

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
4:30 PM Town Hall

Present: Matthew Riiska, Paul Madore, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard,
Troy LaMere and Ruth Melville

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comments: Troy LaMere, Public Works Supervisor came to the meeting to voice his concern and seek clarification regarding his authority over public works disciplinary policies. To continue this conversation when S. Evans arrives.

Minutes: May 4, 2022

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2022 meeting as presented.
Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Committee Appointments: Workplace, Health & Safety Committee
(Troy LaMere, Public Works and Robert Marieni, Botelle School)

MOTION S. Evans to appoint Troy LaMere and Robert Marieni to the Workplace, Health and Safety Committee. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Selectman's Report

- M. Riiska opened up for discussion the subject of who is in charge of disciplinary action, recommendations and decisions for the public works employees. Troy LaMere shared his job description with the selectmen which states that he responsible for the hiring and discipline. Troy stated that he doesn't take this subject lightly but needs to have some authority to perform his job correctly and is looking for clarification from the selectmen regarding his responsibilities. Discussion ensued regarding new hires and their probationary period vs. the discipline of union employees which includes verbal and written warnings plus documentation.
- M. Riiska reported that a few Norfolk residents have contacted him recently about neighbors discharging firearms on their own property. State regulations for the use of firearms on private property stipulate that you must be at least 500 feet from any house or a dwelling that houses domestic animals. Matt will be contacting an attorney, the DEEP and the State Police to understand how far we can go in putting together a town ordinance or regulation regarding this.
- Mountain Road Bridge – moving along and on target. The waterline is in, and they are working on the sewer line. The Town of Norfolk will be responsible for repairing the wall on the Battell Stoeckel Estate, as part of the wall had to be taken down for the bridge project (at least 50 feet). The cost for this repair will be approximately \$50,000 of which 50% will be reimbursed from the State. NJR Construction will do repairs.

Selectman's Report continued

- River Place Bridge – M. Riiska attends the bi-weekly meetings held at the bridge where the contractors have rented a house to use as their office. Currently they are waiting on Eversource to install a few poles to string wires. Because of delays in getting some of the needed components the completion date has been moved from 11/30/22 to 07/01/23.
- Mountain Road water main – 7,000 feet long and going all the way up to Wangum Lake. They are making good progress and are very aware of the patron and emergency access needed for the Yale Summer programs.
- Mountain Road Bridge (near Graham-Jones property) – While trying to bore a sleeve under the culvert they damaged the culvert which they will repair.
- Troy LaMere has been keeping Planning & Zoning and Inland/Wetlands informed about the bridge progress.
- Sidewalks – The town was planning on asphaltting the sidewalk from Station Place up to the Frog which would have been fairly inexpensive. The wall at the Frog also needs repair. (Neither the wall nor the sidewalk are on town property.) M. Riiska has a meeting with the Historic Commission next week to discuss what the town can do to replace that sidewalk in the most cost-effective manner.
- Sidewalk – Someone slipped and fell last fall on the sidewalk in front of the Yale/Church of Christ area. Once again, the sidewalk is on State property but the town is responsible for the insurance claim and for fixing the sidewalk, which is in disrepair. M. Riiska will be addressing this sidewalk with the Historic District Commission to see if we can remove the slate and replace with a material similar to what The Norfolk Library used from the gate down to Station Place.
- North Colebrook Road will be getting the final coat of pavement next week.
- Tree trimming/cutting will be taking place between Town Hall and Station Place. Also, trees will be marked for cutting from Green Road to North Colebrook Road.
- Discussion regarding maintenance of City Meadow and Robertson Plaza.

MOTION P. Madore to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gomez