

**Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022**

Members present: Chairman Linda Murray, Dave Senecal, Brad Harriman, Luke Freudenberg and Brian Deshaies.

Staff present: Town Manager, James S. Pineo and Recording Secretary, Amelia Capone-Muccio.

Chairman Murray opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Non-Public Session RSA 91 A: 3 e

None

1. Approval: HB 1552 Establishing and Assessing Certification Board

Todd Haywood, Contract Assessor of Granite Hill Municipal Services, addressed the Board virtually to explain he is looking to see the Board of Selectmen's support of legislation HB 1552 which removes the certification of assessors from the DRA to an autonomous Assessing Certification Board under the Office of Professional Licensing and Certification like all other professional licensing boards. This only removes certification from the DRA and ASB everything else assessing related stays with them. He stated this bill was sponsored by the ASB. He is requesting a letter of support to be forwarded to the committee.

It was moved by Dave Senecal and seconded by Brian Deshaies for the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to sign a letter of support to the NH House of Representatives, Executive Departments and Administration Committee regarding HB 1552. Members voted, being all in favor the motion passed.

2. Approval: Signing of the 2022 Town Warrant

Chairman Murray stated that the Board has been presented with the 2022 Town Warrant for their approval and signature. She stated the following:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session)

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 (snow date February 10, 2022)

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Kingswood Arts Center

Details: 21 McManus Road, Wolfeboro, NH

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Time: 8:00am – 7:00pm

Location: Great Hall at Town Hall

Details: 84 South Main Street, Wolfeboro, NH

It was moved by Brian Deshaies and seconded by Luke Freudenberg for the members of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to sign the 2022 Town Warrant as presented at this meeting. Members voted, being all in favor the motion passed.

3. Work Session-Bike Trail Committee

Chairman stated this is the first meeting of the Bike Trail Committee which is a work session of the Board of Selectmen. The following were present for this discussion:

- Lynne Palmer, Chamber
- Dan Coons, Conservation Commission
- Rudy Meyer, Wolfeboro Single Track

She stated that the goal will be to look at public/private partnership on bike trails in the community and discuss the, who, what, when, where of how all that will take place.

Mr. Deshaies stated he has concerns with the trails on town owned property and looking at the use for the town as whole. He also would like to know the costs and impacts on the town departments.

Mr. Freudenberg stated he would like to be sure that the activities provided for these trails benefit the community and goes along with the Master Plan. He stated he is happy they have a committee to address the mistakes and move forward together with a plan.

Mr. Harriman agrees with the others and also would like to be sure any conflicts of crossing existing trails is looked as well. He also wants to be sure they offer a variety of uses on the town owned trails and most importantly be concise.

Rudy Meyer, representing Wolfeboro Single Track (WST) and WST would like to know the relationship with the town and what trails is the town supportive of.

Dan Coons, representing the Conservation Commission, stated the approach was not geared to every possible use, the trails were developed based on topography. He stated that the trails at Fernald Crossing are geared to Mountain Bikes, White Face trails are geared to hiking, Front Bay Park trail is geared to handicap accessibility etc. That is the approach the Conservation Commission takes based on the property's topography.

Lynne Palmer, representing the Chamber of Commerce, who is looking at how it relates to the Master Plan.

Chairman Murray stated she did some research on previous trails and the work of the Pathways Committee in 2008. That committee received permission to install a trail on Filter Bed Road and there is some history to the work done there and provided to this group. She stated that the Pathways Committee did leave funds raised for the maintenance of that trail with WEDCO and subsequently has been transferred to WST.

Mr. Meyer replied that WST does have the funds from that committee to maintain those two trails.

Chairman Murray stated at one time there was an active group working on trails in the community and as some folks that are involved in this were no longer active in the group the

oversight was lost. She stated that they need to start with a public private partnership to move forward with but first thing that is needed is how many trails are there and what types are they?

Mr. Meyer provided a brief history of how the Conservation Commission contracted for the trails to be built at Fernald Crossing and that was the first single track trail. He explained this is a fast growing sport. Because of that a non-profit was developed to continue to build trails in the community. Bella Terra is a contractor who wanted to get involved in building trails here which is how the Abenaki project started. A private donor wanted to fund that project for a tax donation so the funds to do that project came through WST. Bella Terra worked with the town on gaining the permissions to work on those trails, although not the right permissions, but as far as Bella Terra was concerned they had permission to do the work. He stated WST took the donation for the work and paid Bella Terra for that work. Abenaki is a desirable area to connect trails and the goal of these trails is to make connections with other trails.

Mr. Deshaies stated he was overwhelmed with the information he found about trails online and all the different kinds.

Chairman Murray questioned what type of trails are at Abenaki?

Mr. Meyer replied that there are Nordic trails, snow shoe trails, and Mountain Bike trails that are more like roads. He stated over the last few years they have talked to Christine and Kathy about wanting to build more trails from Filter Bed Road to the upper bog run.

Chairman Murray questioned if WST has a map of their trails and if they do that would be helpful information to have.

Mr. Meyer replied they do. He stated he understood that permission was given by Tavis Austin and Dave Ford, he is not sure but at least understood they were all aware and Christine Collins.

Mr. Deshaies said that the trails on town property should be available for everyone's use.

Mr. Meyer replied he understands his concern but he looks at it similar to Abenaki, that is town owned but not everybody uses it.

Mr. Deshaies stated he called many other towns with bike trails who indicated the trails are not a source of a big economic boom.

Mr. Meyer disagreed and that these trails provide a 20 mile bike ride and those folks will stay and eat in the community.

Mr. Deshaies also stated the town needs to know the financial impact of the trails too. He noted he and his family love biking but he is also looking at the taxpayers impact.

Mr. Meyer stated they have two trails to complete at Abenaki.

Chairman Murray stated the layout of that project needs to be brought to the Board.

Mr. Meyer stated that there are two more trails proposed from Filter Bed Road to the top of Poor Farm Hill, which was in the project that was in process.

Chairman Murray replied they need to know how much of the work was done and what needs to be done, the Board needs to see that.

Mr. Meyer replied the climb hill is 80% complete and wasn't finished due to the expanded snow making project.

Chairman Murray questioned where that trail is, she went out there to look and who has the specs for that project?

Mr. Meyers replied that is where things have not gone well, WST does not have specs for the project, same for the large downhill trail that was being built, and there are no specs for that either. WST is working on a contract process for the trail building.

Mr. Senecal stated how you can build trails with no specs. Who has the specs?

Mr. Meyer replied that Bella Terra built those and all they had was the number of feet of trails to be built.

Mr. Senecal stated that someone needs to contact him and get the specs.

Chairman Murray questioned isn't Bella Terra part of their group?

Mr. Meyers replied no, he is a contractor and cannot be part of the group that would be a conflict.

Mr. Deshaies questioned what the pile of dirt was he saw out there.

Mr. Pineo replied he believes that is for the ski trail.

Mr. Harriman stated that moving forward the town needs to have a map of what trails are out there and those trails need to be looked at as to how they conflict with Nordic trails. He stated it is important that Bella Terra provide plans of the work to be done on the trails that includes grading, drainage, slopes etc. on the town owned sections of the trails.

Mr. Senecal questioned if the trails are groomed.

Mr. Meyers replied only Fernald Crossing for fat biking.

Chairman Murray stated that is information the Board needs as well. She stated she would like to see the site plan of the area showing all the trails and what the use is.

Ms. Palmer suggested a trail marking system similar to the Wolfeboro Snowmobile Club that identifies the trails and their skill levels.

Chairman Murray stated she also would like to know from Dave Ford what areas of the spray fields can be used and what cannot. She stated any building of trails on town owned property require a public hearing.

Mr. Meyer stated that he believes there are 6 more trails proposed and Fernald Crossing trails are good trails to model they can be used for biking and walking.

Mr. Deshaies stated he assumes the downhill trails require more maintenance.

Mr. Meyer replied yes, the more traffic the more maintenance.

Chairman Murray stated that is more information that is needed identifying the partnership and who is responsible for what.

Mr. Meyers stated the MOU is in process with the town.

Mr. Pineo stated that they have a draft, but have not done anything with it.

Chairman Murray stated the Board needs to see that. The Board needs to look at the options such as license agreements and putting ownership on the trail developers. She does not feel the town wants to add this cost to the budget. She would also like this reviewed by Town counsel. She questioned if the Conservation Commission has MOU's?

Mr. Coons replied they are in the process of developing some.

Chairman Murray questioned if those will be reviewed by counsel.

Mr. Coons replied they will.

Mr. Pineo stated that contractors will also need to provide an insurance rider.

Mr. Meyer replied that would be part of the contract.

Mr. Deshaies questioned who did the shoveling?

Mr. Meyer replied that a company from Arkansas, which is known to be a top of line company.

Chairman Murray questioned how long do they need to provide the site plan can it be sent by the next meeting?

Mr. Meyer questioned what they are looking for.

Mr. Harriman replied, the details of the trails built such as; drainage, materials used, erosion control, etc.

Mr. Deshaies added the list of contractors and insurances.

Mr. Coons replied relative to Fernald crossing the materials used were on site.

Chairman Murray stated the town needs to have as built plans for the town records for the future.

Mr. Freudenberg agreed they need “as built” including for what is currently there.

Chairman Murray questioned if the Conservation trails are listed on their website.

Mr. Coons replied they are working with Peter Goodwin on that.

Mr. Deshaies would like a copy of the mission and goals and plans of connecting trails.

Mr. Meyers replied that information exists.

Chairman Murray stated when she talked to Andrew Lester there are future trails in the spray fields, they need a map of that preferably colored coded so they can see what they are looking. What exists and what is proposed.

The next meeting is February 23rd at 6:30PM.

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Murray entertained a motion to adjourn.

Dave Senecal moved the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen to adjourn at 7:33 PM. Brad Harriman seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio