

2018 - Minutes of August 6, 20 Meetings

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes August 6, 2018

6:30 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Bernie Fallon (BF), Chair; Doane Perry (DP); Peter Skorput (PS). Also present: AdminAsst Mark Webber (AA). No press present.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes.
Board reviews and approves weekly warrants.

7:00 PM: Chief of Police Marc Portieri gives his monthly report to the Board. Chief gives a breakdown of speeding tickets issued and on which streets; states that he is being proactive on speeders. BF asks that patrols be increased on Lenox Rd in response to residents' concerns. DP asks about recurring vandalism at Card Pond. Chief responds that specific incidents are being investigated and that he has suspects and that criminal charges may be issued shortly. Board thanks the Chief for attending tonight's meeting.

7:15 PM: BF opens a discussion on Troy's Garage Class II and III Town issued annual auto licenses. BF notes that this topic was first discussed at a Board meeting back in March, which was attended by 30-40 interested citizens. The Board has been in steady conversation with the D'Aniello family (Troy's Garage owners) since that time and has conducted research and consulted with Town Counsel and the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the licensed property. BF states that Troy's licenses are the first that the Board is addressing but all issued Class II and III auto licenses will be reviewed prior to their January 1 renewal date.

BF speaks to the history of Troy's Garage noting that they've been in business continuously for approximately 100 years back to when they were selling Model T's.

BF continues and states that the Class II (used cars) and Class III (junk cars) language needs to be clear and concise in order to be properly enforced. BF states that the Board intends to do what's best for both Troy's and the public at large.

AA states that he requested and received all available records from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the Troy's operation. Additionally, AA had a meeting recently with a member of the Springfield DEP staff who had just conducted another site visit to Troy's. AA states that, according to DEP, there are no current or past violations regarding pollution or spills affecting the site, and more specifically the Shaker Mill Pond. AA adds that anyone can request and obtain the same DEP records for verification.

BF acknowledges that there are on-going property disputes between Troy's and abutters but that the Board will not act as the arbiter over property lines. The Board will focus and be clear on what activities will be allowed on Troy's licensed premises only. BF reads aloud the Board's letter, dated today, which will become the amended Troy's Class II and Class III licenses through December 31st of this year (attached). All Class II & III auto licenses are reviewed and acted on for renewal annually during the month of December.

DP states that he was urged to run for the Board by retiring Selectman Curt Wilton who offered his advice on how to address used and junk car licenses. Focus on the terms of the licenses and make them clear and concise. Now, the Board has developed clear and enforceable license conditions that will be re-visited annually.

PS states that he would like the recently installed stockade fence removed from the Gennari property, which run parallel to Albany Road and is screening Troy's licensed Class II Auto display area. Property owner, along with his siblings, Chris Gennari said that if progress is made by Troy's in cleaning up the area and conforming with the new terms of the license, then, with the consent of his siblings, he would consider removing the fence. Chris notes that there has been a history of encroachment on his property by Troy's and he'd like it to stop. He particularly wants the vehicles stored on his property, next to Soma's removed right away. Troy's agrees to get them removed.

BF notes that the Town will do some follow up research on the fence and property lines where it was installed.

AA notes that the used and junk car licenses are reviewed and issued annually by the Selectmen. The Board has the authority to place any and all reasonable conditions on those licenses. There is no 'grandfathering' attached to past

practice or licenses. If the Board is not satisfied with adherence to the terms of issued licenses, then they have the full authority not to renew them.

Abutting property owner Kardin Rabin thanks the Board and all present for a thoughtful and productive session.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Bob Powell gives the Board an update on this coming Saturday's first annual Community Picnic.
- AA provides the Board with an updated amount due in past taxes and associated costs for a tax title property located at 16 State Line Road. The current amount owed is \$19,425.60 (statement attached).
- Board chooses to lock in heating oil price for coming heating season as opposed to letting it float. The lock in price for Town buildings will be \$2.33/gallon.
- Board approves temporary signs at various locations around town to advertise an upcoming event at the Old Town Hall.

8:15 PM: There being no additional business to come before the Board and no public comment, PS makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. DP seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Bernie Fallon, Chair

Peter Skorput

Doane Perry

Date: _____