

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2020**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

**Board members present:**

Dave Nault, Chair  
Mike Kaminski, Selectman  
Robert “Bob” Martel, Selectman

**Town Officials and others present:**

Line Comeau, Town Administrator  
Patrick “Woody” Bowne, Transfer Station Supervisor  
Don Larsen, Cemetery Trustee **& Old Home Day Committee**  
John Stevens, Old Home Day Committee  
Tom Cusano, Old Home Day Committee  
Mark Lang, Old Home Day Committee  
**Kenneth Swayze, Planning Board**

**Members of the public present:**

Lee Martel recorded the meeting for the benefit of citizens that were unable to attend (Linda Nickerson uploads the videos to YouTube).

Dave Nault called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approve Minutes

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 28, 2020 as amended.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0).**

**Motion:** by Bob Martel, seconded by Mike Kaminski to approve the non-public meeting minutes of May 28, 2020 as amended.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote: (3-0).**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Lee Martel** said that he had noticed that work has already begun at the area **of the powerline easement of New England Power & National Grid on Tenney Hill Road**, to try and mitigate the drainage problem that occurs when it rains.

**Don Larsen** said that the cremains garden project is complete. The new benches were placed on Thursday. 2 benches have already been sold. He has posted pictures on the town's website. They already have people coming to the next cemetery trustee meeting to claim plots.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### Accept Donation

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, to accept per RSA 31:95-b III (b) a donation in the amount of (\$1,080) from Sheryl & Donald Hird to pay for a cremains garden bench with engraving.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** (3-0).

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, to accept per RSA 31:95-b III (b) a donation in the amount of (\$1,070) from Tanya Ohman to pay for a cremains garden bench with engraving.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** (3-0)

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel, to accept per RSA 31:95-b III (b) vendor fees for additional Old Home Day expenses in the amount of (\$50.00).

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** (3-0)

### Construction Contract

The BoS signed the updated and agreed upon contract with Conneston Construction, Inc. (CCI) for the work to be done on the second floor/roof of the Town Hall. Line Comeau confirmed that a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled for next week. Work is to begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and conclude on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Dog Licensing Civil Forfeiture

The BoS signed the warrant to issue a civil forfeiture for unlicensed dogs.

### COVID-19 Update

Following Governor Sununu's latest update, the BoS looked at their options regarding reopening timelines for town facilities.

**Transfer Station:** **Woody Bowne** discussed the changes in traffic flow at the transfer station. The wait times are not as long as they once were. Having an employee direct traffic on Saturday morning is helping with this. As far as reopening services, he would like to open up paper/cardboard fully first, and then start accepting plastic on 6/23. From there, he would like to reevaluate at the beginning of July and see if they are ready to get rid of the cones and begin accepting cash for bulk items.

In the meantime, he is trying to accommodate time off requests as much as he can without affecting coverage. He is also looking to take some days off as well. In preparing for this, he felt it would be a good idea to look into hiring/promoting a foreman to assume responsibility for operations in his absence. It is something that he would have

his current employees apply for and treat it as a regular hiring process. It wouldn't be in place for the time off he is looking to take soon, but he would expect to have the person selected and trained to be ready to step in by his next vacation later in the year.

After some discussion, it was decided that they will look at fully opening operations at the Transfer Station on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Town Offices:** **Dave Nault** suggested opening the town offices on June 29, still keeping 6-foot markers and reminders regarding social distancing in place. He is also open to requiring masks. Discussion occurred regarding a mask requirement. **Bob Martel** feels that it would be prudent to require people to wear masks while conducting business inside. **Mike Kaminski** questioned making mask-wearing mandatory, feeling that employees should be wearing them as well as the public. **Bob Martel** stated that because we will no longer be limiting the amount of people in the building, requiring employees as well as the public to wear masks while doing business face-to-face is not unreasonable. **Mike Kaminski** asked if they should have a supply of masks on hand if they are going to mandate it. **Dave Nault** stated that some stores that are requiring people to wear masks don't supply them. **Bob Martel** doesn't feel that requiring someone to have their own mask with them right now is unreasonable. He also stated that other states that have already opened up are seeing spikes in cases, which he not something he wants to see here.

**Dave Nault** also mentioned the possibility of having only one member of the public allowed in the building at a time and marking lines outside to try and maintain compliance with the social distancing recommendations. He also noted that the increase in electronic payments being received may reduce the amount of people arriving to conduct business in person.

The BoS decided to reevaluate these plans at their next meeting to determine how they would like to proceed as they near the end of the month.

## TOWN BUSINESS

### Mailbox Items

**Dave Nault** shared the following correspondence received since the last meeting:

- Emailed request from Ken Koerber to allow for an expansion of the Dunbarton Elementary School garden area. This is a joint action between the Garden Club and the School Board to expand the gardening area for Roots, the school's after-school gardening club. This would allow each participating student to have their own garden space to work on. The proposed area would be to the west of the lower parking lot. It would involve the removal of 8 large pine trees and several other deciduous trees and would open up a 100x100 foot area. The work would be done by a combination of Dunbarton Garden Club members and a professional tree service at no cost to the town. The School Board has reviewed and is in favor of the request. **Dave Nault** said that he is glad that they aren't looking to use lawn space for it, as other garden projects by some classes in the past have been abandoned. **Don Larsen** said that the tree company that would be assisting them is out of Goffstown. They would remove the trees from the property and have them cut into quarters which they can in turn use to create raised beds for the

garden plots that they will fill with soil. Mike Kaminski stated that his concern is over any property damage that may occur. Don Larsen confirmed that the tree company is insured. The Garden Club will be out at the property on Saturday at 9:30 am. They can provide more detail and outline the area they are looking at. **Bob Martel** mentioned that pine may not be a good option as a wall for a garden bed because the soil will break it down easily.

➤ *The BoS was in consensus to approve this project.*

**Dave Nault** asked Line Comeau to draft a letter to that effect.

- Email update from Dana Lavoie of the Energy Committee. The Solar panels have shown a 39% increase in energy production as there was more sun than normal in May.
- Right-to-Know request from Todd Bookman of NPR news asking if there had been any settlements for civil rights claims through the town. This request has been forwarded to the police department for further review, and they found that there were not any to report.
- Email from Rene Ouellet making them aware of a group of volunteers willing to assist with errands, grocery pickup, etc. for town residents that are having difficulty due to the COVID-19 crisis. Line noted that the welfare director was also copied on the email.
- Update from Health Trust regarding refunds of contributions.
- **Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to appoint Mark Lang to the vacant position on the Old Home Day Committee.  
**Discussion:** none.  
**Vote: (3-0).**
- Introduction letter from David Croft who is running for Merrimack County Sheriff.
- Email from School Principal Owen Harrington regarding folding chairs at the school. They have received chairs and racks from the Bow school system that are in much better condition than what the school originally had. He was looking to dispose of the old racks and replace them with the newer ones. The BoS was in favor of having him do so.
- Valken Construction will be doing the repairs to the bandstand starting the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Email from the Zoning Board of Adjustment **Chairman** commending Donna White for all her help in ensuring they could have their meeting via the Zoom meeting app.
- The Library is moving through phases 1 and 2 of their COVID-19 reopening plan. The steps for each phase will be posted on the town website.

#### Old Home Day Update

**John Stevens** and Don Larsen updated the BoS with the latest news regarding plans for Old Home Day. They held a meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. They are looking at a possible event date of either August 15 or September 19. There is still the possibility of event cancellation. They have touched base with vendors, performers and other participants but

have not confirmed anything yet. They are also looking at an alternate layout plan for vendors and performers and considering the option of supplying masks and hand sanitizer for the event, depending on the requirements/recommendations at the time of the event. **Dave Nault** noted that waiting until September would give them additional time to see how things play out over the course of the summer. **Mike Kaminski** agreed, stating that August may be too soon in terms of seeing where they stand with reopening. **Bob Martel** noted that 21 out of the 22 states that have reopened are seeing increases in cases of the virus. He also supports scheduling the event in September, adding that they won't be competing with local fairs. **Tom Cusano** said they were unsure about which date would be preferable because they may not see that second wave hit until September. Vendors that return each year usually set aside the date for their event a year in advance. If they change their date, they may lose some of their exhibitors, vendors or performers.

**Mr. Cusano** also mentioned the possibility of having the 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony during Old Home Day. If they have it in August, they'd be able to get it in before the start of school. **Dave Nault** mentioned that they are bringing more people into the fold then. **Mr. Cusano** said it's not a huge number of students and doesn't think it would increase attendance by that much. They also have considered steps they could take to reduce their advertising and keep it mostly an in-town event. They don't wish to necessarily exclude others but making it more of a town-centered event this year could help to keep the numbers down.

**Lee Martel** pointed out that if they are seeing another peak in September, an August event probably won't happen anyway because they will be seeing those increases at that point. He also noted that many other events have already cancelled, so there may be a chance that these vendors will have that availability. **Mike Kaminski** noted that it doesn't need to be about the vendors. In keeping with a theme of coming together after the quarantine period, they could keep it as simple as a town cookout if they had to. The vendors are ultimately second to him in that respect.

**Bob Martel** cautioned that they are still looking at a lot of unknowns when it comes to this virus. We don't know what things are going to look like that far down the road. He really feels that having the event in August is too soon. **John Stevens** said they are trying to remain flexible and are taking everything into account when making this decision. **Tom Cusano** said that they are looking at putting together a protocol detailing social distancing measures and guidelines for sanitization and encouraging mask usage by vendors and attendees. The BoS is in favor of going the date in September, but ultimately leaves the decision to the Old Home Day Committee. They will work with them on whichever date they decide to go with.

**Dave Nault** stated that there was a small forest fire caused by a recent lightning strike. It occurred in a remote section of swampland between Twist Hill Road, Montelona Road, and Purgatory Road. They were able to locate it by drone, but it took them several hours to access the area. Upon surveying the area, they determined about a quarter of an acre had burned and the strike appeared to have hit 2 trees, and 3 were still burning, and had been smoldering for about a week to a week and a half. Had it not been in a swamp area, it could have been a bad fire. The recent rains have helped to take care of it. He thanks the volunteers that assisted with locating the fire.

**Woody Bowne** told the BoS of a very minor motor vehicle accident (no injuries) that occurred at the transfer station between two residents. Because it occurred on town property, he called the police department and they responded and wrote up a report.

Discussion occurred regarding keeping the self-recycling procedure in place during and possibly beyond the COVID-19 crisis. They are also expecting a large wave of bulk items when they reopen that section of the transfer station.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Lee Martel** stated that he is going out with the trustees to the hearse house to look at some of the repairs that need to be done (broken locks and latches, power washing, etc.).

#### BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

**Mike Kaminski** wishes to publicly recognize the work of the transfer station staff. They have dealt with a lot of changes and the resulting high tempers from town residents and have done an excellent job in keeping things running.

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at the request of the chair of the BoS.

By roll-call vote:

**Nault-yes. Martel-yes. Kaminski-yes.**

The BoS closed the public session at 8:18 p.m.

The BoS entered nonpublic session at **8:20 p.m.**

The BoS reentered public session at **9:04 p.m.**

**Nault-yes. Martel-yes. Kaminski-yes.**

**No motions were made in nonpublic.**

**David Nault** stated for the record that the Board was asked to assess a commercial stable on Mansion Road. The Board reviewed the Zoning history, and noted that Site Plan Review for Riding Academy & Commercial Stables did not become effective until 2012. The consensus of the Board was that because the barn was built in 1997 as a commercial stable and riding arena, that no control should be put in place from the Building Department. Dave Nault stated that he would meet with the department to explain the Boards decision.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at **9:15p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

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Dave Nault, Chair

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Mike Kaminski, Selectman

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Bob Martel, Selectman