

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of March 31, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Bland, Hwy AA/EMD/HO; Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent; Melinda Loisselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael & Judy Aron; Mark Girard; Lori & Steve Murray; Gregg Thibodeau

CALL TO ORDER: Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:30

Alternate Project Update: Still waiting for HSEM to get the funds and then we can move forward. Jennifer and Collin are working on the SOW for Derry Hill so we can put it out to bid at the next meeting.

Kathi mentioned that most of the engineering for Lynn Hill, Nye Rd, Sam Putnam Rd, Underwood, Thayer Brook Rd are complete.

Kathi asked Mark how Bowers Brook is doing. Mark said there is no sediment collection. He will contact NHDOT because there is debris downstream. Mark checks out the brook after every rainstorm to monitor things.

MINUTES: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve. Passed.*

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; Charlotte mentioned the \$125 for R&K was removed as the car is gone. Kathi asked about whether the 25 mph signs were for CLR. Jennifer confirmed they were. Kathi asked if the bill for Drummond Woodsum was for their services on the WA for town meeting. Charlotte confirmed it was. *The Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.*

PAYROLL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: Collin said the transmission cooling line on the Int'l needs replacing and they are waiting for the part.
 - Currently going around town chipping debris from the storm.
 - Kathi asked about the report stating they walked CLR for culvert inventory and if everyone was sharing info from Upper Valley. Jennifer said they were having a meeting tomorrow with them. Gregg said this is a stream crossing study and there are differences.
 - Kathi asked if sweeping will also include Forest, Grout and Beryl Bridges. They are planning this but starting with the Echo Valley one first.
 - Mark mentioned a pipe on Tucker Rd that has leaks that the highway will need to be addressed in May or June. Collin is aware.
- **PLANNING BOARD UPDATE:** Ryanne said the PB met on 3/24 and voted Mike Aron as Chair, Rob Vogel as Vice Chair. Had a public hearing on the Ledbetter's subdivision. The road frontage is missing 2 feet, so they approved 298 feet road frontage by waiver. Approved merger of Map 201 Lot 107 & 108. Discussed the MP update. Discussed a date of possibly Tuesday May 27th for a Spring's Joint Board's meeting.
 - Jennifer mentioned that the new owners of 161 Forest Rd, which recently sold on the 21st, had a driveway put in without a permit. Charlotte mentioned that there is no such number as 161 for Forest Rd. Jennifer will reach out to the realtor tomorrow to get their contact information. It is also in wetlands which requires a DES permit.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE: None

Kathi presented a proposal to the board about the Highway Dept. liaison. She stated that Selectmen as Representatives on Town Boards have a long and productive history but as a liaison with a Town dept. has a short and contentious history. The proposal for consideration at the next meeting was: the Selectboard not revive the Highway Dept. liaison but instead establish a representative to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. The reasons being: 1. the Hwy Dept reports to the Selectmen at each Selectmen's meeting. 2. The keys to the Highway Garage are kept with all other keys in the Town office by the Town Administrator. 3. Selectmen are charged with the cost effectiveness of all Town functions and taking employee time during work hours conflicts with that charge. 4. the Zoning Board is the deciding entity for any Selectmen decision which results in appeal, and Selectmen representation would provide valuable communication of Selectmen reasons for decisions made.

PUBLIC: Gregg said he took a walk-through Mr. Chase's property and there had been no change.

ACTION ITEMS:

- AVFR 2025/26 Contract: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; the **Board voted to approve and sign the application. Passed.**
- Appointments for ConCom and ZPA: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**
- MS-535: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**
- MS-232: This was reviewed, and the final version will be presented at the next meeting for signature.
- PA-35: Revision for response to veteran tax credit: Charlotte explained that the application was further reviewed by the Assessors and was determined that there are two separate RSAs for standard Vet. credit and 100% service-disabled vet credit and one isn't dependent on the other. It was determined that although the applicant didn't qualify for the standard vet credit they do qualify for disabled Vet. credit. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**
- Solid Waste Annual Post Closure Report: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**
- Letter to Cold Pond Land Trust: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; Kathi said this is regarding the complaints about the debris on the property, **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**
- Letter to Bassine Family Trust: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; Kathi mentioned that we are waiting to get an elevation certificate on the structure as the structure is there without an approved building permit. Mark said that Tiffany is working on getting information on the elevation, **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**
- Letter to Desrosiers: Kathi said there is work done on the road, damage on the road, there is a structure without a permit, etc. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; **the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.**

DISCUSSION:

- Abandon Car: No need to tow. It was removed by someone over the weekend.
- Thomas Morris, Campers on Milliken Brook Rd: Thomas called Charlotte and sent a copy of the registration and stated either the end of April or beginning of May the second camper will be removed.
- Response from ConCom re: sale of certain town owned land: The ConCom would like to see these properties remain under town control due to conservation value.
- Fall Mountain withdrawal study: Ryanne will be involved with these meetings and will be updating the board.
- SB-297: Risk Pool Management proposed legislation: This has to deal with our insurance HealthTrust and the state. Kathi mentioned she felt HealthTrust has always provided good service. What the state is proposing involves the town establishing their own reserve fund. She's concerned we may be forced into the retail insurance market and be paying higher rates. Judy said they are just getting in the house with the senate bills. The SB297 has been assigned to Commerce and there isn't a date set for a hearing yet. Judy suggested that the board send a letter voicing any concerns.
- Beehives: Charlotte will present a letter to the owner at the next meeting.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Kathi; **the Board voted to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau
Town Administrator