

Selectmen's Meeting

November 12th, 2024

Attendance: Selectman Redman

Selectman Staples

Administrative Assistant: Gail Gary-Cox

Other Attendees: Mickey Sirota

Mary Anne Riley

Jesse Gogan

Charlie LeRoy

Steven Brown

Interim Town Clerk: Kathy Hoey

1. Called to Order at 4:32pm
2. Selectman Redman made a motion to enter Executive Session with Adi Philson and Chris Corson, regarding the purchase of property for sand and salt shed, Acquisition of real estate property or economic development 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6C). Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Motion unanimous, session entered at 4:33pm.

Executive session ended and meeting resumed at 5:15pm

3. Public Comments-none
4. Selectmen's Comments-none
5. Modification to the Agenda-none
6. Approval of the Minutes for Oct. 21st
 - a. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the minutes for Oct. 21st as written, Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Motion unanimous.
7. Old Business
 - a. Road Report
 1. Appleton Ridge Rd. Memorial. The memorial is on private property, and the owners would like it removed, but are afraid of repercussions if they do so.

Kathy Hoey suggested the monument be posted, stating that it is a potential road hazard and not the appropriate place to have such a monument.

Therefore, the Town will be removing the monument in two weeks, or it can be voluntarily moved to a more appropriate place, on their own property or the cemetery.

2. Road Closure signs have come in. Selectman Staples is going to deliver 4 of the signs to the fire department and keep the remaining two signs at the town office.
3. Road Sign for Chessie Lane. Gail Gary-Cox will call White Signs and order the sign for Chessie Lane off Rt. 3.
- b. Harris Trio Web-moved for discussion at next Selectmen's meeting November 18th.
8. New Business
 - a. Memorandum of Understanding between RSU 71 and Searsmont Town Office to be the offsite emergency location for Ames School
 1. The Selectmen had some concerns about some of the wording. The Selectmen would like to have the wording changed under The Host Site section, number 4, from assign personnel to greet arriving buses, to the town will use its best efforts to have personnel greet.
 2. Under the section of Duration, the Selectmen would like to see a year listed after June 30th.
 3. The Selectmen would also like a statement added that the Town of Searsmont and its personnel will not be held responsible or liable in any means, for injuries or mishaps. That the school holds that burden, responsibility, and all liability of the Town of Searsmont being its Host Site.
 - b. Discussion on the Town Trail & Kiosk design
 1. Kiosk design done by Luke Thombs. Luke will make the sign for materials and some labor.
 2. The kiosk needs to have certain wording to meet the specifications of the grant. Selectman Redman has sent an email out to Mat Henion regarding the wording needed. Mickey Sirota is going to send what he has regarding the wording needed.
 3. Trail has two paths. One path is just under .2 miles and the other path, the loop, is 1.6 miles. The total trail is 1.8 miles long.
 4. The trail still needs a little work. A bridge needs to be constructed over a stream. Picnic tables need to be placed and possibly a couple of benches.
 5. Total volunteer hours at present are 104 hours.

- c. Starting a Community Building Maintenance Committee. Steven Brown has a few people that he believes would be interested in being a part of this committee. Selectmen suggested the actions of the committee would be to review, monitor, current and future maintenance for the community building. A make recommendations to the Selectmen regarding the expenses. Steven is going to write up a proposal for starting such a committee and a discussion will resume to get committee established.
 - d. 2025 Searsmont Memorial Day Parade Budget. Mary Anne Riley presented a proposed rounded up budget of \$2,000. The budget would consist of:
 - 1. Videographer \$100
 - 2. One porta potty \$200
 - 3. 9 3x5 American flags \$153.81
 - 4. Poles and Brackets for all 24 flags \$480
 - 5. Directional Signs \$500 Grade stakes \$50
 - 6. Solar light mounted on flagpole-total 12 \$298.68

Total comes to \$1682.49

 - a. These items would be ordered after town approval - 7. The parade committee are also requesting a police officer to assist at the Moody Mtn intersection, due to safety issues with traffic in the past.
 - a. Jesse Gogan will get in contact with Officer Trundy
 - 8. The parade committee also suggested the town selectmen start a memorial committee to initiate revising and increasing the current town memorial.
 - 9. The parade committee also requested that the town post on the website more often the need for volunteers, either to join the parade committee or to just volunteer to help set up or tear down for the parade.
 - 10. Jessee presented proposals for a new monument and an addition of a battle cross to be displayed on the green in the center of town. The selectmen took all of the information and will discuss the proposals at a later date.
- e. Phone Quote for additional lines-moved to November 18th meeting
- f. Discuss and take action on real estate tax account RE 748 withdrawn from tree growth classification resulting in a penalty of \$9,481. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the penalty assessed by the assessor's agent. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- g. Discuss and take action on real estate tax account RE 283 withdrawn from tree growth classification resulting in a penalty of \$147.50. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the penalty assessed by the assessor's agent. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30