

Town of Lincoln
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2012

Board of Selectmen Present: Selectman Patricia McTeague and Selectman Tamra Ham.

Excused Absence: O.J. Robinson.

Staff Present: Town Manager Peter Joseph, Chief Ted Smith, and Administrative Assistant Brook Rose.

Public Present: Shawn Woods, Ed Peterson, Bernie Mortz, and Robert Abraham.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Patricia McTeague called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

II. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION: “To approve the minutes of April 9, 2012 as written.”

Motion: Patricia McTeague Seconded: Tamra Ham Motion carries.

III. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of citizen concerns regarding Henry Lane vehicular traffic & speed

Peter Joseph informed the Board that Mr. Bernie Mortz, a resident of School Street, met with him last week to request that the Town investigate the possibility of establishing a lower speed limit along Henry Lane, which runs behind his house. He is experiencing problems with speeding on the road. He gave the following reasons supporting his request:

- There is a school crossing on Henry Lane (The path at the intersection of School & Henry)
- Henry Lane is 1 travel lane (approximately 12 ft.) wide
- There is no lighting on Henry Lane
- There are not sidewalks on Henry Lane
- Any passing occurs on the shoulder of the road, which is private property, resulting in property damage

Peter explained that according to RSA 265:60, unless posted otherwise, the default speed limit for any urban residence district is 30 miles per hour. Henry Lane does qualify as an “Urban Residence District” according to the RSA. RSA 265:63 does permit the Board of Selectmen to reduce the speed limit to 25mph however, according to the statute, the Town cannot reduce the speed limit below 25mph in an urban residence district under any circumstances. If the Board of Selectmen does wish to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph, a traffic/engineering study is required.

Peter went on to say that in addition to lowering the speed limit, there are several other options that can be considered including speed bumps, caution signs, conversations with offenders (either neighbor-to-neighbor or via Police Department), and one way-traffic. These options may cause some inconvenience to neighbors and may or may not be supported by residents of the area:

Bernie Mortz stated that Henry Lane is hazardous in the winter because of the snowbanks. Children and pets cannot be seen until they're in the road. There is also nowhere for a car to move out of the way unless it is on to private property. He is fed up with having to replace his lawn as vehicles are constantly driving over it.

Patricia McTeague stated that it seems unlikely that a vehicle could reach 30mph or even 25mph on this street. Peter Joseph added that 25mph is not a safe speed to travel on this road although he agreed that it would be difficult to even reach 25mph.

Robert Abraham brought up the possibility of the road being designated as a one way street. Patricia McTeague thought several residents, including herself, would be opposed to the idea. She suggested speed bumps. Mr. Mortz was not in favor of that idea. Tamra Ham commented that children at play signs are very effective.

Chief Smith stated that in the past, the Police Department has mailed out a warning letter to let offenders know that their speed/driving has been noted by the Department. Patricia McTeague suggested posting caution signs. All of the options that Peter Joseph raised were discussed. The discussion concluded with an agreement for Peter Joseph, Bill Willey, and some of the residents of Henry Lane to walk the road to see what the best option is.

Initial review of tax year 2011 abatement requests

The Selectmen reviewed the 56 abatement requests. Peter Joseph explained that most of the abatements are due to simple errors made during the revaluation. Considering there are 3600 parcels in town, the amount of abatements are relatively low. Action was deferred on the abatements until the full Board is present.

Initial review of Tax Collector's report of properties scheduled for potential tax deeding

Peter Joseph reviewed each parcel on the Tax Collector's report as well as the tax deeding process with the Board. None of the properties are new this year and the individuals that are in the tax deeding process owe taxes from three years ago. Peter will review each parcel in depth and provide the Board with his recommendations for proceeding.

Town Manager's Report

Peter Joseph updated the Board on the following ongoing construction projects in Town:

Granite Block Levee Project

Subcontractors of the project engineers Dubois & King began subsurface investigation borings last week. This is the first phase of the design project that was approved at Town Meeting.

Loon Mountain Bridge

Engineer Chris Fournier will present the Loon Mountain Bridge engineering study to the Board at their next meeting.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Position

Twelve applications were received for the position of Planning and Zoning Administrator. Peter Joseph is reviewing applications and hopes to select finalists and begin interviewing next week. The interview panel will consist of a member of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and the Board of Selectman.

As there was no further business to attend to the Board reviewed the accounts payable and payroll registers for the week.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00pm the following motion was made:

MOTION: “To adjourn.”

Motion: Patricia McTeague Second: Tamra Ham Motion carries

Respectfully Submitted,

Brook Rose

Approval Date ____/____/____

Selectman Patricia McTeague

Selectman Tamra Ham