

**Weathersfield Select Board**  
Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2014  
Approved July 21, 2014

**Present:** N. John Arrison  
Daniel Boyer  
C. Peter Cole  
Richard Clattenburg

**Others Present:** Jim Mullen  
Barbara Flinn  
Bonnie DuPrey  
Wanda Gropler  
Charles Horton  
Francis Bingham  
Lorraine Shand  
Ernest Shand  
Leonard LeBrun  
Lisa Slade  
Jeff Slade  
Edith Stillson  
Nancy Nutile-McMenemy  
Steven Smith  
Patricia Nash

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Arrison called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**2. Comments from Select Board and Citizens on topics not on agenda**

Select Board: Chairman Arrison said that on Friday, July 25, the Friends of the Meetinghouse is having a screening of the "Navigators and Pathfinders of the Pacific", a documentary filmed by Weathersfield resident, Eric Taylor. This will be a fundraiser to help pay for reconstruction of the Meetinghouse steps.

Citizens: Barbara Flinn, resident of the Country Estates Mobile Homes Park, stated that her car, her husband's truck and her mother's car has once again sustained damage from fireworks debris resulting from the Running Bear Campground 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. She felt that the Campground had not adhered to the conditions of the permit that the Select Board had granted for the display. She said that the damage to her car was worse than last year, despite the fact that she had moved her car further away and parked it under a large tree. She brought a bag of some of the debris that she had collected from her property to show the Board. She also showed photos of the vehicles involved.

Steven Smith, caretaker of the Park, stated that he was frustrated by the substantial and repeated negative impact that the activities at the Campground have on the residents of the Park.

Chairman Arrison assured Mrs. Flinn that the Board took her complaints very seriously and stated that the Board would look into the matter.

Lisa Slade asked the Board to look into a very large tree on Bowen Hill Road that is leaning dangerously toward the road. She is very concerned that it will come down soon. She said it is not far from the intersection with Route 5, before the Cemetery. Jeff Slade said half of the root ball is exposed.

Leonard LeBrun complained about his neighbor's house on Tenney Hill Road. It has been an ongoing trash and garbage problem. There are two swimming pools that are not being used, but are collecting rainwater and causing a mosquito problem. Town manager Jim Mullen said that a dumpster would be dropped off at this property on Wednesday and the trash will be removed. He said he would see about getting the pools emptied.

**3. Review Minutes from previous meetings (June 16, 2014)**

**Motion:** to accept the minutes of June 16, 2014 as presented.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer      **Second:** Mr. Cole      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**4. Third reading of proposed amendments to "Policy for Checking Driver License Records and Proof of Insurance" (Third reading of three)**

Mr. Cole noted that there is a typographical error in item #7(a).

**Motion:** to accept the "Policy for Checking Driver License Records and Proof of Insurance" for approval.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer      **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

**5. Set 2014-2015 Property Tax Due Dates**

**Motion:** To set the tax due dates as:

- August 13, 2014
- November 13, 2014
- February 11, 2015
- May 13, 2015

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer      **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**6. Set 2014-2015 Tax Rates**

**Motion:** To set the Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Rates at:

- General Fund                      0.3120
- Highway Fund                      0.2706
- County Tax                          0.0087
- Local Education                    0.0057
- Homestead Education            1.6648
- Non-Residential Education      1.5150
- Perkinsville Village              0.0393

**Made by:** Mr. Cole      **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

## 7. Library Bond Vote

### a. Schedule Public Informational Hearing

The petition was submitted and has sufficient signatures to call a special town meeting. The Board must hold an informational meeting within ten days of the meeting.

**Motion:** To hold an informational meeting on August 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM at Martin Memorial Hall.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer      **Second:** Mr. Cole      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**Motion:** To move the Select Board meeting from August 18 to August 19 at the Highway Garage.

**Made by:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Second:** Mr. Cole      **Vote:** Unanimous

### b. Provide notice to taxpayers by a tax bill insert and press releases?

It was agreed that the least expensive and most effective means of providing notice to the voters is by an insertion in the tax bills, which are scheduled to go out tomorrow (July 8). This will be followed up with timely press releases.

**Motion:** To provide notice to the voters of the informational hearing and the bond vote for the library by means of an insertion in the tax bills and press releases as appropriate.

**Made by:** Mr. Cole      **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Vote:** Unanimous

## 8. Updates on changes to Town Highway Map regarding "ancient roads"

- Need to classify Asa Grout Lane as a Class 3 or 4 Town Highway

Mrs. Bearse explained that Asa Grout Lane was left off the Highway Map in the 2010 Ancient Roads proceedings because it was believed (erroneously) at the time that it was already on the map. There is sufficient documentation to get it on the highway map as a Class 4 road during the next update of the Highway Mileage Certificate in February. It is unclear whether a public hearing would be required.

Reclassification of the road from a Class 4 to a Class 3 will require:

- a public hearing and
- a finding by the Board that the work proposed by the Asa Grout residents will in fact bring the road up to Class 3 road specifications.

Mr. Hazeltine would supervise the work and verify it by digging test holes.

The hearing date will be set at the next Select Board meeting if the Asa Grout residents have secured the financial means to do the necessary work on the road by then.

- **Need right-of-way to Tolles Cemetery**

A deeded easement has been finalized and signed by all parties assuring permanent access to the Tolles Cemetery. No further action is required. The Pent Road that crosses the Gurney-Limlaw property will be discontinued after July 2015 because it will not appear on the Highway Map.

## 9. Approve Lease agreement with GMP to install flags on GMP utility poles

Mrs. Slade is seeking permission to place American flags on the poles along Route 5 from the Rt. 5/Rt. 131 intersection to approximately Thrasher Road (30 poles) and along Route 106 from the Perkinsville Church to the 1879 Schoolhouse(14 poles). Mrs. Slade will raise the cost of the

project (\$2,200) through charitable donations. She and Mr. Slade will be responsible for installing and maintaining the flags. She presented the Board with a license agreement between Green Mountain Power and the Town to sign.

Mr. Shand objected to placing metal flag holders on the poles for safety reasons. He also stated that the poles along Route 5 are owned by the telephone company.

Mrs. Nutile-McMenamy said that flag etiquette calls for the flags to be lit at night and replaced when they are tattered or damaged.

Mrs. Slade said the flags would be up between Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year.

**Motion:** That the Select Board approve the license agreement (as presented this evening) between the Town of Weathersfield and Green Mountain Power regarding the installation of flags, metal flag pole holders and flags in Perkinsville and Ascutney.

**Made by:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Second:** Mr. Boyer      **Vote:** Unanimous

Mrs. Slade was advised to contact the Town Accountant regarding the receipt of donations.

**10. Discuss whether to consider Tenney Hill Road property owned Town as “surplus” property**

**Motion:** To put an article on the March 20, 2015 town meeting warning to ask the voters whether the Board should sell the Tenney Hill Road property or not.

**Made by:** Mr. Cole      **Second:** Mr. Boyer      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**11. Apply to Probate Court for a hearing on Raymond Phelan property on South Mountain Road?**

Mr. Mullen stated that people have been coming to the Town Office looking to buy the Raymond Phelan property. Mr. Phelan died last November without a no one has brought the case to probate court. Mr. Mullen learned that V.S.A. Title 14, section 681, authorizes the Select Board to petition the court in such cases. This will cause the judge to rule on the disposal of Mr. Phelan’s property.

**Motion:** To file a petition, on behalf of the town, with the probate division of the superior court for a hearing in accordance with the rules of probate procedure.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer      **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg      **Vote:** Unanimous

**12. Letter of Complaint/Charles Horton**

Mr. Horton complained that Mr. Cole did not recuse himself from the vote to increase the price of the transfer station punch cards at the last Select Board meeting. Mr. Horton opined that Mr. Cole would benefit financially from this increase because his wife works for the Town and receives 10% of her pay from the Transfer Station. The financial gain constituted a conflict of interest as defined by the Select Board’s Ethics Policy.

The Board disagreed on the grounds that Mrs. Cole will get paid for her work regardless of any price changes in the transfer station fees. No further action was taken.

**13. Project Updates**

**a. Airport Road Reconstruction Project**

Test holes show that there is a good solid base to the road. The Request for Bids should be ready this week. The grant agreement has not been signed by the state yet.

**b. Baltimore Road 0.6 mile Culvert Project**

The project is nearly complete. The road is now passable. The "Road Closed" signs will be coming down by the end of the week. The guardrail company has reviewed the site as part of the contract agreement.

**c. Baltimore Road 0.85 mile Culvert Project**

The project design is completed and has been sent to Stream Alterations Engineer Todd Menese. The grant agreement has not been received. Don Stein has been hired (\$950) to survey the necessary temporary easements. He will work on it this week.

Chairman Arrison complimented Mr. Mullen for his work in securing the grants for this work.

**14. Appointments**

**Motion:** To appoint David Gulbrandsen as an alternate member of the Zoning Board.

**Made by:** Mr. Cole      **Second:** Mr. Boyer      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**15. Approve Warrants: Ratify 2 Warrants and Approve 1 Warrant**

**Motion:** To ratify the warrant as of June 30, 2014 as follows:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$32,417.72
	Payroll	\$19,273.82
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$7,893.97
	Payroll	\$11,631.82
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$707.50
	Payroll	\$1,468.05
Library	Operating Expenses	\$66.55
Grants		\$0.00
Agency Monies		\$581.04
Reserves		\$34.10

**Made by:** Mr. Arrison      **Second:** Mr. Boyer      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**Motion:** To ratify the warrant for July 1, 2014 as follows:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$38,274.20
	Payroll	\$0.00
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$14,205.49
	Payroll	\$0.00
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$1,372.41

	Payroll	\$0.00
Library	Operating Expenses	\$458.70
Grants		\$0.00
Agency Monies		\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00

**Made by:** Mr. Arrison    **Second:** Mr. Boyer    **Vote:** Unanimous if favor

**Motion:** To approve the warrant for meeting of July 7, 2014 as follows:

General Funds	Operating Expenses	\$18,663.23 (7/7/14), \$200.00 (7/1/14), \$15.42 (6/30/14)
	Payroll	\$9,095.83
Highway Fund	Operating Expenses	\$65,909.72
	Payroll	\$6,382.02
Solid Waste Management Fund		
	Operating Expenses	\$3,445.70
	Payroll	\$749.02
Library	Operating Expenses	\$0.00
Grants		\$0.00
Agency Monies		\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer    **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg    **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**16. Future Meeting Agenda Items**

The next meeting will be at Weathersfield Center Meeting House.

**17. Executive Session**

**Motion:** To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer    **Second:** Mr. Clattenburg    **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The Board came out of executive session at 9:14 PM. No action was taken.

**18. Adjourn**

**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting.

**Made by:** Mr. Boyer    **Second:** Mr. Cole    **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*deForest Bearse*