

Town of Searsmont
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
July 22nd, 2024

Attendance: Selectmen Redman
Selectmen Staples

Administrative Assistant: Gail Gary-Cox

Interim town Clerk: Kathy Hoey

Other Attendees: Mickey Sirota

1. Selectmen Redman called meeting to order at 4:47pm
2. Public Comments
 - a. Brush removal from sides of roads
 - i. Selectmen Redmen will be meeting to outline scope of work, and provide map of roads to be worked on.
3. Selectmen's Comments
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Committee Programs function from 7/20 went well. Public comments were positive. There were around 40-50 attendants.
 - b. Both Selectmen spoke with True Bragg about tree removal for Ghent Rd, Moody Mtn, Muzzy Ridge, and Appleton Ridge. He is booked out til Feb. but as he has time he will send his guys to start work on these trees. Needs a list of actual locations needing work. Selectmen Staples will compile this list.
 - c. Steve has started work on the outside of building. Will be needing a lift for painting. Gail Gary-Cox will call KirkPatrick Rentals about availability for a boom lift.
 - d. Bay over the Library is in need of roof repairs. Derek Patten does metal roofing and Selectmen Staples will try getting ahold of him.
 - e. Selectmen Staples went to the Historical Society meeting, 7-18. Approximately 30 people in attendance. Started as a meet and greet and how each person fits in with the town of Searsmont. Selectmen Staples felt it was a good, friendly meeting.
 - f. Selectmen Redman spoke with ARC about culverts. Jake says both culverts should be taken care of first week of August or hopefully by end of August.
4. Modifications to the agenda
 - a. Add 7c, prebuy price for propane for the firestation.
 - b. Add 7d, discussion of Arbortech invoice for Peters Rd tree
 - c. Add Executive Session for discussion of legal matters.
 - d. Selectmen Redman made a motion to add these, Selectmen Staples seconded.
Unanimous

5. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Deferred
6. Old Business
 - a. Congressional District Spending Application
 - i. Approved to advance by both Governor King and Senator Collins, for the sand and salt shed. Amount would be \$950,000
 - b. Discussion of Walker Rd Set back.
 - i. Road was excepted in 2018 as an extension (Walker Rd Extension)
 - ii. Set back would be a 50' set back from the edge
 - iii. Informational letter will be sent
7. New Business
 - a. Discussion on Recycling Response for Bolsters
 - i. Proposal of a 50 yard roll off dumpster
 - ii. Measurements are 24' long 8' high 8' wide
 - iii. Enter from back door
 - iv. Would have 4 bins, tin cans, #2 plastic, newspaper, and card board
 - v. Cost would be \$375/shipment
 - vi. Location would be at the transfer station
 - vii. Start time would be August
 - viii. Selectmen Redman made a motion to except this proposal and engage with Bolster Recycling. Seconded by Selectmen Staples. Unanimous
 - b. Property Tax Abatements
 - i. Gary Owens House-paperwork for veteran's exemption were received in a timely manner but not applied to 2022 taxes and should've been. Abatement is \$1869.
 - ii. Joshua Stone House-paperwork for homestead exemption was received in a timely manner but not applied to 2022 taxes and should've been. Amount is \$367.50.
 - iii. Selectmen Redman motioned to approve the abatements for both of these houses. Seconded by Selectmen Staples. Unanimous
 - c. Selectman Redman received a proposal for propane from Superior Plus for propane for the firehouse for the season at \$1.629 per gallon.
 - i. Selectman Redman made a motion to except this proposal and sign agreement. Selectman Staples second the motion. Unanimous
 - d. Invoice from Arbortech.
 - i. Hemlock in field, partially in right of way of Peters Rd.
 - ii. Tree was deemed to be a shared tree, being on the line, and found to be of shared responsibility between the property owner and the town.
 - iii. Invoice total was \$2875.00, half would be \$1437.50.
 - iv. Selectman Staples made a motion to share expense of invoice at \$1437.50 payable to the owners if they have already paid invoice, if not the town will pay Arbortech directly. Seconded by Selectmen Redman. Unanimous

8. Executive Session began
9. Selectmen Redman motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Selectmen Staples. Adjourned at 6:05pm.