

Minutes of July 22, 2014
Warren Selectboard
Warren Municipal Building
7:00 PM
Unapproved

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Matt Groom and Colleen Mays (7:30PM)

Members Absent: Anson Montgomery & Bob Ackland.

Others Present: John O'neil, Damon Read, Craig Klofach, Cory Miller, (Friends of the Mad River), Barry Simpson, Carol Crossman, Kate Wanner, Robin Bleier, Bo Anderson, Rachel (VR), Sam TV 44/45.

7:35 PM – Meeting called to order.

7:36 PM – River Side Park – Park or Floodplain Area? - Mr. Cunningham started the discussion off by saying they received a letter from a citizen feeling that the park needs to be fixed or closed. The Warren Selectboard would like to see the park better than its current state and that it does still act as a place for the river to expend its energy. The Park was flooded in the July 3 and 4 storms and the Town did not have the man power or money to fix the park. The Selectboard last year voted to do nothing to it. The Town did receive FEMA money for the damages to other places in Town. In the deed reference of 1998, the park is not eligible for any FEMA dollars to fix it after each flooding event. Mr. Groom was tasked from the last meeting to present a plan for the park. He commented that the site in its current state is in disrepair, there are very few places to access the river, the field and the riparian buffer is over grown and it is not an inviting place for people to come. Ms. Mays commented that he has talked with people that are interested in helping to clean the park up. Mr. Groom commented that he had a call from a person that has a group of 25 volunteer veterans that would come and pick rocks, move debris, fill in holes etc. Mr. Reed from the Conservation Commission wanted to specifically know what the Selectboard wants to see down at the park. Mr. Groom commented that the trees and buffer zone could stay on the south side. He would like to see the small trees that the Friends planted mowed around. On the westerly side where you drive in, he would like to see the grass mowed down to the big maple trees and to the river, fill in all the holes so that it can be mowed. Mr. Cunningham commented that the Town's interest was to have a river access that was usable, inviting and enjoyable and also a place for the river to expend its energy. Mr. Bleier from the Conservation Commission commented that we want to be good neighbors and especially at the southern end, people could cut the knotweed that has over taken the bank or pick rocks. He also commented that it provides educational opportunities and there could be signs placed in the area educating the public. He also stated that people have a different vision of Park vs. Flood Plain Management Zone for educational opportunities and maybe the name needs to be change. He also stated that going forward it could be mowed once or twice a year, but is going be a constant expense for the town to repair after each storm. Ms. Wanner from the Conservation Commission also stated that the Commission has draft management plan that is being looked at for the Riverside. Ms. Miller, Friends of the Mad River, stated that the state recommends a 50' buffer zone and that the channel is moving after each storm. Deposits of sediment, trees and debris help

to protect the field from constant erosion.

Page 2

Mr. Cunningham suggested that all interested parties meet at Riverside Park on July 29 at 6:00 PM to review and stake out the areas that need to be improved and move forward.

7:45 PM – Job Descriptions Update – Dept of Public Works, Road Foreman & Town Administrator – Deferred until next meeting

7:50 PM – Town Garage – Defer to Next Meeting.

8:25 pm – Memorandum of Understanding on Solar Project with Warren School District – Status update on project – Mr. Cunningham deferred discussion on the MOU as Mr. Montgomery was not at the meeting to update the status. Power issue: The Town was not informed by Aegis that the 3-phase line needed to the system had changed causing problems with Green Mountain Power and the private citizens in the area. The original proposal showed the 3 phase coming down Brook Road, then down Luce Pierce Road to behind the Town Garage. GMP contractors for trimming trees, has clear cut behind the Town Garage and started to work on Luce Pierce Road for trimming but it does require a pole and anchor to be placed in front of a present homeowner's home. GMP looked at using the existing 3 phase from Flat Iron that goes up the hill by poles and then underground to the school. That option would require an additional \$50,000 to run from the school over to the solar array. Construction would be costly with poles or underground with the existing sewer system. Utilities do have a right of way to trim, cut and maintain their power lines as what was stated to the homeowners. They were sympatric with the homeowners concerns and even met with the home owners to discuss the trimming and new pole layout on Luce Pierce. After conversation with the homeowners on Luce Pierce, which they were not notified of this change, GMP came up with another solution of coming down Brook Road, pole at corner of School Road, pole a corner of Town Garage entrance and pole behind town garage to the field. Mr. Cunningham met with Brian Dooley from Green Mountain Power to discuss the options and has requested the additional cost information for the changes that the Town would have to pay. Mr. Dooley would mark the locations and send over the cost information for the next board meeting. The delay will put the project back a couple of weeks. Mr. Cunningham commented that the solar array system would be completed in August and scheduled operational in September. The MOU needs to be clear, reviewed by the Town Attorney and set up with The Warren School District to start to pay the cost of credits to the Town to pay the bond payments.

8:50 PM – Dept. of Public Works – Barry Simpson – Covered Bridge – Mr. Simpson reported that the engineering plan is leaning towards reconstructing the south abutment in the same place as it is now.

Shashoua Pond Update – The Shashoua's have hired Kingsbury Construction to look at the dam breach and do what it needs to be done to pump the pond down permanently to prevent damages that could occur in the future.

Page 3

Town Garage – Mr. Simpson gave to the road crew a questionnaire on what they would like to see for the layout of the town garage.

Lease Rental for Mower – Mr. Simpson presented to Mr. Cunningham a rental agreement for a 2 wheel drive mower for the last two weeks of August for \$2,100.00. The Town has to pay to have it picked up and returning it.

9:00 PM – Godfrey Late Filer – Mr. Godfrey presented a letter to the Warren Selectboard asking to waive the late homestead filing on his tax bill. The Selectboard has the authority to waive the late filing homestead penalty.

Motion by Mr. Groom to waive the late filer penalty fee on Mr. Godfrey's bill, second by Ms. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

9:05 PM – Lease Land – Sims – Title – Olenick and Olenick presented a correction on a warranty deed. When Warren was first settled, the governance was that people paid a lease fee to the Town. Today it is now taxes that are paid the Town. This is just a small formality to clean up the quit claim deed.

Motion by Mr. Groom to approve the quit claim deed change concerning lease land, second by Ms. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0

9:10 PM – Approval of Payroll warrants – Motion by Ms. Mays to approve the payroll warrants for \$14,862.41 as presented, second by Mr. Groom. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

9:15 PM – Approval of Accounts Payable Warrants – Motion by Mr. Groom to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants as presented for \$118669.33, second by Ms. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

9:18 PM – Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2014 – Motion by Mr. Groom to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2014, second by Ms. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

9:20 PM – Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2014 – Deferred – Not enough voting members to approve.

9:24 PM – Letter from the Sugar Tree – Mr. Cunningham read the letter from the Sugar Tree regarding the noise construction and the impact on its guests. Warren does not have a noise ordinance specifying hours of construction. Owners could contact Sugarbush and talk to them about their concerns.

9:28 PM – Fire Dept Assessment Update – Consultant still has not sent report to the Selectboard. Assessment will be sometime in August.

9:30 PM – Motion by Mr. Groom to adjourn, second by Ms. Mays. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Ms. Jones, Warren Town Administrator

The Warren Selectboard

Andrew Cunningham, Chair

Matt Groom

Colleen Mays

Bob Ackland

Anson Montgomery