

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 5:56 by Chairman Reagan. Selectmen Borthwick made a motion to go into non public session under 91-A:3c to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wilson and voted 3-0 in favor by a roll call vote.

At 6:55 PM Selectmen Borthwick made a motion to recess the non public session until completion of the public meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wilson and voted 3-0 in favor by a roll call vote.

Chairman Reagan led those in attendance in reciting our pledge of allegiance. Others present and those who joined the meeting in progress: Selectmen Marcia Wilson, Selectmen Scott Borthwick, Town Administrator, Michael Capone, Dave Barney, Bill Chabot, Rachel Ruppel, John Bergeron, Laura Weit, Ellie Davis, Phil Salvail, Al Posnanski, and Joe Frazier.

Minutes of the May 11, 2010 Meeting

After reviewing the minutes, Selectmen Borthwick moved and Selectmen Wilson seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting as written. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Jeanie Forrester State Senate Candidate

Jeanie Forester, a republican candidate for State Senate, was present to introduce herself to the Board. Ms. Forester provided the Board and those present with her background and reasons for seeking office. She took questions from the Board and those present with regard to her positions on some of the issues of the day. Ms. Forester thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

Mascoma River Nomination – Discussion and Vote

Chairman Reagan explained that the Board had three options available to them with regard to their vote on the nomination of the section of the Mascoma River from the Canaan Center Store to the Enfield Town line for inclusion into the State of New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. A vote in support of the nomination would allow the nomination to move forward as is. A neutral vote would allow the nomination to proceed, but allow for a change of position in the future. A vote in opposition to the nomination would mean that the nomination would proceed but only for the portion of the river from the Enfield/ Canaan border to the Connecticut River.

Chairman Reagan asked if there were any questions with regard to the nomination.

Al Posnanski asked what the responsibilities of the members of the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) would be with regard to representing the Town's interests. Would they vote on their own or seek input from the Board of Selectmen or other groups. This prompted a brief discussion but yielded no clear answer to Al's question.

A question was asked with regard to the length of term of the members of the LAC. Rachel Ruppel explained that they were three years terms and the submissions had to have the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

With no further questions, Chairman Reagan made a motion to nominate the section of the Mascoma River from the Canaan Center Store to the Enfield Town line for inclusion into the State of New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wilson. Chairman Reagan then conducted a roll call vote on the motion. Selectmen Wilson was in favor of the motion. Selectmen Borthwick was opposed to the motion. Chairman Reagan voted for the neutral position. Given the result, Chairman Reagan asked if any member of the Board wished to reconsider their vote. Selectmen Wilson reconsidered and voted for the neutral position. That left the vote at two in favor of the neutral position and one opposed. Chairman Reagan once again explained that the neutral vote would allow the nomination to proceed, but allow for a change of position in the future. Laura Weit of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services explained that there would be three other occasions in the nominating process to seek further opinions from the Board and the public with regard to the nomination.

Recreation Commission – Alonda Kaler, John Knott

Alonda Kaler and John Knott were present to discuss the Cozy Corner project they had been working on. John stated that he wanted some clarification from the Board with regard to the project. He mentioned that Chairman Reagan had given them the go ahead to work on the project at the December Recreation Commission meeting. Chairman Reagan did not recall making that statement and reminded Mr. Knott that one Selectmen cannot authorize any project or activity to proceed. It takes a majority vote of a Board to move forward on a project. Michael asked if the Recreation Commission had voted to proceed with the renovation. John mentioned that the Commission, at present, had two members in favor of proceeding and two opposed. Carol had not been available to attend meetings lately.

Selectmen Borthwick asked if the minutes indicated support from the Commission for moving forward. He thought the focus of the group was to be the playground.

Selectmen Wilson suggested that the Commission focus on approving their by-laws prior to proceeding with any projects. She asked if the other Board members would review the draft of the by-laws for the Commission and provide comment. Selectmen Borthwick agreed that the Board should review the draft and discuss the matter further at the Meeting of June 8, 2010. The other Board members were in agreement.

Chairman Reagan thanked John and Alonda for their time.

Sara Coons – Benefits of Trails to the Community

Sara Coons, Coordinator of the Mascoma Trails Project was present to discuss the benefits of Trails to a community. She spoke with the Board and those present with regard to the activities of both the Upper Valley Healthy Eating Active Living Partnership and the Mascoma Trails Project. The objective of her attending the meeting was to seek support for the Trails program and get some input on what can be mapped for trails in Canaan. Sara received a number of suggestions on who to contact with regard to getting more information on trails in Town. Sara thanked the Board and those present for their suggestions and support.

Gift from Williams Field Association

Michael read a letter from Tom Guillette explaining that the Williams Field Association would like to make a gift of labor and materials to the Town to repair a section of the outfield fence at Williams Field and add a section of new fencing in the playground area. Michael noted that the Board had been authorized by a Town meeting vote to accept such gifts under RSA 31:95e. The estimated cost of the project was \$2800.00. Since the gift was under \$5,000.00 a public hearing was not necessary prior to the Board accepting the gift. Selectmen Borthwick made a motion that the Town accept the gift of fencing from the Williams Field Association. Selectmen Wilson seconded the motion and the Board voted 3-0 in favor of accepting the gift.

Other Business

Michael mentioned that he would like to contact Mr. Hammond and renew discussions with regard to having his company accept C&D directly from residents and eliminate it from the Transfer Station. The Board asked Michael to go ahead and contact Mr. Hammond.

Chief Bellion had submitted nomination papers for three new Fire Wardens for the Boards' review and approval. Selectmen Borthwick made a motion to accept the nominations as submitted. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wilson and voted 3-0 in favor by the Board. They then signed the nomination forms for Michael to forward to the State.

Michael mentioned that he had received two quotes from fuel dealers for the 2010-2011 heating season. He asked the Board if they wanted to pursue an agreement at this time or wait to see what happens with the markets. The Board members agreed that they wanted to hold off on an agreement for now.

Michael asked the Board if they wanted to discuss the Historical Society Memorandum of Understanding at this meeting. The Board members wanted to review it at another meeting.

Michael mentioned that he was going to the Northeast Resource Recovery Association office on Wednesday morning to pick up the new recycling signs and speak with Bonnie Bethune about a report she was preparing for the Town.

Selectmen Borthwick mentioned that the Friends of Canaan Main Street wanted to purchase Velcro straps that could be used to attach flags to light poles downtown for special events. The Board members voiced support for the idea.

Selectmen Borthwick mentioned that he was concerned about the tax impact the new county jail will have on the County tax rate. He cited numbers from correspondence received from the County that indicated the rate would go from 1.28/thousand in 2010 up to 1.63/thousand in 2013.

Chairman Reagan suggested that the Board consider renewing discussions with the Methodist Church regarding the section of land adjacent to the parking area behind the Library. Michael mentioned that if we could get an 8' strip of land a head in parking area could be constructed eliminating some of the staff and patron parking issues for both the Library and the Town Office.

Al Posnanski asked about using a backhoe to help pack down the roll off containers at the Transfer Station. Selectmen Borthwick commented that he could see no reason why the highway department could not go over and pack down the roll offs as needed. Michael said he would speak with the Road Agent and Transfer Station staff to see what could be done.

Al also wanted to thank the Town Highway and David Heath in particular for their assistance with the 4-H roadside cleanup.

Ellie Davis expressed her concern with the safety measures taken by the Highway crew while working on Fernwood Farms Road. Michael said that he would speak with the Road Agent regarding Ellie's concerns.

Non-Public Session (RSA 91 – A.3-c)-continued

With no further business before the Board, at 8:58 PM Selectman Borthwick moved and Selectmen Wilson seconded a motion to reconvene the non public session to that had been recessed at 6:55PM. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wilson and voted 3-0 in favor by a roll call vote.

At 10:12 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to come out of non-public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Wilson and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 10:12 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Wilson and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 10:13 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Wilson and voted 3-0 by the Board.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

Marcia Wilson
Canaan Board of Selectmen

