

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Monday January 19, 2021

Members Present: Ed Millette, Jason Weir, Jodi Pinard Town Administrator and Kristy Willey Administrative Assistant

Members of the public: Attorney Ari Pollock, Joanne Breane, Stan Brehm, Malinda Weir, Ewen MacKinnon, Tara Blaney, Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, Brady Jezweski, Michael Paveglio and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Great Meadows Campground-

Attorney Pollock came before the Board with the campground owner, Joanne Breane. He stated that he was in attendance on Dec 10, 2020 and was back to discuss the situation further. He stated he has been in touch with the Town Attorney who had some questions for him regarding use of the winter sites and winter activities and amenities. They also discussed updating the site plan that would involve showing the removal of the cabins and creation of sites that are now used at winter. They are hoping to find a resolution to the zoning complaint.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Town Attorney sent over some recommendations for the Board which she has forwarded.

The Board and Attorney Pollock discussed the winter contracts vs. the summer contracts.

Mr. Weir stated that he sees two issues. The first is the site plan update which seems to be agreed upon. The second is what we consider year-round camping. The law does not allow year-round camping. This is meaning that a single person is not allowed to stay at the same place year-round, but what Great Meadow seems to be saying is that renters are a "summer site" during the summer and move to a different "winter site" during winter months. He asked Attorney pollock if this was correct.

Attorney Pollock stated that is the case for some people, but during the summer the winter sites are used for short term rentals since they are closer to the pool. He also stated that it does say in the contract that campers cannot use the campground as their permanent address.

Attorney Pollock asked what the major concern is and how much of a break in seasons or stays is considered acceptable.

Mr. Weir stated the Board is trying to follow the zoning and address safety concerns.

Mr. Millette stated that there is a zoning issue there and just because people switch sites does not mean that they are not residing there year-round. He would like Great meadow to comply with zoning and not work around it.

Mrs. Pinard stated that no matter what they must go back to Planning Board as their current site plan is completely out of date and has several sites that are not listed. The Town has no idea what exactly is on the property currently. The other issue is that campers come into Town Hall and try to register vehicles and when they are told no, they become very upset and nasty.

Mr. Brehm stated that its very clear in our zoning that it is for strictly recreational purposes and not for residency. He believes that before they can even come before the Planning Board, they would need to obtain a variance to allow winter camping.

Mrs. Blaney stated that for the state park campgrounds they require people to leave for at least 24hrs every two weeks before you can camp again.

The Board decided to wait until all three Selectmen are present to make any decisions. This will be tabled until the meeting on February 16, 2021.

Richard Moore-Letter of interest for D.O.T. for Sidewalks/Footpaths/Trials

Mr. Moore came before the Board to gauge the interest in submitting a letter of interest to D.O.T. for the Main St. sidewalks, the grange area, and the trails for non-motorized pass through. There is a program called, Transportation alternative program which has funds for items such as these to go towards construction, planning and design.

He stated that this grant does require a 20% match for any funds given.

Mr. Wier stated he had concerns about creating sidewalks considering the Highway Department does not have the equipment to maintain them, unless there is a provision that they will not be maintained during the winter months. This creates a lot of ongoing maintenance. Other than that, he would like to apply for the money for trails, etc.

Mr. Moore stated that he would like to focus the money of trials as well.

Mr. Mann stated that they have met with Central NH Regional Planning Commission and they have gathered a lot of information regarding the trails that may help. He asked if this money could be directed towards acquisition of new land.

Mr. Moore stated that he did not have that answer.

The consensus of the Board was to focus on development of recreational trails instead of the sidewalks.

Mr. Moore stated that he will get the maps from Mr. Mann via email and work on applying for the grant monies through the NH D.O.T. which will be focusing on the trail between the school and the Library.

Other Business-

Upcoming Public Hearing-

The Board discussed that the public hearing will be held via zoom and moderated by Mr. MacKinnon. He and the Mrs. Pinard will meet to put together a list of meeting rules. The Board will post guidelines and email them out and post them on the website for the public to review. The public hearing will be on February 2, 2021.

The Board discussed options for Town Meeting. This will be discussed again at length when more information is available.

Girls Scout Fire-

Ms. Weir came before the Board to ask to use the fire pit at Carpenter Park on behalf of the girl scouts. The Board agreed to her request.

Highway Contact Information-

Mr. Millette asked if the Highway cell number has been updated on the website.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the road agent would like to speak with the Board regarding the cell phone number being on the website. He will be added to the agenda to discuss this. She also informed the Board that Mr. Sykes has been in touch with Mr. Foss who has agreed to inform Mr. Sykes of the weather in Town and he has been provided with the cell phone number to reach him.

Minutes on Website-

Mr. Paveglio asked the Board why minutes have not been updated on the website. He stated that they should be posted in a timely manner or not at all and when he brought this up on social media it caused a frenzy. He stated if this were not done, he would be coming back to discuss 91-A.

Ms. Willey stated that it is the Board of Selectmen's policy not to post draft minutes. Since we have not met in person, the minutes have not been signed and approved. She stated that this has been discussed at previous meetings and if anyone would like to request draft minutes, all they need to do is email her for them.

The Board discussed that they are not in favor of posting draft minutes but will instead add them to the agenda to be approved at the beginning of every meeting so they can be posted.

Upcoming Meetings-

The next meeting will be on Thursday January 21, 2021 at 6:00pm.

The Public hearing will be held on February 2, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Weir and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Roll call vote. Weir, aye. Millette, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted.

Approved February 9, 2021

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir