

Submitted By:  
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Approved By:

MINUTES

May 25, 2005

*Called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Selectmen Rice, Douglass and Perkins present.*

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes.
- Dog Warrant.

**All items reviewed and signed.**

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with the Curtis Doughty, Road Commissioner, and Les Smith, Road Committee to discuss plans for rebuilding the Stoneybrook Road in front of the Beals property and participation in the Local Traffic Sign Grant Program.

**Meeting held. The T/A reported he had mailed notices of the meeting to all residents along Stoneybrook Road and also had published an ad in the newspaper. He also reported that Lynn Pantalena had not responded to phone calls or letters concerning the Town obtaining a grading and ditching easement. The section of road in front of her property will be redesigned to stay within the Towns current right of way, but will require guardrails.**

**Les Smith, Chair of the Road Committee, reported that a decision must be made whether to close the section of road being rebuilt to thru traffic (except those living on the rebuilt section) or whether to allow one way traffic during construction. He estimated a savings of at least \$3,000 if the road was closed. The Selectmen had a concern about access by emergency vehicles and decided to table a decision until the next meeting when the Fire Chief, Rescue Chief and Police Chief could be present. They also requested that the Public Safety Advisory Committee and Road Committee meet and make a recommendation for the next meeting.**

**Selectman Douglass recommended bidding the project both ways (closed and one way traffic); Mr. Smith will discuss the dual bids with Pine Tree Engineering.**

**The original timeline presented by Mr. Smith will have to be changed depending on the outcome of next weeks meeting. All those concerned would like to have the project completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>. No traffic count had been conducted, however Mr. Beals stated that there is a steady flow of traffic.**

**The State DOT Local Roads section is soliciting for municipalities in Sagadahoc County who may be interested in cost sharing (25% - Town, 75% - State) the funds necessary to replace old regulatory road signs on Town owned roads. This is a one time offer of funding assistance. The Selectmen voted (3-0) to apply for the program.**

- Meet with Dave Barter from Winnegance Wheelers concerning the availability of a grant through the Department of Conservation.

**Tabled. Mr. Barter was not present.**

- Meet with Lee Rainey, CEO, concerning two businesses in Town that are serving meals without a Business Permit. The businesses involved are North Creek Farms and Kennebec Sporting Clays.

**North Creek Farms (owned by Kai Jacob and Suzy Verrier) and Kennebec Sporting Clays (owned by Ed Hunt and operated by Brooks Mitchell) have been serving meals that are being consumed on site. This is not allowed under the Town issued business permits for either business. Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Verrier were present at the meeting and supplied a letter to the Selectmen which is on file at the Town Office. The letter requested that the Selectmen authorize North Creek Farms to continue serving meals to be consumed on site until their New Business Hearing. Marion Hebert, member of the Planning Board, provided a handout which showed the timeline for all permits issued to North Creek Farms (after the fact) and stated that she had conducted a poll of four Planning Board members and they were not in favor of allowing any type of exemption. Tip Newell, member of the Planning Board, stated that all permits by North Creek Farms were obtained after the fact.**

**The Selectmen informed Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Verrier that they do not have the authority to allow them an exemption to operate until their business hearing. They have the authority to issue a non enforcement letter but will not do that because it would be subverting the permitting process. They further stated that the CEO would review the original business permit and determine if North Creek Farms is in compliance with the permit. If it is not, the CEO will take the necessary required action under the ordinance. The CEO stated that he had delivered a blank application and list of abutters to the owners of North Creek Farms on April 18<sup>th</sup> and he currently has a letter drafted requiring that both businesses cease serving food on premise until they have the appropriate business hearings.**

**The T/A will contact Sporting Clays to see if they will be requesting a New Business Hearing in June.**

- Meet with John Skroski, Chief of Police, to discuss having State DOT conduct another traffic safety survey of the intersection of Main Road and Parker Head Road at the Center.

**Chief Skroski reported that there was another accident at the intersection of Parker Head Road and Main Road that resulted in injuries. On Oct 27, 2005 he had mailed a road review list to DOT and Bullet #10 asked that they review this intersection for safety. He has contacted Randy Dunton from DOT and Mr. Dunton will conduct a thorough investigation of the intersection to include speed and line of site – it will be at the top of his list. Selectman Rice recommended having everyone involved with the intersection, including abutters and the Road Commissioner, get together with Mr. Dunton to discuss the intersection. He also stated that the State has previously refused to reduce the speed limit or install a light.**

**Chief Skroski also reported that he recently conducted seat belt safety classes**

**at the school and the Bike Rodeo was well attended. At Selectman Rice's request, Chief Skroski gave a short overview of the seat belt law.**

- Meet with the Assessing Agent, Juanita Wilson, to discuss a tree growth supplemental and corrective abatements.

**Meeting held. The Selectmen signed a supplemental bill for removing a parcel from tree growth (Marie E. Gillett, trustee) for \$100,950.00. Also, three small corrective abatements were signed which were adjustments for well and/or septic.**

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Recommendation from the Town Landing Committee on Acre Lot expansion funding.

**The Town Landing Committee recommended applying for a bond through the Maine Bond Bank for the Acre Lot expansion. The Selectmen voted (3-0) to apply for a two year Bond and have the Special Town Meeting to approve it on either June 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.**

- New appointments to the Planning Board and Shellfish Conservation Commission.

**Four citizens had applied for a regular seat and an alternate seat on the Planning Board. The applicants were Gil Marco, Mark Hawkes, Richard Nichols and Robert Smith. The Selectmen voted (3-0) to accept the recommendations of the Planning Board and appointed Robert Smith to the full time position and Mark Hawkes to the alternate position. Another appointment for Stephen Warner for the Shellfish Commission was tabled until the Commission made a recommendation.**

**Selectman Douglass stated that the Selectmen needed to take a close look at necessity of the Conservation Commission which is down to two members with no one volunteering to join it. Many of its responsibilities have been assumed by other committees and the Town seems to be functioning fine without an active committee. The Selectmen may want to consider dissolving the committee. Selectman Rice requested that the issue be listed for review on a future agenda.**

- Choice of CPA firm for the 2005 audit.

**Brewers Accounting has conducted the annual audit for the last seven years. The Selectmen directed the T/A to send out RFP's for a new auditing firm. The Selectmen praised the work completed by Brewers Accounting in the past. The decision to change auditing firms is based on an MMA recommendation for municipalities to change firms every five years or so. The Selectmen also asked that the School Board and Cemetery Trustees be notified and asked to consider changing auditors.**

- The PCATV joining the Community Television Association of Maine.

**Selectman Perkins reported that the membership will allow the PCATV to gain access to other information and will allow them to enhance their rules and regulations. Tom Totman reported that the cost would be \$60.00 a year. The Selectmen voted (2-0) to approve the request. Selectman Perkins abstained from vote because he is on the committee.**

- Offer from Bath CATV for the Selectmen to respond to the “Sam Day H-II” tape produced by GAC and edited by Josh Bate.

**The T/A reported that he has only received one response to the tape. It was the consensus of the Selectmen there is not need for a response. Selectman Douglass stated that the issue of the tape being aired is between the producer and Channel 14.**

**In related discussion, Mr. Bate stated that the purpose of taping the meetings is to allow people access that can't attend the meetings and that he understood, after talking to the Station Manager, that a previous Selectmen's meeting when Nancy Coffin came in to speak to the Selectmen was not completely aired because of a power failure. However, he had expected it to be aired in it's entirety at a later date. Tom Totman stated that it was aired at a later date in a blank slot but did not show in the schedule because it had already been compiled. Tom Totman also added that his tapes are not edited to which Mr. Bate disagreed (i.e. candidates night.) Mr. Bate requested that all tapes be aired in their entirety. The Selectmen recommended that the PACTV Committee meet with them at a future Selectmen's meeting to discuss the status of taping.**

4. Review the following items:

- Letter from the State Planning Office concerning Harpswell's Comp Plan review.  
**Reviewed. No action taken.**
- School Union Newsletter.  
**Reviewed. No action taken. Selectman Rice mentioned that the sound system at the school would need some repair work.**
- Letters from SUSCOM concerning relocation of channels and changes in services.  
**Reviewed. No action taken.**
- Legislative Report.  
**Reviewed. No action taken. Selectman Rice mentioned that there was more testimony concerning the homestead exemption section of LD1. However, it came out of committee with a recommendation to make no adjustments.**
- Letter from the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber concerning their capital campaign to build a new regional chamber building.  
**Reviewed. No action taken.**
- Letter from Richard Nichols to the Planning Board requesting that they undertake a formal Socio-economic Impact Assessment concerning Mr. Poliquin's subdivision.  
**Clifford Newell, Planning Board member, stated that the Mr. Poliquin's subdivision was just in the preliminary planning stage. Selectman Rice stated that when something comes to the Town compelling action it would be by a petition, the Selectmen accepting it and putting it on the Town Meeting Warrant or the Planning Board recommending it. The Selectmen have none of the three at this time. Mr. Newell stated that the subdivision process is not far enough ahead to even consider it. The consensus of the Selectmen was that the letter was for informational purposes only.**
- Letter concerning Norris Family v. Town of Phippsburg court schedule.  
**Reviewed. No further action taken.**

5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars:
  - Maine Center for Economic Policy Meeting  
**Reviewed. No action taken.**
  - Elected Officials Workshop  
**Selectman Perkins will attend.**
  - County Mitigation Workshop  
**The T/A and Les Smith will attend.**
  - Open Space Workshop  
**Reviewed. No action taken**
  
6. Miscellaneous
  - **Selectman Rice stated that the Board of Selectmen have a voting seat on the Phippsburg Land Trust. Any further discussion was tabled until a later date.**
  - **Selectman Rice formally welcomed Selectman Perkins to the Board.**
  - **Josh Bate asked if he could be notified of the meeting with the PCATV to which the answer was yes. He also asked if the mowing of town property would be put out to bid now that Everett Perkins is a Selectman. The T/A stated that the Town Attorney did not perceive any conflict of interest concerning Mr. Perkins mowing town property as long as he excuses himself from any discussions concerning it. Mr. Perkins has been mowing the property for over 10 years. The T/A also stated that an article to require such things to be put out to bid had failed at a prior Town Meeting. Selectmen tabled discussion for a later meeting.**

Adjourned at 8:54.p.m.