



Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY
October 18th, 2016
6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE: Mike Shepherd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Selectmen present.

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on October 4th, 2016. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept as printed.
M. Carreira / J. Powell **Vote 5-0.**

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

Fire: Chief Ellis submitted his report for September. Fall is preventative maintenance season for the department, getting trucks serviced and ready for the winter months. The department received four applications for on call positions and two for the per diem option. Flow testing on the SCBA's met the Bureau of Labor Standards and all 8000ft of hose testing has been completed. The department hosts a Fire Science Course here, given by EMMC. By hosting the class in our location, the department gets two free seats for our own students.

Police: Deputy Watson submitted his report for September. 100 stops were logged, 26 tickets written and 38 School Zone warnings issued. Recently the hours listed on the flashing reduced speed signs, were covered up, creating some confusion. State law only requires the lights be in effect thirty minutes prior to the start time of school and thirty minutes after start time and again after school. Watson explained that he was working with the Principal, Don Spencer to get it resolved.


ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT: Copies of the September Report were given to board members.


SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Russell informed the board that Rusty Gagnon would not be attending tonight's meeting, as there wasn't anything new or important to report on.


Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman


Joe Powell, Selectmen


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Letter from James White – Planning Board Alternate, letter included in packets. Chairman, Michael Shepherd read the letter out loud, at the request of resident, Hilma Adams. A motion was made seconded and passed to accept the letter as a record.

J. Brooks / R. Wood Vote 5-0.

Sprucewood Drive – Anthony Melanson read a statement he prepared in regards to the 2 acre lot he recently sold. The lot was sold to Realtor, Venice Bard, for her client to build a house on. Mr. Melanson asked Chairman, Michael Shepherd, as well as board member, Mark Carreira, if they would like to recuse themselves from the discussion. Melanson strongly felt it is a conflict of interest, where they are neighbors to the property, especially Michael Shepherd, being the president of the Road Association, who told Anthony he didn't think the lot could be built on. Both Carreira and Shepherd declined, stating they would be speaking as Board Members only, at the meeting. Anthony read the Conflict of Interest section, from the towns Ethics Policy, insisting that Mr. Shepherd fell under the section. Anthony disagreed with the Code Enforcement Officers Decision to pull the building permit issued to Venice Bard, and requested that the permit to be reissued. Shepherd expressed his opinion that the lot is part of the approved subdivision, adding that the town's attorney has also given his opinion to be the same, seven different times.

The issue was debated to a great extent between board members and various people who had an interest or an opinion on the issue. Chairman Shepherd referred Melanson to the Planning Board, stating that it really isn't anything the Selectmen have the authority to act on.

(A copy of Anthony's statement will be added to the minutes.)

Frank Arisimeek Quarry Permit 2013 – Selectmen Ray Wood, Jr. presented the board with copies of Planning Board minutes, where the C.E.O had stated he didn't issue a Frank a permit. There is a site plan amendment before the Planning Board, from Hughes Bros., to move the 5 acre quarry 750ft. Ray Wood, Jr. asked if Frank has an active permit. Janet Hughes voiced her stance on Ray Wood's conflict of interest.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to consult the town attorney on the permit issue.

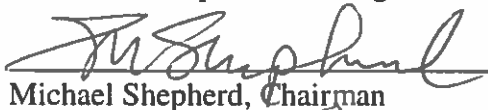
Ray Wood, Jr./ J. Powell Vote 4-1. (J. Brooks, opposed)

A motion was made, seconded and passed to table the 2013 Permit issue, until the very earliest of next Planning Board meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 27th. To give time for the town attorney to speak on the issue.

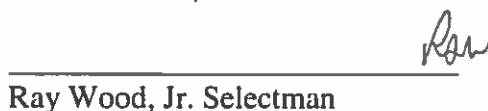
M. Shepherd / Ray Wood, Jr. Vote 5-0.

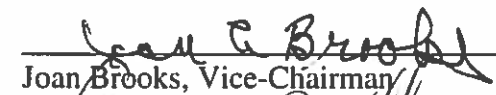
Sign Land Purchase Installment Agreement – No motion needed, just signatures. Approved at prior meeting.


School Zone Speed Limit Signs – Previously discussed during Deputy Watson's Public Safety Report.


Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman


Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman


Joe Powell, Selectmen

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OTHER BUSINESS: A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the annual liquor license for the Meadowbrook Event Center. **J. Brooks / M. Shepherd** **Vote 5-0.**

2016 Mil Rate - \$15.05 is the new mil rate, up .77 cents from last year. Russell added that the Homestead Exemption has gone from \$10,000 to \$15,000. With the increase in the mil rate and the \$5000 higher exemption benefit, it won't be a very drastic increase to most residents, some will even pay less in taxes, based on evaluation.


WARRANTS: A motion was made, seconded and passed to sign the warrants. **J. Brooks / R. Wood** **Vote 5-0.**

PUBLIC ACCESS: Theresa Woznik asked three of the selectmen (Ray, Michael and Mark) if they had ever met anywhere and discussed issues brought up tonight. No, not since they have been on the board.


Denise Bard commented about the purchase of land from Anthony Melanson. Bard purchased the lot, to have a home built on it for her client. Bard expressed frustration caused by the building permit being issued, then rescinded, pointing out how the ramifications of that affects all parties involved.

Frank Arisimeek – Remarked that he believes Selectmen Ray Wood should not be speaking about the quarry permit and is a conflict of interest where quarry issues are concerned.

Cynthia McDonald – Realtor for the sale between Anthony Melanson and Venice Bard. McDonald believes there is a conflict of interest with Michael Shepherd in the Sprucewood Land Sale issue. It is her understanding that the subdivision ordinance allows that one lot can be divided every 5yrs, which she assumed was the interpretation by Town Mgr. and Code Enforcement Officer and builder, during a recorded conversation. Cindy asked if the permit could legally be rescinded without the the appeals process. Cindy asked Selectmen Shepherd to remove himself from the discussion on the issue. He declined. Cindy further stated that Anthony's 10 acre piece should not fall under the 2012 Zoning Ordinance, pointing out that the original subdivision was created under the previous (2003) ordinance.


Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman


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David McCluskey – Submitted a letter and other supporting documents, regarding the level of enforcement vs. review, where the Planning Board is concerned. He referenced the proposed amendment presented by Hughes Bros. on behalf of the Arisimeek and Butterfield quarry. (a copy of his letter is attached)

Doug Holland – Spoke out about possible issues in regards to the lot sale and building permit process, as well as Executive Sessions, where the town’s protocol could be looked into, by the Attorney General’s Office.

Dawn Shain – Reviewed her concerns regarding the permit process for the Sprucewood lot sale. She was told no permit would be issued until the town’s attorney gave his opinion, then the permit was issued. She does not understand why the town would consider getting a second opinion from a different attorney when we have seven letters from our own, all consistent in his opinion that the lot in question is part of the subdivision. That would be a waste of taxpayers’ money.

James McLeod – Made follow up comments about the letter read earlier, from James White. McLeod stated that anyone can sue for anything and that lawyers are sue happy. He mentioned that the town has won the other court case regarding the quarry and suggested they stick to their guns, do not waste the town’s money on excessive lawyer fees.

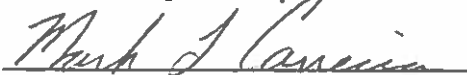
Charlie Norburg – Code Enforcement Officer for Eddington, apologized to Dawn Shain, recognizing the fact that he should have waited to issue the building permit, instead he acted on not “mis”information, but more so “incomplete” information.


Joe Powell – Ran for Selectmen in hopes to make a bridge between angry residents and board member relations. He would really like to see all the back and forth arguing stop, adding that the personal attacks at meetings are totally uncalled for.

Joan Brooks – Has been sitting on various Municipal Boards for 40years and has never once had an axe to grind even during the slanderous campaign with the Recall Ordinance, in attempt to remove her from office. Brooks suggested that people grow up and stop the nonsense, adding that everyone is guilty of misconduct. So as far as integrity, she offered a motto for all, “If you said it, own it and try to fix it”.


Brad Goodwin – Doesn’t feel that our town is nearly as bad as other towns. He noted that his family moved here in 1971 and the fact that he loves this town and you (board members) do deserve our respect.


Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman


Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman


Joe Powell, Selectmen

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Mark Carreira – Expressed his thoughts that as selectmen, we have to represent both sides. It is our job to find out how to move forward.

Michael Shepherd – In reference to the Sprucewood lot sale. We pay our Town attorney to give his opinion, he has given it 7 times, consistently. Shepherds concern is the road, as the association has to foot the bill. He told Anthony Melanson that the Planning Board has jurisdiction on this issue.

Anthony Melanson – Spoke to Michael Shepherd stating that Shepherd had no right to persuade the issuance of a permit in his position with the town. Melanson asked Russell Smith if he had heard from the lawyer he was going to consult for a second opinion. Russell said no, he had not heard back.

Ray Wood – To Anthony Melanson, this is not a selectmen issue, take it to the Planning Board. It is not our job as Selectmen to take direction or action on this.

Closed Public Access at 8:36 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to go into Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter, Town Manager. A Motion was made, seconded and passed to enter into Exec. Session at 8:36 p.m. **R. Wood / Mark Carreira** **Vote 5-0.**

Motion to close Executive Session and go back into regular session at 9:54 p.m. **J. Brooks / R. Wood, Jr.** **Vote 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. **M. Carreira / M. Shepherd** **Vote 5-0.**

Michael Shepherd, Chairman

Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman

Mark Carreira, Selectman

Joe Powell, Selectmen

Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman

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