



## Selectmen's Meeting Summary May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Selectman Ken Ross-Raymond, Chair	Present
Selectman Pete Ballou	Present
Selectman Joe Schmidl	Present
Town Administrator Margaret Warren	Present
Administrative Assistant Kathie Downes	Present

Visitors: see sign in sheet attached with original summary on file.

Chairman Ross-Raymond called meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Review and Approve Minutes of last meeting

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  - May 7th, 2014 **Selectman Ballou moved to accept the public and non-public summaries as written, Selectman Schmidl seconded. All voted in favor.**
- Review Accounts Payable & Payroll registers. **Select board moved and accepted**

### Department Updates/Issues:

- Fire Chief MacDuffie – monthly update:
  - Appointing new deputy warden – Jake Otis – Selectmen signed paperwork.
  - Stats for last month: 6 ems; 1 service, 4 wires down, 1 mutual aid brush fire, 1 smoke investigation
  - Open House went well. Now have couple of new members – one all fire certified. Next year will not have on same date as town wide yard sale.
  - E911 Center re: Emergency Notice System (ENS) similar to reverse 911. Chief indicated this is not something fire would use very often so opts not to participate.
  - When they did the cleaning at fire station found an old chainsaw – there is a member who would like it - not worth anything. Selectmen have no problem with transferring chainsaw to individual but request Chief to have person sign for it as is and without safety equipment.
  - Sometime in the future we will need to reprogram radios in fire trucks to accommodate lakes region which is changing and at the present time it is more difficult to communicate with them.
  - Housekeeping issues:
    - Air Gas monthly bills – for rentals – on seven – TA Warren and Chief will monitor.
    - Also TA Warren will contact Unitil re: inquiry regarding changing billing address for fire dept. – no change is required.
    - Chief needs to get any new members info to TA Warren before end of June for renewal of insurance.
  - Dick Wright, Chief Coordinator of Capital Area Fire Compact is retiring and– Keith Gilbert will be new Coordinator.
- Dispatch – changing to State Police – 911 from Merrimack County. This will expedite calls to State Police. Chief MacDuffie does not feel the change will affect Fire as they do their

communicating with State Police directly. Only question is if there is a fee and TA Warren will follow up on this fact. Selectmen moved and seconded to move forward with this dispatch change.

- Karen Sheldon wanted to go on record to thank Ralph Downes and the Explorers for their excellent help with SHS Souper Bowl town hall set up. Also asked if going with State Police dispatch will alleviate paying Merrimack County.

**Searles Hill – Snowmobile Trail Discussion:** Chairman Ross-Raymond noted the Board has a request from a landowner re: Searles Hill and snowmobile trail. The request is for a discontinuance of the snowmobile trail on Searles Hill Road (Class VI road) for safety reasons. Representatives from Andover Snowmobile Club (Greg Miller, Alan Houle and Kim Taylor-Miller) and State Bureau of Trails (Shawn Violet) were invited for purposes of discussion concerning the safety issue as it relates to the road and snowmobiling.

Discussion – points made:

Landowners – Joe and Maria Laycox:

- Signs were added two years ago – it has not worked.
- School Bus stop is right in the middle of road and have a small child accessing that bus daily.
- Leaving driveway and entering Searles Hill Rd during inclement weather is very dangerous without having to worry about snowmobile traffic.
- We have already put in a lot of work to Searles Hill Rd to widen it and do not see any reason to put more money into more widening. We pay taxes and have already upgraded the road.
- Andover Snowmobile Club does not pay taxes to Salisbury. Landowners should concerns and safety should be first.
- Our request is for Selectmen to discontinue use of the road as a snowmobile trail for safety concerns for our family. If the decision is to not discontinue we would request that decision in writing.

Andover Snowmobile Club representatives ( Pres. Houle; G Miller; K Taylor-Miller:

- Safety is #1 issue for Club
- This was addressed in last year or so and four speed limit signs were added.
- Safety has not been an issue in any of the other areas of the snowmobile trail
- Grooming Searles Hill Rd is done without any problems re: space and safety. Takes 9 feet to groom and groomer is 41 feet long.
- At last meeting of Club it was suggested that property owner widen road if it is needed – Club does not feel it appropriate to do – this has been a part of the snowmobile trail for many years. When property owner decided to build off the Class VI road was aware that the road is part of the snowmobile trail.
- Have there been any accidents reported between a car and snowmobile?
- This is a major trail to access Salisbury Crossroads Store, Boscawen, Franklin
- At recent landowners appreciation dinner we were approached by another landowner of the Searles Hill Rd who related he has had no problems concerning safety.
- School Bus stop is on Center Road – and snowmobiles heed stop lights and would not be traveling the road at the time of pick up and drop off while bus is stopped.

- Andover Snowmobile Club is comprised of individuals from Salisbury who also pay taxes. Recreational activities such as snowmobiling are something many people look forward to living in the town.
- Talking with Wimsatt would be helpful, you would get the feedback. We understand the safety issue and all of us are interested in that.
- We have given 20 years to the Andover Snowmobile Club – feel it would be truly unfortunate if board does not consider all the years the trail has been there and with little to no problems. Narrow it down to who/what is the problem.

Bureau of Trails – S. Violet:

- Other towns use this type of signage and it has been very effective. Town of Hill it is used on Class IV and Class V roads. Really have not had this situation brought up anywhere else.
- Speed limit signs of 10 miles per hr. and keep to the right are used on all trails – and are effective.
- Law enforcement falls under NH Fish and Game. Captain John Wimsatt is the NHF&G official in charge of trails.
- Bureau has insurance policy (2 million dollars) in event of snowmobile accident
- In Rumney trail travels over a mile on side of the road - other areas there are massive logging operations – no problems.

Selectman Ross-Raymond:

- Safety is important issue. Would hope we could work out resolution with additional signs, looking at width of road or other ways to make it work for all concerned.
- Not in favor of closing road to snowmobile use – but would like to work with all concerned to come up with resolution.

Selectman Ballou:

- Can other land owners be approached to see if road can be accessed in another way.
- Majority of snowmobilers ride safely.
- Not that familiar with the area and would like to look area over and discuss with NHF&G the safety issue.
- What is town's liability?

Selectman Schmidl:

- Sees the primary reason for the road is for residents and recreational should be secondary. If state (NHF&G) could make assessment this would give BOS expert opinion to fall back on.

Karen Sheldon:

- How would discontinuing the trail affect other recreational uses in the area?
- Prime example of how a few can make it difficult for the majority if such a decision as discontinuing the trail is made.
- Liability waiver signed by property owner – with knowledge of this being a snowmobile trail.

Joe Landry:

- If there is an incident on road way – identify perpetrator – get info to start process to resolve the problem.

- Look at it in a broader perspective – if there were a logging operation on Class VI road and there was an accident between logging truck and car – would the operation be shut down. Need to look at how to make it better – not shut it down.
- Have any other complaints been made other than safety in this area.
- Note in general – the Andover Snowmobile club does a lot for our citizens. They are a tremendous boost to unfortunate families providing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and do a lot of fund raisers that benefit and are a bonus to town.

Matt Demers:

- Salisbury tax payer and snowmobile rider. Searles Hill Road is wider to travel than a lot of other areas on the trail. It is not a problem.

Bill MacDuffie, Jr.:

- Liability waivers in the past have had what the minimum width of road should be.

Marica Murphy:

- If others buy or want to buy and built on Class VI roads – what is the process.
- What about on the other side of Searles Hill Road – any complaints (Franklin) .

Board thanked everyone for their input. They will do more research in the next two weeks to allow for a decision to be made at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

- Meeting Updates
  - 5/15 – OHD:
  - 5/19 – PB : tabled issue zoning ordinance changes until next meeting.
- FYI Meeting Reminders
  - CC – 5/28 - 7 PM – AH
  - Shared Services – Boscawen – 6:30 PM
  - Recreation – Saturday at 10 at ball field
- Perambulations – Letters Sent – to other towns – Mason Donovan will be Webster – Sept or Oct. Ross-Raymond told him to schedule the walk, let Salisbury know of date and one of Selectmen will be available.
- Transfer Station Clean-up Day – lot of pick up already accomplished by Transfer Station employees but some plastic out in the woods – Go forward with clean up.
- Neighborhood Watch sponsored lecture – 5/17/14 – Self Defense for Women. Good turn out.
- Projects list - priorities: Ross-Raymond feels should address column at AH soon. Ballou also feels the painting and clapboards should be done soon. TA Warren to put together a notice re: on site discussion with contractors to get a feel for costs.
- Farmers Market – Ross-Raymond had emailed Dawn Platte and suggested she get in touch with Cindy Owens who has some knowledge of this with Concord. Selectmen do feel waiver would need to be signed by vendors. TA Warren will follow up.

#### **New Business:**

- Transfer Station Part time Position – one application: TA Warren will schedule time for discussion at next meeting. Selectmen will also speak with Ed Sawyer re: the need for the extra position.
- Cyclical – Cross Country Assessors – begun on 5/19/14

- Discussion of SOP regarding building on Class VI roads: cynic with PB: RSA and town policy and PB have copy of all policies BOS has and sequence of process. TA suggests change PB verbiage. Schmidl: need to look at RSA and town step process. Ross-Raymond: check with LGC – does RSA make it clear what the first step should be PB or BOS.

**Public Comments:**

**Karen Sheldon:** Noted the new bathrooms at Town Hall are wonderful. Also wanted to let town know that the SHS is going to have Baptist Church/Meeting House and Hearse House painted this year.

**Joe Landry:** Regarding Searles Hill Road / Snowmobile Trail – hopes board will look at it from wide point of view and not just from one family. This decision will affect a lot of people – this is a main part of the snowmobile trail .

**Sandy Miller:** Has the issue regarding snow plowing for SES been decided. TA Warren noted that town has not heard back from the letter sent. Any change would be effective July 2014. She will follow-up on the issue.

**Other:** All business that shall legally come before the Board

- Non-Public Session: (as necessary) At 8:00 PM Chairman Ross-Raymond made motion to go into non-public session **per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) - abatement. Roll Call vote taken – unanimous vote.**

Returned to public session at 8:10 PM. **Chairman Ross-Raymond announced motion was made and accepted by the Board to seal the non-public session minutes per RSA 91-A:3,II (c) until final decision made re: abatement.**

**Selectman Schmidl made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM; Selectman Ballou seconded. All voted in favor.**

Respectfully submitted:

Kathie Downes  
Administrative Assistant

Meeting Summary reviewed and accepted at the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting.

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Selectmen, Town of Salisbury