

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator March 31, 2010

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectmen Douglass, Perkins and Pye in attendance.

I. Meetings and Hearings:

1. Meet with Road Commissioner Doughty to discuss lifting the road postings.
Commissioner Doughty stated that because of the recent rain the roads should be left posted for several more days to allow them to dry up.
The Selectmen, based on the Road Commissioner's recommendation, voted (3-0) to remove the road postings effective midnight on Saturday April 3rd.
Commissioner Doughty also reported that the recent severe rain flooded Sam Day Hill Road by the marsh and washed out a section of Falls Cove in the Basin.
2. Meet with Juanita Wilson, Assessing Agent, to review an abatement.
This was a FY 2010 abatement request for land with building at 165 Fiddlers Reach Road, Map 031, Lot 01, owned by Richard and Gloria Healy. The amount requested was a reduction of \$13,600 in value on the land. The Assessing Agent recommended that the abatement be denied because the aggregate amount of assessment was within parameters and the owners had computed average acreage value of the abutters as support of their claim (abutting properties were of different sizes and configurations).
Selectmen voted (3-0) to deny the abatement request.
3. Meet with Peter Roberts to discuss the gift of Basin property.
Mr. Roberts stated that he was surprised to arrive at the school for the public informational meeting and find 10 to 12 people at the head table. This makeup of the head table went far beyond the expectations of a committee focusing on educational benefits of a land donation. Mr. Roberts recommended that the Selectmen go to the existing Town Committees who would have interest in the property transfer and ask for a representative from each one.
Selectman Douglass stated that the Basin Preserve Initiative Study group at the head table was not a Town sponsored committee and they could make whatever recommendations they desired. He added that some Town committees have gotten together to discuss the land donation and the Selectmen are waiting for their recommendations.
Mr. Roberts stated that the Town Landings Committee had submitted their property request to Anna Varian, Town Lands Management Chair.

However, he was unaware that restrictions on what the Town could have were put in place by The Nature Conservancy. Selectman Douglass replied that Nancy Sferra from The Nature Conservancy will be developing a map to show what property is available for transfer and until then, everyone needs to be patient.

Ms. Varian stated that her committee was also waiting for TNC to finish their natural resources inventory. Once the inventory is completed her committee will start meeting, hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

Selectman Douglass said that unless something changes the Town Lands Management Committee will be the group overseeing the Basin parcel(s) just like they do the other town-owned land. The expected process for obtaining the Basin parcel(s) would require that the Selectmen make a recommendation to the voters at the first town meeting as to which parcel(s) to accept and then have a second town meeting to actually accept the property after the deeds are drawn up. He added that the other item we need to clarify with Ms. Sferra is what TNC will allow us to do with parts of the Basin which are not transferred (i.e. water access points, parking for trail access etc.). Some things can be done jointly with TNC. He added that this is a beginning process and no decisions have been made and the Basin Preserve Initiative Study group was just going through their proposal at the informational meeting.

Merry Chapin and Selectman Pye stated that the Basin Preserve Initiative Study group will be meeting Monday to start solidifying a proposal and then will be submitting it to the Town Lands Management Committee for consideration. Merry Chapin said that the group would need to be as specific as possible if they wanted TLMC support in applying for a non-profit status. The public was reminded that the Initiative Group meetings are open to everyone if they want to be part of the process. Ms. Chapin apologized to Mr. Roberts for not including the Town Landings Committee as a member of the group, but it all started out as an educational initiative.

Selectmen Douglass stated that the Initiative Study group should focus on their own proposal for outdoor education and leave the Town Landings Committee to come up with their own proposal. Everyone should develop a best case scenario and worst case scenario.

Mr. Roberts stated that the Town Landings Committee took grief from the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee concerning the goals in the plan. Selectman Pye replied that Paul Shiebler, from the Implementation Committee, got off to a rough start with the Town Landings Committee and there was a disagreement on the goals and steps in the plan. He added that the follow-up meeting went much smoother once both sides understood what was going on. Mr. Roberts agreed that the second meeting went much better. Selectman Douglass asked why we were still discussing this issue two years later and recommended that everyone just move on.

Selectman Douglass stated that when we get the map of the areas that are off limits it will be given to the Town Landings Committee for review.

They can then see what remaining parcels may have value to the Town. He added that the Town is not going to challenge The Nature Conservancy's list of areas which are off limits because we have no legal standing. The letter from the Donor's attorney to The Nature Conservancy Attorney specifically gives TNC the latitude to chose what parcels can be transferred to the Town. Selectman Perkins stated that the entire Board agrees with this and they would prefer to work with The Nature Conservancy in a slow methodical manner to insure that the citizens of Phippsburg get the best deal they can. Ms. Chapin recommended TNC be included in any future meetings. Selectman Pye agreed, adding that TNC will own the property forever and recommended that the Town retain a good working relationship with them, especially if we are looking at also obtaining some easements.

Mr. Roberts stated that the Selectmen had brought out a lot more issues than he wanted. He claimed that the letter from the Donor's Attorney was just hear-say. He added that access to the water is extremely important and we should try to get as much water frontage as possible.

II. New Business

1. Consider resignation letters from Jo Schuman and Jean Perkins (Conservation Commission).
Selectman Pye noted that the resignations will be effective on April 30th and the Selectmen thanked Ms. Schuman and Ms. Perkins for their service to the Town. They had become members of the Conservation Commission when it was almost defunct and they revived it. Selectman Douglass read their resignation letters to the public. Selectmen voted (3-0) to accept the resignations.
2. Consider the re-appointment of Clifford Newell to the Town Lands Management Committee.
Selectmen voted (3-0) to re-appointment Mr. Newell to the TLMC.
3. Consider the appointment of James Wing as a regular member of the Shellfish Conservation Commission.
Selectmen voted (3-0) to appoint Mr. Wing to the Shellfish Conservation Commission.
4. Review and sign appreciation letter to V & S Galvanizing for their donation of time and materials for the galvanizing of the steps for Alliquippa Landing.
Peter Roberts explained that V & S Galvanizing had donated their time and materials to coat the steps and he would like to draft a letter of appreciation for the Selectmen to sign.
Selectman Douglass asked when the steps would be completed and installed. Mr. Roberts replied that they would be picked up tomorrow and installed on Friday.
Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve a letter of donation to V & S Galvanizing so they would be able to have donation credit on their taxes.
Selectman Douglass stated that he had been asked by a citizen if the landing area could be built up along the south edge where there is a natural slope so that vehicles could drive to the water. He added that a mid tide

launch might be better than the current plan and he asked that the Town Landing Committee consider it at their next meeting. Mr. Roberts replied that the point was well taken, but they are up against various bureaucracies in making any improvements at the Alliquippa Landing.

5. Consider selling the five unused cement parking stops at the Transfer Station to Michael Bornyak for the sum of \$200.00 (price new is approximately \$60.00 each).

Selectmen voted (3-0) to sell the stops as per above.

6. Review the proposed Town Meeting Warrant for May.

The Selectmen discussed the inclusion of an alternate Patten Free Library funding article submitted by David Percy, IV which would set aside money for residents to purchase library cards through the Town Office rather than having an overall single annual payment that would allow unlimited residents and non-residents to use the Library. Administrator Young explained that this would be a paperwork nightmare for the Town Office and also there was no guarantee that the individual library card prices would stay the same. Selectmen voted (1-2, Douglass and Pye against) not to approve the alternate article for the warrant.

A discussion ensued concerning the Patten Free Library's funding request of \$32,748. The Selectmen voted (2-1, Douglass against) to recommend funding the Library for the full amount requested.

Mr. Roberts mentioned that Mr. Percy could submit a petition signed by the required number of voters to have the article placed on the warrant. He also asked the Selectmen to consider approving his Town Landings funding article for his requested \$15,000 instead of the Budget Committee's recommended \$8,000. The Selectmen stated that they would support the Budget Committee's recommendation of \$8,000.

Selectmen reviewed and voted (3-0) to approve the warrant as written (without the Percy article and with a recommended amount of \$8,000 for the Town Landings article).

III. Correspondence

1. Comcast price information.

Selectmen reviewed the information. No further action taken.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Young

Administrator Young announced upcoming meetings and events.

V. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve and sign all the above.

VI. Adjournment to Town Report Workshop at 7:30 p.m.