

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Selectmen
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of June 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Jim Jennison; Ryanne Schoonover

STAFF PRESENT: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Collin Crosby, Road Agent

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Beaupre; Glenn Elsesser; Lori & Steve Murray; Gregg Thibodeau

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

GUESTS: Tim Williams, Ruggiero; Joe Ruggiero: Discussion on the need for an increase in both hauling and disposal rates. It was agreed this can be included in the 2026 budget and they will wait until January to start billing for the increased amounts.

ALTERNATE PROJECT UPDATE: The new FEMA regional director is still requesting additional information.

2023 FLOOD:

- FRB remaining engineering scope & fee for preliminary & final design: The state approved this. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

MINUTES: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign with a correction from “her” to “owner’s name”.*** ***Passed.***

Kathi mentioned an edit to the May 19th minutes under the Conservation Commission report. She had stated that ConCom was in contact with the NH Dept of Natural & Cultural Resources and she should have said the NH Division of Forest & Land Management. The board agreed to note this change for the minutes.

BILL MANIFEST: Kathi said the year-to-date figures look good. She noted that our audit is going to cost more than our budget by about \$15k. We will have to keep an eye on this as we get closer to the end of the year as we will have to compensate by being under somewhere else. Ryanne gave an update on the Alstead Ambulance study committee. They have met and have set some goals which need to be met before they can expand services. It doesn’t seem likely this will happen before the budget season. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign the bill manifest. Passed.***

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Work report/work plan: The Dodge is still in the shop in Hillsborough waiting on parts. They dropped the WS in Londonderry to have the suspension repaired. They have been doing cold patch on Cold Pond Rd as well as working on culverts. Ditched all of Crescent Lake Rd, put in rip rap and repaired the large pothole. Filled potholes on Derry Hill Rd, graded Crane Brook Rd and Ryan Rd. They are going to start concentrating on making sure Hilliard, Ball and Grout Hill Rd to be sure they are in good shape as when they close 123A Collin thinks the detour will be on these roads. He has been told 123A will close on July 14th.
- **PLANNING BOARD UPDATE:** None
- **CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE:** Kathi: Met on June 11th. They are reviewing the ConCom plan and bylaws, drafts are on the website. They are in discussion with the forester for logging operations at the So Acworth Forest. Three property owners in town are in conversation with Gregg about conservation easements on their property. The easement monitoring is done this year. The earth day results were consistent with previous years. There was a meeting at Keyes Hollow that Gregg said went very well.

PUBLIC: Josh Beaupre introduced himself, stating he just bought property on River Rd.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Building Permits:
 - Richards M201 L56 (revised): Adjustments were made by changing the angle of the building. There is a letter from DES that they have received the shoreland permit application. The recommendation that has come to the board is that the permit be approved contingent on receiving the approved shoreland permit. On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board***

voted to approve and sign contingent on receiving the approved shoreland permit. Passed with Jim opposing as he didn't feel comfortable approving without the shoreland permit number on the building permit. Passed.

- D&M Miller M241 L4: On a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- B Kaufhold M246 L37: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to refer this to ZBA due to insufficient setbacks. Passed.***
- J Beaupre M236 L12: This is a temporary storage container rented until the end of August to keep his tools in. On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to table this until we find out if there needs to be a shoreland permit and/or elevation certificate. Passed.***
- Abatement: Auten M239 L8: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Audit engagement letter: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Road agreement for D Richards timber cut: On a motion by Jim, seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Reports of Cut: N Jennison M233 L20; L&R Fowler M218 L8: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- Letter to N Works M221 L18 Charlestown Rd: On a motion by Jim seconded by Ryanne; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***
- 2025 UVLSRPC-SADES stream crossing assessment: After some discussion, on a motion by Kathi, seconded by Jim; ***the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.***

COMPLIANCE:

- Kelin email: Charlotte will mail him a new building permit application as the other one has expired, and construction hasn't started.
- 2nd mobile home on 374 Beryl Mtn Rd: Charlotte spoke with a resident that lives there, and they are aware the structure needs to be moved. The first plan of someone coming to get it fell through.
- Thomas Morris, Milliken Brook Rd: He called to say they will be bringing the 2nd trailer back for the summer and will remove it in 90 days.

DISCUSSION:

- Email from Gregg re: Osgood's intent to cut: Gregg has reached out to Nick Osgood and Nick told Gregg he is in the forestry business. He owns over 10k acres, some in VT and some in ME. He buys conservation land and is aware of the stewardship plan on his Acworth property. He wants to make some changes to it and is in the process of finding a forester to help him with this. Gregg doesn't see any issues with the logging operation as Nick is currently removing diseased trees.
- Survey work at Crescent Lake M201 L108-Atty guidance: Gregg said there are 6-7 boundary situations that need to be resolved before the survey for L108 is finalized. They are working with the abutters and looking into the options. Due to L108 being tax deeded to the town, there is an RSA that authorizes the Selectmen, with a vote to transfer a portion of the property. This would resolve one of the encroachment issues. Gregg requested that we ask town council to confirm this.
- Follow up on shoreland permits for Beryl Mtn Rd-Gregg: Only dead trees have been cut down which doesn't require a permit.
- Memorial Park project completion; Gregg: Gregg said they completed the project this year, and the only thing left is maintenance. They believe the area will require weed control once a year around the bricks. The committee will pay for it from what they have left in their budget. They will probably be able to pay for it for several years and then once expended they will look for it to be included in the town budget. The cost will probably be a couple of hundred dollars once a year.
- Dodge Hollow Class A Trail entrance: Discussion on an easement on River Rd to access the trail. Information was received from local government along with a sample easement template. The question is how to complete the plan since the town can't do work on a Class VI Road. Gregg couldn't find an example of this situation in other towns. Usually, it's town property or on a Class A Trail and not on a Class VI Road. The way to go forward would be for the property owner to start a volunteer group.
- Fall Mountain withdrawal study update: Ryanne: The whole group met on the 29th. There were 12 basic assumptions that must be made to create the budget. For the purposes of the study, one of the assumptions they all agreed to was that all Walpole and Langdon high school students would go to the high school on a tuition basis, however this could change.

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Kathi; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted
Charlotte Comeau,
Town Administrator