



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

Minutes

First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.

Town Attorney Kenneth Slater, Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, John Rice (PnZ), H. Charles Obert (EDC, Trails Committee), Brian Loffredo (EDC, Trails Committee), Charlene Langlois (P & Z, EDC), Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

A. St Onge noted all Selectmen to be present and that the meeting is being recorded.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the BOS 9-01-2020 Minutes with a modification carried unanimously. The modification: in item V, Transfer Station Fees, the motion's fourth provision should read "***a second sticker will be an option for the ½ year permit holders at \$15.***"

II. Correspondence: Town Planner T. Penn-Gesek emailed a detailed review as well as plans regarding 65 Main Street, as requested by the BOS at the 09-01-2020 meeting

III. Selectmen Comments:

S. Witkowski- requests that an additional Agenda item be considered in the future, perhaps called "Department Updates," in order to keep the BOS fully informed about the activities and progress of Boards/Commissions/Committees

K. Beausoleil- the MSRAC committee has been discussing possible ordinance work, including the concept of a Blight ordinance. Usually the work of this Committee is initiated by the BOS, which provides commentary and possibly including history of the topic

IV. Citizen Comments:

H. C. Obert- asked the status of the dam as well as a possible launch area behind the K of C Hall; State involvement may lower the water level and impact flow. Two launch sites could be advisable. Trails and the EDC have done studies to determine interest in outdoor recreation.

J. Rice- the Historical Society was asked by the Conservation Commission to provide all available photos of the area, including especially the floods of '38 and '55.

T. Penn-Gesek: the MSRAC Committee has proposed Ordinance text on the subject of Blight.

V. Windham North Property Lien – Legal: Attorney Ken Slater reviewed, at the BOS request, the specifics of when an Executive Session is permitted/advisable, noting that a 2/3 vote by the Board is required and that the Minutes must fully specify the legal reason the Session is being held, such as 'a potential claim or litigation.' A. St Onge- noted that at the 09-01 BOS meeting, her motion put forward many of the details regarding possible release of the lien in question; K. Beausoleil advocated for an Executive Session nevertheless, to work out the details of a process involving real estate and other legal matters. S. Witkowski- can see no strong reason for an Executive Session but does not object.

A. St Onge –reviewed details regarding the two parcels of land (49 acres and 152 acres) and the safety concern if the dam should breach and the water flow have a negative impact in Putnam. She thinks it wise to modify to her motion of 09-01 regarding the matter, adding a clause requiring a specific timeline for addressing the dam safety issues. K. Beausoleil- reviewed the history of the 49 acre parcel, which came to the BOS relatively recently for resolution; no action was taken at the time. There is also a Small Cities Grant, the details of which will need to be examined. Attorney Slater discussed the advisability of a motion regarding only the 49 acre parcel, extending the offer of a discussion of the 152 acres after dam safety has been addressed. K. Beausoleil- discussions can be re-opened now and DEEP should be encouraged to look closely at the dam concern. A. St Onge is authorized to negotiate with the financial institution regarding the 152 acres. **Motion by A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the release of the lien on the 49 acre parcel for \$100,000 and to authorize Attorney Ken Slater to act in behalf of the Town in the negotiation process carried unanimously.**

VI. Foundation Repair 65 Main Street – Discussion and Possible Action; May Include Bid Opening: T. Penn-Gesek reviewed the PnZ and EDC work regarding the parcel as well as the involvement of the Tourtellotte Trust; these points were part of the document she prepared for the BOS following the 09-01 BOS meeting in response to unawareness by BOS members of several aspects of activity regarding the parcel. S. Witkowski- previous to moving ahead, advocates for a detailed study of the structure's rehab. It should include asbestos and lead testing, ADA compliance needs, and many other factors, along with a detailed cost estimate. A. St Onge- the BOS can review/approve this plan, sending it to the Town Attorney to confirm it would satisfy the intent of the terms of the Tourtellotte Trust requirements, and then send it on to the Attorney General's office. S. Witkowski- previous to this action by our Planner T. Penn-Gesek, the BOS will need to be advised of the associated costs of having the evaluation itself prepared. The consensus of the BOS was to move ahead thusly; no other action was taken.

VII. Resolution - Neglected Cemetery Grant: K. Beausoleil- usually at the Annual Town Meeting, the First Selectman is authorized to apply for and administer grants. Time pressure for the Neglected Cemetery grant application necessitates immediate action, under the Governor's Executive Orders. Attorney Ken Slater prepared a draft Resolution to that effect, which was read into the record by A. St Onge. It provides that the BOS authorizes the First Selectman to apply for the Neglected Cemetery Grant funding, per the terms of the Governor's Executive Order. **Motion by A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Resolution as read carried unanimously.** Noted by K. Beausoleil- it may be advisable for the Attorney to draft a broader Resolution or letter, addressing the necessity for the First Selectman, as authorized by the BOS, to act in the interests of the town regarding grant applications and their administration.

VIII. Other Business: none

IX. Citizens' Comments:

H. C Obert 1). in follow-up, recognizes that although Boards and Commissions have been working on matters in town, unfortunately not all BOS members are fully informed. 2). he advised that the specifications of the proposed work on the Dam include details which can be examined, to determine that no shortcuts are taken regarding safety.

B. Loffredo- regarding 65 Main Street, pointed out that a tear-down of the structure could result in negative impacts on property values. He advocates for reasonable reuse at a reasonable cost.

C. Langlois-The water level is low now; she advocates for a clean-up of debris in the watercourse behind the K of C, wondering who could be asked. In addition, she advocates for action on this matter and others, rather than stretching meaningful improvements out needlessly.

X. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve tax refunds for a total of \$1,049.46 carried unanimously.

Dumaine, Elizabeth M.	\$18.73	Honda Lease Trust	\$78.53
VW Credit Leasing LTD	\$186.98	CCAP Auto Lease LTD	\$362.53
Wilga, Dean R.	\$9.62	Vault Trust	\$199.46
Booth, Ryan C	\$17.04	Honda Lease Trust	\$176.57

XI. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8: 37 PM carried unanimously.

To hear the entire Zoom Meeting, click on this link or copy/paste it into your Search bar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/K5DBTaNo3u9Ui8jhX4vO70gk9wtCKMG0lo0zDIg0YJBHhPhCgI7YqYYs4OxD6KmR.u6xuvGcQiJgBIZTe> Passcode: f50U^ZBV

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.