

LINCOLN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2015
LINCOLN TOWN HALL - 148 MAIN STREET, LINCOLN, NH

Present: O.J. Robinson, Patricia McTeague, and Jayne Ludwig.

Staff Present: Town Manager Alfred Burbank, Recreation Director Tara Tower, Fire Chief Ron Beard, and Recording Secretary Brook Rose.

Public Present: See attached attendance sheet.

I. CALL TO ORDER

O.J. Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

II. REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: “To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2015 Board of Selectmen’s meeting as amended.”

Motion: McTeague Second: Ludwig All in favor.

MOTION: “To approve the non-public meeting minutes of the May 18, 2015 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.”

Motion: McTeague Second: Ludwig All in favor.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Skate Park Discussion

O.J. Robinson acknowledged the members of the public that filled the meeting room. He stated that he expected most were here to discuss the skate park. Jayne Ludwig clarified that this is not a public hearing and was not noticed as such. O.J. invited Recreation Director Tara Tower to commence the discussion.

Tara Tower stated that in light of recent negative feedback regarding the skate park at recent Board meetings, she brought it to the Lin-Wood Skate Park Committee’s attention that they may want to express the community’s support for this project to the Board.

At this time, O.J. gave a history of the town land set aside for cultural and recreational activities including a possible kayak launch, amphitheater, skating rink, parking etc. This vision was compiled into a set of plans drawn by retired landscape architect and former Planning Board member Tom Adams in the 1980’s. The plans were never formally adopted by the Town but were reviewed, discussed, and commonly referred to by the Planning Board, Selectmen, and Village Core Committee.

The talk of a skate park began in 2001 when local parents submitted a letter of request to the Town. Jayne Ludwig noted this was not an active initiative but simply a request. O.J. went on to say that in 2005, the Town applied for a grant for a skate park. In 2013, the Lincoln Friends of Recreation demonstrated their support of the skate park by permitting the Lin-Wood Skate Park Committee to come under their 501c(3) nonprofit status.

O.J. stated that there have been two publicly noticed meetings regarding the skate park since 2013. One was a presentation by the Skate Park Committee to the Town and the second meeting was between the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board where a site inspection was done. Both boards expressed their support for working with the Skate Park Committee to progress this project.

Jayne stated that her concerns are the Town's liability, the need for additional parking, and the fact that she does not consider a skate park to be much of a capital improvement. She added that having more skateboards in and around the roadways is a risk to the community. She would like to know who is going to insure the park and how much it will cost. Tara Tower replied to Jayne's concerns by stating that the Town approached both Primex and NH Local Government Center and both of their opinions were that skate parks are a fairly common part of many communities now. Both insurers offer coverage for the parks at no additional premium. Tara added that the Town does have to pay for an additional policy for the Kanc Rec Ski Area as skiing is considered a higher risk activity.

Lin-Wood Skate Park Committee founder Kevin Bell (North Woodstock resident) gave a history of the Committee. He explained that there is a lot of community support behind this project. The Committee did do casual surveying throughout the community and found this to be the case. He added that Waterville and Plymouth both have skate parks and Bethlehem is in the planning stages. The park will not only be for skateboarding but also for BMX bikes and rollerblading. It will have picnic tables and green space for families to gather. As designed, this park will be the largest north of Concord. He added that the Town is at a crossroads for summer and fall activities and that having a skate park will be a big draw for residents and visitors alike.

Lin-Wood Skate Park Committee founder Jason Lafontaine (Lincoln resident) stated that the Committee has organized two large fundraising events. The first one raised \$5,000. The second event at Jean's Playhouse on June 18th is projected to raise nearly as much. With this large sum of money designated for the park, the Committee has the ability to qualify for more grants. Kevin added that the Committee is no longer in the startup phase. He stated that there seems to be a misperception out there that the Committee has not gone through all of the correct channels. However, he pointed out that the Committee has taken all of the proper measures including meeting with the Town boards, the Friends of Recreation, the Lincoln Woodstock Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary all of which have offered their help to the Committee. It has been very encouraging. He added that from the Committee's standpoint, they have done everything by the book. He added that since a location was officially designated by the Town last November, the committee has been fundraising ever since.

Jon Ham (Lincoln resident) questioned why the skate park is being revisited just because a new Board member is questioning it. Jayne Ludwig replied that she has questions as a new Board member and she has had residents approach her who are not in favor of the park. Mr. Ham replied that the Board should not have to revisit every topic for one new Board member. O.J. stated that he is a staunch proponent of the park but he does believe in the process and does not see a problem with revisiting the issue.

Brian Angeloni (Lincoln resident) questioned what the negative feedback on the project is. Jayne replied that there will be more skateboards in the roads and that the Town needs more parking.

She added that some residents are concerned with the responsibility and cost to maintain the park. Several audience members voiced their opposition to paving the land to turn it into a parking lot. Mr. Angeloni went on to say that there really isn't a draw to the center of Town such as a park for families to picnic by the river.

The issue of parking was further discussed. Patricia McTeague stated that the skate park with the picnic area will only take about one of the 18 acres of Town land. O.J. added that his thought is with the construction of the skate park, an abutting parking lot will be brought to fruition sooner than if the Town were simply to construct a parking lot. Jason Lafontaine added that the park is designed as an interactive park with landscaping, tables, and a parking lot to make it more like a community center.

Erin Bell (North Woodstock resident) added that parking would always be an issue but that a place for the children to congregate would be of a great benefit to the locals. Lincoln resident Tarrah Robillard stated that the last thing she wants to see is another condo complex or development put on this land and that residents want this land for recreating.

Paul Beaudin (Lincoln resident) stated that his concern with the skate park is the location. He would like to see other locations considered further especially as it is such a permanent structure. He added that this process should be fair to everyone in the community. Jayne Ludwig added that this discussion isn't even on the agenda and thus does not give everyone a chance to give input. Paul also reiterated the need for more parking. O.J. replied that other locations for the skate park were studied and to insinuate that this proposal is sudden isn't accurate. He added that the vision for this parcel of town land was created 30 years ago. Tara Tower stated that she has been working for the Town for 17 years and this skate park has always been a plan that was truly community driven. Paul Beaudin stated that he would like to know what the plan is from here on out.

Jayne Ludwig stated that she would like to hear from Lincoln residents and that not everyone knew about the meeting because it was not on the agenda and thus they are not being given the opportunity to give input. Tara Tower added that she has heard negative feedback about the skate park being given at the last two meetings and the park was not on the agenda. O.J. agreed.

Tara stated that as far as other locations for the skate park, several other locations were discussed including the community center area and the Kanc Rec Area. Parking is an issue for both sites. She added that the Police Department does favor the current proposed location.

Bill Conn (Lincoln resident) stated that when this project was discussed in the 1990's, there was a great deal of negative input about the park's proposed location as it would require children to cross Main Street.

Margareta Dufresne (Woodstock resident) commented that the beautiful part of the proposed location is that the downtown area is where visitors congregate and to have this park in this location would make it a fantastic place for visitors and residents alike to intermingle.

Anne Ciarleglio (North Woodstock resident) commented that traffic would always be an issue but that visitors to the area are looking for things to do. Not all visitors are avid hikers and there isn't much to do other than shop. She added that this location is ideal as 99% of the land is either developed, privately owned or is national forest.

Ian Feliney (Lincoln resident) stated that he sees kids hanging out in the Price Chopper parking lot all the time with nowhere to go. There is not much in the way of recreation for teenagers at the Community

Center or Kanc Rec area. If you don't have the money to spend at Loon, there is nothing to do. He added that he travels through town daily and sees empty parking lots the majority of the time.

Jayne Ludwig stated that she would like the skate park to be listed on an upcoming agenda so taxpayers have an opportunity to go to the meeting. She added that the taxpayers need to know what is going on.

Library Director Carol Riley (Lincoln resident) commented that there is a room full of taxpayers here now and they are telling the Board what they want. She added that there were only 31 people at Town Meeting; people don't typically show up for public hearings. Lincoln residents are here now and are giving their input.

As there was no further public comment, the Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

IV. INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

The Board reviewed O.J. Robinson's draft of a proposed intermunicipal agreement. Recreation Director Tara Tower stated that she worked with O.J. to draft this agreement and she is in favor of it as written. O.J. stated that the reason he worked with Town staff to draw up this agreement is that the Town of Woodstock has expressed interest (via their auditors) in a written agreement. Further, O.J. stated that his goal was simply to put in writing the current process. He added that his personal opinion is that the Town of Lincoln should not use this opportunity to better Lincoln's current arrangement with Woodstock as what is in place now works well.

Paul Beaudin would rather see Lincoln stand on its own as the Town has ownership of all facilities. He suggested the Board try to better the agreement in Lincoln's favor or just invoice the Town of Woodstock for their participation. The working relationship with Woodstock was further discussed. Jayne Ludwig would like to see this document run by the Town's attorney. O.J. replied that when the Board agrees on the draft, it will then be forwarded to the attorney.

Patricia McTeague made the point that if the skate park became part of the Recreation Department, Woodstock would share those costs. If the Board decided to get rid of the park, Woodstock would also share in those costs.

Bill Conn stated that when he was on the Board of Selectmen back in the 90's, the Board did away with the intermunicipal agreement and decided to invoice Woodstock as needed. O.J. Robinson replied that the current process has worked for decades and he is not looking to change that. Jayne added that the agreement as drafted gives the boards the opportunity to review the contract as needed or on an annual basis.

The Board made a few minor changes to the document and agreed to send it to the attorney for further review.

V. DISTRACTED DRIVER POLICY

MOTION: "To accept the Distracted Driver Policy as part of the Town's Personnel Policy according to the new state law regarding hands free driving that goes into effect July 1, 2015."

Motion: Ludwig Second: McTeague All in favor.

VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief's Update

Chief Beard informed the Board that the Department recently conducted training in the area of The Landing development. There are some critical issues with water supply in this area. There is almost no fire protection for this area. He is bringing his concerns to the attention of the Planning Board, the developers, and the Fire Marshall's office. Town Manager Burbank added that this is an alarming issue. Huge homes are being constructed in this area that has almost no fire protection and he is extremely concerned with this life safety issue. Water supplies for this area were not thought out. Town staff will pull development approvals in preparation for Wednesday night's Planning Board meeting.

New England Chiefs' of Police Award

O.J. Robinson stated that the Lincoln Police Department recently received a prestigious award from the New England Chiefs' of Police. Governor Hassan and Senator Woodburn were in attendance at the presentation. The Board expressed their pride in the Lincoln Police Department and the excellent community policing that they do.

HealthTrust, Inc. Resolution

Town Manager Burbank informed the Board that the Town is bound by contract with HealthTrust, Inc. for another year for the Town's medical insurance. Healthtrust, Inc. has recently changed their bylaws and this resolution is the Town's acknowledgement of those changes.

MOTION: "To adopt the following resolution with NH HealthTrust, Inc. as presented."

Motion: McTeague

Second: Ludwig

All in favor.

O.J. Robinson read and signed the following resolution:

RESOLVED: The Town of Lincoln shall participate as a Member in the HealthTrust pooled risk management program for the provision of group medical and/or other benefit plans in Accordance with the "Application and Membership Agreement" and NH RSA5-B.

RESOLVED: That Alfred Burbank, Town Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and Deliver to HealthTrust, on behalf of Town of Lincoln, the "Application and Membership Agreement" in substantially the form presented to this meeting.

RESOLVED: That Alfred Burbank, Town Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and Deliver to HealthTrust a certificate of this resolution.

Outstanding Property Taxes at All Time Low

The Board congratulated Tax Collector Susan Whitman as outstanding property taxes are currently at an all-time low considering the past decade.

Deposit Charge for Animal Traps

The Board granted Chief Smith permission to start charging a deposit for the animal traps he is lending out. Borrowers have not been returning the traps.

Town Manager's Report

Kanc Rec Roof

A requests for quotes will be submitted this week to any interested contractors including the company who repaired the Town Hall roof.

Loon Pond Dam

Stevens Associates has informed the Town that an additional \$73,000 will be charged to the Town for the Forest Service's required Environmental Impact Study of the Long Eared Bat and Lynx. The study will postpone any work on the dam for at least 18 months.

Town of Lincoln Surplus Equipment

The Town received approximated \$2,700.00 for the sale of used town equipment.

South Peak Pump Station

This project is currently underway. Concrete slabs have been poured and materials have been delivered on site. Crews will be working on site for the next two weeks with substantial completion expected for the addition.

Solid Waste Facility

Lincoln Sign Co. has updated the signage at the transfer station to reflect the new hours, as well as holiday closure notice. Staff member Jim Conn has been handing out flyers and posting additional notices around the site detailing the changes. Updated hours have also been posted on the Town's website and Facebook page.

Police Department Administrative Assistant

The Police Department has hired Kara Baker to fill the Administrative Assistant /Dispatch position. Ms. Baker begins June 15th. She comes to the Town from the Franklin dispatch center.

Loon Mountain Bridge

The majority of the construction materials has been relocated from the south side of the river to the north side. The river is being shifted so that the rip rap work around the concrete structures can be completed.

Road Paving

Paving will begin on Bourassa, Boyle, Franklin, and Labrecque Streets next week and should be completed by June 19th.

Paul Beaudin questioned whether any drainage work is planned for Boyle Street prior to paving. Town Manager Burbank stated that he expected all drainage work was completed prior to paving but will speak with the Public Works Director to confirm.

Junkyard Violations Update

A 60 day continuance was granted to Ed Peterson Sr. to clean up the property. There has been no movement on the Chenard property. Mr. Burbank is discussing the next steps with the town attorney. Mr. Chenard is in contempt of court. To date, the Town has spent \$14,000 attempting to get that property cleaned up.

Questions from the Public

Paul Beaudin stated that the Police Department has a new officer and he would like to know if this new officer was a replacement. Town Manager Burbank replied that the new officer replaced Mr. Ulwick.

Mr. Beaudin questioned if there was any update on the levee matter. O.J. Robinson replied that the Board is awaiting attorney review and further advisement.

Staff Recognitions

The Board recognized the exceptional work of Andy Nicoll for graduating from the Primex Supervisor’s Academy with a very high test score. The Board recognized the exceptional work of Brook Rose for completing the University of New Hampshire Human Resources Certification. The Board recognized the recent Public Safety Awards and excellent work of Officer Suglia, Sergeant Deluca, and Officer Stevens.

MS 535

The Board reviewed and signed the annual MS 535 as presented by Finance Officer Helen Jones.

VII. NON-PUBLIC WORK SESSION Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(legal, personnel, real estate negotiation)

MOTION: To go into Non-Public Work Session at 7:30pm.

Motion: Robinson Seconded: McTeague Roll call vote all in favor.

MOTION: To go back into public session at 8:10pm.

Motion: McTeague Seconded: Ludwig Roll call vote all in favor.

MOTION: To seal the non-public meeting minutes until pending real estate transaction has transpired.”

Motion: McTeague Seconded: Ludwig Roll call vote all in favor.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

After reviewing the weekly accounts payables, the Board made the following motion.

MOTION: “To adjourn.”

Motion: McTeague Second: Ludwig All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brook Rose

Approval Date ____/____/____

Chairman O.J. Robinson

Patricia McTeague

Jayne Ludwig