



MINUTES

TOWN OF THOMPSON

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020 @ 8:00 AM

MERRILL SENEY COMMUNITY ROOM – TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Al Landry, Richard Trudeau, Joann Hall, Celeste Guimont, Donna Hall, Recording Secretary; Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner

Al Landry called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Al Landry made a Motion to alternate Items #5 and #6 on the Meeting Agenda, seconded by Joann Hall. All in favor, Motion carries.

Celeste Guimont made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the June 8th, 2017 meeting Minutes, seconded by Richard Trudeau. All in favor, Motion carries.

1). New Business

a) Transfer Station Ordinance #10-021

Donna passed out the Transfer Station Advisory Committee's 1-23-2020 meeting Minutes, a page of issues raised that need to be addressed in the Transfer Station Ordinance, and a Transfer & Recycling Station pamphlet that were all graciously provided by Lynn Landry for the ORC members review. Al Landry attended the Transfer Station Advisory Committee meeting on 1-23-2020, they've been working on revising the Ordinance, the definition section as the definition of "Bulky Waste", "Compost", & "Recyclables" needs to be modified, the acceptable materials have been changed by the Public Works Director so they no longer accept certain materials at the Transfer Station, for example "sheet rock" because they can no longer dispose of it. Discussion ensued. They could possibly revise the "Bulky Waste" definition to read "see current pamphlet" or "acceptable materials are subject to change"; as the materials could change occasionally. ORC members reviewed the page of issues of concern. Section 3 Permit Issuance and Revocation; temporary permits are issued to non-permit holders & may also be purchased at the Transfer Station. Temporary permits are no longer issued by the Selectmen's Office. Section 4 Enactment of Regulations; instead of the Selectmen, should it say the Board of Selectmen in conjunction with the Public Works Director, materials & policies are subject to change. Section 6 Fees & Fines; this section should be renamed "Fees", the one-half year fee should say "reduced rate" because it is not half of the annual fee, it should also state fees are subject to change. Section 7 Commercial Collections; should a line be added "except for one's own household". Section 9 Collection & Transport; covered loads needs to be enforced, stronger language possibly? Section 10 Littering; typo "presents" should be "presence". Section 12 Prohibiting Improper Storage; as determined by the Board of Selectmen, where is the enforcement? Section 15 Hazardous Substances; refer to the annual pamphlet for permitted & prohibited materials. Possibly use this section for the Bulky Waste, Compost, & Recyclables language? Section 16 Repealing of Inconsistencies; & Section 17 Severability; should this legal

language be added to every ordinance? ORC members will review these issues & the 1-23-2020 Transfer Station Advisory Committee Minutes prior to next month's meeting for discussion.

b) Driveway Ordinance #10-053

Donna passed out the Driveway Ordinance #10-053 for ORC members to review & give comments back next month. Donna penned some revisions on the handout as well. In conjunction with the Public Works Director this Ordinance needs some revisions. One issue that needs to be addressed is the "driveway bonds". Donna explained the bond process to members. Donna will define the bond for next month's meeting for member review. Discussion ensued. Members would like Richard Benoit, Public Works Director, to attend the next ORC meeting as he's the primary administrator/supervisor for the Driveway Ordinance as well as the Transfer Station Ordinance. Donna will reach out to Rich to attend. ORC members will review prior to next month's meeting for discussion.

c) Recreation Commission Ordinance #10-039

Al Landry spoke with Lesley Munshower, the Recreation Director. The Recreation Commission wants to reduce their membership due to lack of volunteers, it's hard to have meetings without a quorum. Discussion ensued, all boards, commissions, & committees are facing similar challenges. Richard Trudeau suggested adding verbiage "up to" with the number of people required for membership possibly. We're awaiting more input from the Recreation Commission. More information will follow as they make progress on their proposed revisions to their ordinance.

2). Old Business

a) Code of Ordinance Book Update

The Board of Selectmen adopted four (4) revised/new Ordinances in May 2019. Donna has inserted the revised Ordinances & newly adopted Ordinance into the Code of Ordinance Book. Donna updated the members on the books progress. Donna has also reinserted the Flood Ordinances back into the current Code of Ordinance Book, as these ordinances were put in the "History" book inadvertently, they have been researched & are still active ordinances that must remain in the book for Federal funding if ever required. Discussion ensued. Al Landry requested an updated booklet for ORC members. Donna will print updated Code of Ordinance Books for all members for next month's meeting.

3). History Ordinance Book

Donna updated members on the research of the history book ordinances. If an ordinance that was put in history has not been rescinded or repealed by an amended ordinance, then that ordinance needs to be put back into the current Code of Ordinance Book until it is officially rescinded or repealed by Town Meeting. Celeste Guimont has volunteered to help in the research efforts....thank you Celeste!!! Celeste updated members on her progress. Discussion ensued. This is definitely a work in progress, Celeste will update members next month.

4). Citizen's Comments – None

6). Discuss Future Meeting Dates & Times

Al Landry cannot do any other day but Thursday mornings, as his wife has late morning work hours. Donna cannot do evening meetings, she's unavailable. Discussion ensued as to member availability. All ORC members agree to the Thursday mornings at 8:00 AM meeting times. Discussion ensued about future meeting dates, as this meeting is a Special Meeting & the committee can only discuss what's on the Agenda. Members would like Donna to create a schedule of meeting dates for next

year 2021 for members to review next month. Members agreed upon their next meeting date of Thursday, April 16th (04-16-2020) at 8:00 AM.

5). Election of Officers

Celeste Guimont nominated Al Landry for Chair & Richard Trudeau as Vice Chair, seconded by Joann Hall. Richard Trudeau declined. Motion failed. Discussion ensued.

Richard Trudeau nominated Celeste Guimont as Vice Chair, seconded by Joann Hall. All in favor, Motion carries.

Joann Hall nominated Al Landry as Chair & Celeste Guimont as vice Chair, seconded by Richard Trudeau. All in favor, Motion carries.

Congratulations Al Landry for Chair & Celeste Guimont for Vice Chair!!!

7). Member's Comments

*Al Landry wanted to express his condolences to Charlie Paquette's family. He was a valued member of the Ordinance Review Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission, & the Town of Thompson!

*Joann Hall stated ORC members are indefinite & do not have to be sworn in again.

*Celeste Guimont wanted to discuss the proposed revisions to Budget Ordinance #10-005 where the portion (government or education) of the budget that the Town vote approves, that portion of the budget stands & cannot be cut any further by the Board of Finance, only the portion that did not get approved by vote can be further cut. Celeste has in the past years spoken with former First Selectman Paul Lenky, Ken Beausoleil, & they've all promised to look into & propose a modification to the Ordinance, but never followed through. Celeste feels this is a very important tool for the Town Budget referendums. Discussion ensued, members remember this concept being discussed several times over the years & believe it is waiting on Town Counsel feedback. Celeste Guimont would like Donna to contact the Town Attorney for a legal opinion.

*Al Landry mentioned the possibility of creating a guide for taxpayers, citizens, etc., a flow guide for assistance & guidance, possibility of discussing with Town Planner.

*Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, entered the meeting at approximately 9:00 AM. The abandoned proposed Blight Ordinance was discussed, discussion ensued. Al Landry gave a brief overview of the past discussions; In 2015 former Town Planner Mary Ann Chinatti, created a proposed Blight Ordinance. It was very restrictive, members reviewed the proposed ordinance in detail during several meetings, the committee raised several questions that have never been addressed. In October 2015 the proposed ordinance was overwhelmingly voted down. Discussion ensued. Donna will forward the defeated, proposed ordinance to Tyra for review, as well as ORC members to refresh their memories. Al Landry remembers a full two (2) pages of questions &/or concerns the committee had regarding the blight proposal, he would like those forwarded to her as well as members. Al Landry stated the Town has several agencies in place currently for public safety & health guidelines. Tyra Penn-Gesek will create a proposed Blight Ordinance for the ORC to review.

8). Adjourn

A Motion was made by Richard Trudeau to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 AM, seconded by Celeste Guimont. All in favor, Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna M. Hall,
Recording Secretary