

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MAY 3, 2012, 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Russell
Marie Brilliant
David Douglass
Andrew Mason
Ronald Riendeau

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Cornell Knight

A meeting of the Topsham, Maine Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

The recording secretary took the roll call and noted that all Selectmen were present.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager's Report included:

- The Fire Department's new ladder truck will be delivered tomorrow and the final payment will be made on the \$789,000 vehicle. Training will take place over the next two weeks before the old ladder truck is taken out of service.
- There will be a regional household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, May 12, 2012 in Bath. More information is available on the Town's website.
- Chief of Police Young's last day is tomorrow and I have appointed Lt. Christopher Lewis as the interim Chief.
- Opening day for baseball is Saturday at the Rec Fields. There will be a recognition ceremony at the new batting cages at 10:30 a.m.
- MRRA announced today that they have completed the closing with Affordable Mid-Coast Housing for all the residential land under the leased housing units, 240 acres in all in Brunswick and Topsham.
- A reminder that Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES - None noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE - None noted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - Motion was made by Mr. Riendeau, seconded by Mr. Mason, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To add items **59-12 - CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO SIGN THE FIRE WORKS REFERENDUM WARRANT** and **60-12 - CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AWARD A MAINE STATE PLANNING OFFICE COASTAL COMPETITIVE GRANT FOR A FISH BARRIER SURVEY OF THE LITTLE RIVER IN TOPSHAM**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMEN MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2012

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Douglass, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To approve the minutes of the April 19, 2012 meeting as corrected.

(Correction: Pg. 2, item 48-12, 1st par. 2nd line down - Change 16.20 to 16.22.)

56-12 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSERVE HIGH CONSERVATION VALUED TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY WITHIN THE CATHANCE RIVER CORRIDOR

Assistant Planner Rod Melanson and Executive Director of the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust, Angela Twitchell, showed a slide presentation of Town-owned land which an inventory was conducted and reviewed by the Selectmen in 2003 and 2009. The report was unanimously accepted by the Selectmen. On November 3, 2011 the Selectmen met with representative from the conservation Commission and the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) to identify Cathance River Parcels that the Land Trust expressed interest in helping the Town conserve. At that meeting the Selectmen voted unanimously to have the BTLT move forward with placing conservation easements on high conservation valued Town-owned properties as identified at that meeting.

It was proposed that the Selectmen consider transferring fee ownership rather than conservation easements to the BTLT for the following properties along the Cathance River:

Tax Map R06-023 (Meadow Road)
Tax Map R06-022 (Meadow Road)
Tax Map R06-017B (Patten Lane)

Tax Map R09-020-A (O'Dell)
Tax Map R12-006 (Alora Drive)

It was noted that if a fee transfer is amenable to the Selectmen, the Town could work with the BTLT to complete the transfers within the next few months. If the Town prefers to transfer easements to BTLT instead, the timeline will be longer as the BTLT will need to raise additional funds for transaction costs. The Selectmen were asked to decide which conservation option would be best from the Town's perspective.

Following the presentation, suggestions put forth were discussed between the Board. For clarification to members of the public, Chairman Russell said that the Selectmen voted to retain the property but gave easement rights to the BTLT which have not yet been drafted. Now BTLT is coming back to the Board saying that the cheapest and most efficient way to protect the land is through a fee acquired property rather than easement.

Following discussion by the Board, motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Douglass, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To transfer through fee ownership the properties identified in memo from the Assistant Planner dated 4/24/12 (Tax Map R06-023, R06-022, R06-017B, R09-020-A, and R12-006) to the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) with the deed restriction included that requires the property be transferred back to the Town should the BTLT be dissolved, provided that we are legally allowed to follow through on the motion.

57-12 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE CONTRACT WITH THE MAINE DOT, OFFICE OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TOPSHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE ATV PATROL OF STATE-OWNED RAIL LINES

Acting Police Chief Christopher Lewis came before the Board and explained the contract with the Department of Transportation for the Topsham Police Department to provide ATV patrol on State-owned rail lines as the current contract is up for renewal. Coverage is provided through a two-year grant. The Town is allotted 120 to 150 hours a year for trained officers to patrol the rail tracks through special assignments and does not take away from their normal duties.

Following discussion, motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Riendeau and it was unanimously

VOTED

To sign an agreement with the MDOT Program Division/Office of Freight Business Services with the condition that the wording in the contract is changed that the Topsham Police Department has access to two ATV's for the next two years from 12/31/11 to 12/31/13.

58-12 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE BIDS RECEIVED FROM THE 2005 POLICE CRUISER

Motion was made by Mr. Douglass, seconded by Mr. Riendeau, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To accept the bid from Asian Auto Services, Plaistow, New Hampshire for the 2005 police cruiser in the amount of \$995.32

59-12 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO SIGN THE FIRE WORKS REFERENDUM WARRANT

The Fire Works Referendum Warrant was signed by the Selectmen at the meeting.

60-12 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AWARD A MAINE STATE PLANNING OFFICE COASTAL COMPETITIVE GRANT FOR A FISH BARRIER SURVEY OF THE LITTLE RIVER IN TOPSHAM

Assistant Planner Melanson reviewed his memo of April 30, 2012 regarding the Little River watershed Fish Passage Barrier Survey and a grant from the Maine State Planning Office. He said the project will result in compiling data and maps of all the barriers to fish passage within the Little River Watershed. Partners include the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Trout Unlimited, Brunswick Topsham Land Trust, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust and the Topsham Conservation Commission. Conservation Commission members will volunteer their time, and be trained in stream barrier survey methods.

Motion was made by Mr. Douglass, seconded by Mr. Mason and it was unanimously

VOTED

To accept the award from the Maine State Planning Office for the Coastal Competitive Grant application for a Fish Barrier Survey of the Little River.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement was made that the Selectmens Meeting on May 17, 2012 will be cancelled until the first meeting in June.

ADJOURN

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Williams, Recording Secretary