

GOFFSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2016

In attendance were Chairman Peter Georgantas, Vice Chairman Mark Lemay, Selectman Collis Adams (until 6:15 pm, via telephone), Selectman Allen Brown, Selectman David Pierce, and Town Administrator Sue Desruisseaux. Also in attendance was Adam McCune—GTV Director, and Gail Labrecque—Recording Secretary.

6:00 pm CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN GEORGANTAS

The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

Rail Trail Ordinance: Vote on Proposed amendment regarding hours of use per RSA 41:14-b.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said the Board has held the required two public hearings, and has waited the required time to vote on the proposed amendment, which was to allow use 24 hours per day. Selectman Pierce said we've had quite a bit of testimony, and many who did comment don't want the Rail Trail open in the dark hours. Knowing that the City of Nashua has posted hours set by the clock, he's willing to entertain some discussion before a motion is made that we would not go by the dawn/dusk limits of the day. They are quite variable during the year. If you aren't knowledgeable of those hours it could be confusing for those using the trail. Rather than setting it open 24 hours per day, he'd like to have set hours by the clock.

Chairman Georgantas said our public hearing stated it was for 24 hours. We would have to go through the whole process again. He would want to have more public input. Selectman Pierce said the ordinance was on the dark hour use of the trail. Our concern was the hours of use of the trail. This Board is to decide the hours. That is what the hearing was for.

Chairman Georgantas said the hearing was about opening the trail 24 hours. It was obvious the majority didn't want that. To have another plan, the fair thing to do would be to go through the process again. At the start of this, he was contacted by an abutter who wanted to know the rules. They needed to post it, and they were dawn to dusk. That's when you made a motion to have a hearing to amend the hours to be open 24 hours. The hearing was either 24 hours or dawn to dusk.

Selectman Brown said that was his impression of what it was to be. Selectman Adams said the vast majority were not in favor of 24 hours. The proposal came forward and the comment was on 24 hours per day. If we are going to set specific hours, the people should have input. There were comments that people were willing to have different hours. People didn't testify as to what they thought the hours should be. Vice Chairman Lemay said he'd rather vote on what is before them—the 24 hours. Different hours is another issue and another debate.

Selectman Adams made a motion to deny the motion to open the Rail Trail 24 hours and maintain the hours of dawn to dusk. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-1-0. Selectman Pierce voted against. Motion carries.

Selectman Pierce made a motion that the Rail Trail be open by set hours of the clock—5 am to 9 pm. The motion died for lack of a second.

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PRLAC Request to Retain Tax Deeded Property on Mill Street, Map 34, Lot 127-1

Chairman Georgantas said there is a request from the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Council to retain a tax deeded property on Mill Street - Map 34, Lot 127-1.

Selectman Pierce provided a picture of the front of the property. The deed calls for 43 feet of frontage on Mill Street. That is the only descriptor and there are no pins. He measured 86.5 feet from a surveyed control point. That determined where the 43 feet would start. Both parcels, 16 Mill Street and the vacant parcel, were both owned by the same individual. The vacant parcel was mostly paved. Almost 31 feet of the 43 feet has been paved. It has been utilized by the duplex at 16 Mill Street. Chairman Georgantas asked if 16 Mill Street is interested in purchasing the property. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said there is a bid from an abutter.

Chairman Georgantas said he saw the property and it's rough. He's not inclined to try to retain it. Selectman Pierce said we've been asked by the Piscataquog Conservancy if we want to entertain the idea of having a portage area there at some point. Selectman Brown said he doesn't see a reason to retain it. Vice Chairman Lemay said there is a portaging area down by the sewerage plant. People can put in from there. Selectman Pierce said that's a considerable walk from West Union Street. If we do sell this tax deeded property it's forever lost from our control to be able to do something with it. He doesn't feel we should be worried about the cost of building a portage ramp or stairs. It could be a volunteer effort in the future.

Chairman Georgantas said he's concerned about maintaining a piece of property and having other people using it. Selectman Pierce said people have expanded their back yards on what is technically Town land since the rail corridor has been abandoned. It doesn't inhibit the intended use of the Rail path. If the Town were to continue to own this parcel, we could do the same thing. We could give them a revocable license to use the property. The property would be preserved. Selectman Adams said he supports retaining it. We should retain every parcel on the river that we have a chance to get for future use. Chairman Georgantas said he doesn't want to license someone to use the Town's property. Are we responsible for maintaining it? Selectman Pierce said it's similar to the Rail bed that has septic systems and sheds on it. They have a revocable license. Chairman Georgantas said we can't have a license for someone else to use it. Selectman Adams said the only thing before us is retaining the property.

Selectman Brown made a motion to retain the property on Mill Street. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Selectman Adams exited the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Volunteer Recognition

Chairman Georgantas said the Board recognizes those who did not renew their volunteer position on a town committee and who had four or more years of service on that committee. In attendance were Tina Daniels, Cathy Whooten, and Mark Collins. He recognized these individuals with a certificate and those with 7-9 years of service were also awarded pins. Some could not attend tonight but will still be recognized.

Recognized for 4 Years of Service were Joseph Spoerl—Budget Committee, Richard Lee Sperry—Budget Committee, Denise Langley—Rails to Trails Committee and Lowell Von

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Ruden—Rails to Trails Committee. Recognized for 5 Years of Service was Brian Fournier—Economic Development Committee. Recognized for 7 Years of Service were Joan Konieczny—Cemetery Trustee and Mark Collins—Historic District Commission. Recognized for 8 Years of Service was Tina Daniels—Supervisor of Checklist. Recognized for 9 Years of Service was Cathy Whooten—Sewer Commission.

6:23 pm Selectman Brown made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3(d) real estate. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Georgantas-aye; Vice Chairman Lemay-aye; Selectman Brown-aye; Selectman Pierce-aye. VOTE: 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

6:43 pm Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to seal the minutes to the non-public session. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Georgantas-aye; Vice Chairman Lemay-aye; Selectman Brown-aye; Selectman Pierce-aye. VOTE: 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Vice Chairman Lemay inquired as to the ownership status of the 1927 Engine 2 (Seagraves) and the DA Taggart hand pumper currently located in the Taggart Shed. He stated that the shed is scheduled for demolition next month for the Station #18 project and these trucks need to be stored somewhere. Members inquired if this was temporary or permanent situation as some recollected that one design called for an addition for these trucks. Town Administrator will verify ownership and let the Board know.

6:55 pm Selectman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Labrecque
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 6/13/16 with no corrections.