, and said that, instead of a Phase I study, the town should compile, in a memo to file, the historical research done as an indication of due diligence.

Mr. Blagdon expressed thanks to Allenstown, saying people will be happy up and down the State.

Mr. Tardiff suggested pursuing an RPT grant for the development of the trail because that would be easier than working with the DOT, logistically.

Mr. Goodine said Allenstown would like to use as much of its own crew as possible. He also said that they have discussed a bridge over the river to connect with Pembroke.

Mr. Blagdon suggested joining with Pembroke or Hooksett because multi-town projects tend to rise to the top.

Mr. Goodine next asked about funding from the Locally Administered Transportation Program for the town's plan to dress up School Street with lighting, sidewalks and curbing improvements as part of its

ten-year plan. He said he is concerned because the minimum amount is \$400,000, with an 80/20 split. He said that \$80,000 is a lot of money for 3,000 feet.

Mr. Blagdon said there is an engineer on the CNHRPC staff who could create a rough plan and a cost estimate.

Mr. Tardiff pointed out that this is only a letter of intent, not a long-term commitment.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Frascinella first reported the arrival of the Welcome Banners, saying that they measure 24" X 48", as compared with first one which is 18" X 36". They were made by Sign World in Pennsylvania, with double thickness and printing on both sides. They will be displayed at the entrances to the town, Fire Department, Police Department and Schools. Matt Seiler of Hometown Heroes, he said, hooked him up with a great source for hardware. The banners will go up in the Spring, along with the American flags and the four Hometown Heroes banners. They will provide Eversource with maps of the locations. Second, Mr. Frascinella stated that busing kids to the new location will add \$100,000 to the School budget. Already, \$280,000 is spent transporting SPED kids and \$100,000 for conventional kids. He said that everyone east of Route 3 is bused so they don't have to cross Route 3. The new school would be two miles from downtown, so every kid will have to be bused. As his final item, Mr. Frascinella stated that the organization from which the town received a \$5,000 grant to help with election expenses is funded by \$350 million from Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and is sponsored by Obama holdovers and people of that ilk. He asked the town not to take money from them again because they are biased and partisan.

Mr. Goodine said the grant funds were used for extra clerks and payroll for processing. They did not send out postcards.

Mr. Frascinella said he has been reading some of Ronald Reagan's essays, one of which notes that allowing mail-in ballots has no influence on the number of registered voters and that it encourages laziness. Registering isn't participating, said Mr. Frascinella. He said that people used COVID to make people reluctant to vote in person.

Mr. McDonald asked if it was a pain dealing with the people offering the grant.

Mr. Goodine said no, he and Ms. Bender just had to figure out what is eligible.

Mr. McDonald said that it is 'dirty money'. He urged Mr. Goodine to 'spend it all and take no more', now that we know where it came from.

▪ Fire Department Fee Schedule

Mr. McDonald stated that some of the inspections on the Fee Schedule sound labor intensive.

Captain McIntosh said that many of them are, but they are being done now, with no fees charged.

Mr. McDonald noted that the Fire Department claims to not have time to check the cisterns and the hydrants.

Chair McKenney said they should table this discussion because both she and Mr. McDonald need more time to review the information.

Captain McIntosh clarified that the funds from the fees would not go to the Fire Department; they would go to the General Fund.

- **Fire Vehicles Discussion**

Captain McIntosh said that this item should be tabled because he is not authorized to speak on the subject and Chief St. Germain is not present to speak.

Mr. Goodine said that the Chief is proposing spending money to fix the older Forestry vehicles because the lead time for getting the new ones goes beyond 'fire season.' One vehicle would cost about \$2,000 and the other one, less than \$1,000.

Mr. McDonald said the spec work for the new vehicles could be done without making a down payment.

Mr. Goodine said the process can take two months from beginning to end.

Mr. Pelissier said that the specs work can be done ahead of time, and it takes only a few days to complete the purchase.

- **Fire Department Ad for Firefighter**

Mr. Goodine stated that Chief St. Germain's ad, which he would like to get out this weekend, needs to state that we are an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. He said he asked Mr. McDonald if call/per diem firefighters are required to be EMTs and was told they do not have to be EMTs.

Mr. Goodine stated that they may be shooting too high for qualifications if they want to get young people just starting out to apply. He questioned the salary of \$45,000.

Chair McKenney suggested the salary could be listed as a range or 'as qualified' versus an exact amount.

Ms. Higham said that Allenstown has eight fires per year; 80% of their calls are for EMTs.

Chair McKenney stated that the Allenstown Fire Department goes to all calls, whereas Pembroke does not, because of Tri-Town EMS.

Mr. Goodine said that, at this point, Chief St. Germain only wants a candidate pool.

Chair McKenney said that Chief St. Germain could proceed with the ad.

- **Budget Update**

Chair McKenney asked Ms. Higham and Mr. McDonald if they would be at the Deliberative Session on Saturday. They both told her they would be there.

Mr. McDonald noted that, at the Public Hearing on the Budget there were only three to five people there, besides the members of the Budget Committee, School and Town Officials & staff.

Ms. McKenney said there were only two people from the general public, one being Ms. Higham's husband.

Mr. McDonald said that, if some show up with good questions, that will be great.

Mr. Goodine said that voters must be present to ask questions and to vote.

Mr. Goodine said he participated in an excellent webinar on Municipal State Aid and Budget Sharing. He said the information is in the packets of the Board members. He said it discusses the different revenue sharing requirements and the statutes dictating how revenues are to be shared with the cities and towns. It notes that the Highway Block funds are down. He said that he recommends the webinar.

Chair McKenney said there is a House Bill proposing that the State dollars allocated to each student should go with the student going to an alternative/private school.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Goodine reported that he has posted on the front door of Town Hall the schedule for vaccinations for the various phases. He suggested that someone should reach out to the seniors at the Community Center who don't have email accounts.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Goodine reminded Mr. Pelissier of the meeting with Moderator Judy Silva regarding glass and other COVID-related issues for the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Goodine said that he wrote a letter to the DOT regarding dangerous trees across from Suncook Pond.

Mr. Pelissier reported on Pump Station construction progress. He said that the road work is done. Pembroke Water has decided to wait until a later time to do its road work. He said that he plans to remove and replace some old clay pipe with plastic in the area of a catch basin on the corner.

Other Business

Ms. McKenney stated that the wife of Sergeant Huber has posted on Facebook that she would like to ask that people to be allowed to post welcome home signs for him when he returns on Friday or Saturday evening from an overseas tour.

Road Agent Pelissier and Chief Stark said that they would help with that.

Chair McKenney reported that a developer, CMBE, LLC has sold land on Route 3 to Alan Cuartero. She also reported that the Way Home has sold two properties - 14 Ferry Street and 26 Ferry Street - for \$730,000. She said that 14 Ferry Street was listed at \$214,000 and 26 Ferry Street was listed at \$322,000. Twin Oaks sold a property listed at \$373,000 for \$185,000.

Chair McKenney said that Friday, January 29th is the last day to sign up for open local positions. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for this purpose, as required by State law.

Consent Agenda, Minutes and Manifests

Ms. Higham made a motion to ratify the Consent Calendar of the January 25, 2021 agenda. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Maureen Higham – Aye

Scott McDonald – Aye

Sandy McKenney – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Higham made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 and January 20, 2021 public sessions. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Maureen Higham – Aye

Scott McDonald – Aye

Sandy McKenney – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Higham made a motion to approve the minutes of non-public sessions I, II & III of the January 11, 2021 meeting. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Maureen Higham – Aye

Scott McDonald – Aye

Sandy McKenney – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Higham made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll Manifests listed on the January 25, 2021 agenda. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Maureen Higham – Aye

Scott McDonald – Aye

Sandy McKenney – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chair McKenney made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

Maureen Higham – Aye

Scott McDonald – Aye



Sandy McKenney – Aye

The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

**TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 25, 2021

SIGNATURE PAGE

Original Approval: 02 / 08 / 2021	
	03 / 05 / 2021
SANDRA MCKENNEY, Chair	DATE
	03 / 07 / 2021
MAUREEN HIGHAM, Vice Chair	DATE
SCOTT MCDONALD, Member	DATE

Amendment Approvals:		
Amendment Description:	Approval:	Date:
	SANDRA MCKENNEY, Chair	DATE
	MAUREEN HIGHAM, Vice Chair	DATE
	SCOTT MCDONALD, Member	DATE

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Sent for signature to Sandra McKenney (smckenney@allentownnh.gov), Maureen Higham (mhigham@allentownnh.gov) and Scott McDonald (smcdonald@allentownnh.gov) from dgoodine@allentownnh.gov
IP: 64.222.96.214



VIEWED

03 / 05 / 2021

16:32:34 UTC

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03 / 05 / 2021

16:33:03 UTC

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03 / 07 / 2021

22:10:35 UTC

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03 / 07 / 2021

22:12:43 UTC

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INCOMPLETE

03 / 07 / 2021

22:12:43 UTC

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