

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING
July 9th, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Alan Hanson-Chair, Neal Pilson, Roger Manzolini

Others Present: Danielle Fillio-Town Administrator, Ron Veillette-Chair of ConCom, Dick & Holly Stover, Leslie Breeding, Laura Broussal, Rick Bell, Chief Bill Bullett, Ken Kelly-Richmond Pond Association, Clarence Fanto-Berkshire Eagle, Peter Beckwith-DPW Supervisor, Tony Segal-Chair of Board of Health, Peter Cohen, Peter Miller

Alan Hanson opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Alan Hanson read the read the governor's Order for remotely held public meetings.

Dick Stover Miscellaneous items.

There was a discussion between Dick Stover, the Select board and Peter Beckwith concerning the continuing maintenance and ownership of the road behind the church. After much debate and discussion it was decided that Danielle Fillio will be contacting the town's council, Beth Goodman, concerning this issue with the topics that Rick Bell had submitted regarding ownership. Dick Stover said he would contact the Church's council.

The next point that Dick Stover wanted to discuss was the logging operations going on at the property owned by Jeff Grant at the corner of Sleepy Hollow and Swamp Roads. There was some confusion about what the Mass General law says concerning whether the owner can get logs from other sources besides his own property for the purpose of splitting it and selling it for firewood. His property is registered under chapter 61A and is considered a farm.

Danielle has been in discussion with Beth Goodman, town counsel, on this however before an official interpretation is made we are waiting to confirm if a conflict exists for Beth to discuss this situation. Danielle Fillio did suggest to Dick Stover that he could request the Zoning Board of Appeals take up the issue, since he felt there was inaction by the Town Zoning Inspector.

Discussion of Constables The topic of constables was continued to this meeting because the Selectmen wanted the input from Chief Bullett. Chief Bullett stated that at this time the two main jobs of the constables are to monitor the elections and to serve the warrants for town meetings, they are also supposed to protect the assets of the town. The selectmen asked if they could be used for monitoring the beach and boat ramp and they were told that they could but they still would have no power to enforce any laws, that is not within their job ability, all they could do is call the state police. Chief Bullett stated that there are four constables at this time, whose appointments were up the end of June. He has two, Eric Latimer and Ryan Mulumphy who he would like to have reappointed and two others who should not be reappointed. He would like to have 2 or 3 more constables.

Roger Mazzolini made a motion to reappoint both Eric Latimer and Ryan Mulumphy as Town of Richmond Constables. It was seconded by Neal Pilson and passed unanimously.

The selectmen asked Laura Broussal, editor of Richmond record, if she would write an article about being a constable and that the town is searching for residents to become a constable.

The main Concerns regarding the beach are overcrowding and major amounts of garbage leading to the uncleanliness of the beach over the July 4th weekend. Danielle stated that one of the main reasons that Richmond Beach was so heavily used by both Richmond residents and residents of other towns was since most other towns had not yet opened their beaches. With many towns now having plans in place for the opening their beaches, the overcrowding of Richmond's Beach may cease. It was also

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noted that Richmond beach has many amenities that other beaches don't offer. Discussion of possibly removing some amenities was quickly ended as the Board did not wish to eliminate them since it would affect town residents and the fact that the picnic tables are cemented into the ground. It was decided that the best plan of action would be for select board members and board of health members to go down to the beach over the next few weekends and observe for themselves what was going on. They would then have a joint meeting of the 2 boards on Wednesday July 15 to discuss what if anything needed to be done.

Rick Bell asked if Richmond residents could have priority admittance to the beach and he was informed by Danielle Fillio that since the town used state funds for the refurbishing of the beach and boat ramp, they cannot limit its use to others.

Roger Manzolini did request that signs be put up stating that masks, and social distancing is required for persons on the beach. Danielle Fillio stated that there are already large lamented signs with the rules and state requirements posted.

The selectmen all agreed that the lifeguards should not have to be responsible for dealing with anything but watching the water, they are responsible for the water safety of people not for enforcing mask and social distancing.

Leslie Breeding asked about what was happening with hiring boat monitors. Danielle Fillio stated that the town is actively still searching for more boat monitors.

Discussion on View Drive Access Road Alan Hanson stated that he attended a meeting held by the DCR (Dept. of Conservation and recreation) concerning the issues that the residents have with the DCR about what they plan on doing to reclaim the land. The DCR needed to repair the fire/cell tower on the top of Lenox Mt. and to do that they made a narrow access trail into a dirt road that now is passable by off road vehicles. The abutters to this property are very upset. The DCR stated that they will clean up all the debris and try to put the trail back as closely as they can to what it was. They did state that they were within their boundary rights for the road that they put in. Ron Veillette also was at the meeting and did hike the trail that was created and said that DCR was mostly accurate when they stated that they did not make the trail wider than their boundary allowed. The DCR started the project prior to informing the town or abutters of what they were doing. They could do this by using an emergency declaration. Danielle Fillio stated that emergency declarations are rather common situations, towns tend to do it at times.

Roger Manzolini asked Clarence Fanto of the Berkshire Eagle if he would write an article about the situation. Roger Manzolini also suggested that the town write a letter of concern to the DCR about their actions.

Violation letters re-Junk Cars Danielle Fillio presented the board members with letter she drafted concerning two separate cases where residents had multiple junk cars on their property. The town bylaw states that residents have 30 days after receiving a letter from the town demanding that they remove the junk cars. If the cars are not removed, they are then in violation of the town's bylaw and can be fined. She requested that the Selectmen sign the letters so they then could be mailed to the residents.

Selectmen's Matters

Neal Pilson

His matter was concerning a driveway issues that were occurring on East Road. Driveway runoff is flowing out onto East Road and that in the winter it then ices up and becomes dangerous. Danielle

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Fillio stated that she would check the files on those driveways and speak with Peter Beckwith about them.

Roger Manzolini-none

Alan Hanson-none

Town Administrators Report

Please see report attached

Citizen Speak

Ron Veillette asked the board about the status of the bylaw for being able to fine for violations of town and Conservation bylaws. He was informed that the by law is still at the State Attorney's office for review but that since it is a copy of other town's bylaws there should not be any issue with them certifying it. That he should go ahead and obtain the information about ordering a violations fine booklet. Danielle Fillio stated that ones he has the information she would place the order.

Rick Bell asked about the issue of clear title for the town hall. Danielle Fillio stated that it was still being investigated by town counsel.

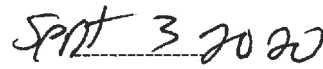
Peter Miller asked the board about any further discussion with Ken Kelly about the noise from the Pittsfield airport. Neal Pilson stated that he spoke with Ken Kelly and asked him to write a letter to the airport about the current situation. Peter Miller also sked about the cameras at the boat ramp. He was told it was still being planned for.

Warrants Danielle Fillio presented the board with the warrants from June 3, June 29th, July 1-3, week of July 6. There was the need to do a split payroll due to the different fiscal years.

The next meeting would be a joint meeting with the Board of Health on July 15 and the selectmen's meeting on July22.

Alan Hanson made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 it was seconded by Neal Pilson, passed unanimously.


Alan Hanson Chair


Date