

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
4:30 PM Town Hall

Present: Matthew Riiska, Henry Tirrell, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard, Kathryn Boughton, Ruth Melville, John DeShazo, Virginia Prisco, Amy Bennet and Holly Alexson

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: December 4, 2024 and December 23, 2024 (Special Meeting)

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting as presented. Second M. Riiska. Motion carried.

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2024 special meeting as presented. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Appointments/Reappointments: Farmer's Market & Rails to Trails

Farmers Market Committee - M. Riiska put forth the following individuals for reappointment to the Farmer's Market Committee: Marie-Christine Perry, Richard Tomaselli, Mary Jo Tomaselli and George Vinick with the terms to expire 12/31/27. Also put forth as new members to be appointed were Darby Weigel and April Carter with the terms to expire 12/31/27.

Rails to Trails Committee – M. Riiska would like to add John Anderson as a new member with no term limit

MOTION S. Evans to appoint and reappoint the above-listed individuals with terms indicated. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Norfolk/Colebrook School Consolidation Discussion

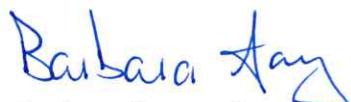
- There are currently 61 students at Botelle. 57 residents and 4 non-residents who pay tuition. Colebrook has approximately the same number of students.
- Cost per student was discussed and it was noted by a resident in attendance that special education students cost significantly more.
- Brad Bremer, Colebrook First Selectman, would like to form a Consolidation Committee consisting of 4 residents from each town.
- Sandy Evans suggested having a meeting here in Norfolk so that the Norfolk residents have a chance to voice their opinions in an open discussion prior to forming a committee. Colebrook residents will be invited. A tentative date for early February was discussed. It was suggested that the meeting be well advertised.
- M. Riiska reported that according to the POCD the Norfolk population has been trending down over the years and their figures have been accurate so far.
- Virginia Prisco announced that the Botelle School administration will open the doors to anyone wishing to visit during the school day.

Selectman's Report

- Budget season has started. Wage increases will need to be considered as well as hiring an assistant town clerk. Road work is also a big item to be discussed.
- Farmer's Market – M. Riiska received an e-mail from Lisa Auclair regarding their intentions this year. They are considering having a market at the Norbrook Brewery. We will need to discuss this with our insurance carrier regarding liability issues.
- River Place Bridge – The 2nd loan was approved, and paperwork was sent to the bond council and should be wrapped up by next week. There are currently 4-5 outstanding invoices. M. Riiska attended a meeting today with everyone involved. The scheduled date for completion is now April 30, 2025.
- Route 44 Wall Project is projected to be completed in 2 ½ years.
- Firehouse Committee met last night with our management company (Newfield Construction) and the architects. An estimate of \$9.5 million dollars was submitted. The committee is a great group to work with and we were able to trim almost \$1 million dollars off the estimate by cutting items that could be completed at a later date. Newfield Construction will work on revising the estimate in accordance with the changes suggested.

MOTION S. Evans to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Gomez, Secretary