

Brookline Selectboard Minutes (Draft)
March 18, 2009

1. Chairman Archie Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were board members David Ryder, Mike Winot, Alicia Dest, and Doug Wellman. Also present were members of the public Cynthia Nau, Kim Rink, and Bruce Capponcelli.

2. The minutes of the March 4th meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

3. Members of the Public:

a. Cynthia briefed the progress from the March 17th Planning Commission (PC) meeting. She stated that two members of the public had spoken about the noise ordinance and that the PC had spent over an hour on the subject. She brought forward a request from the PC members that they be allowed to contact the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) directly for clarification on recommendations about how to rewrite the noise ordinance. A brief discussion on the direction of the noise ordinance and the process of getting it completed ensued. Doug had also attended the meeting and spoke on the disruptive nature of the noise ordinance discussion to this PC meeting and others he had attended. Doug made a motion that "The Selectboard requests that the planning commission make the Town Plan the priority and table the noise ordinance until time permits." Seconded. All voted in favor, approved. The request to contact the VLCT was rendered mute by the motion. Cynthia then asked for clarification on some items that need to be addressed in the town plan.

b. Kim spoke of an issue with a resident harassing individuals using a town highway. Archie will speak to them about this.

4. Old Business:

a. The board continued appointments to open positions. Lester D. Rink was appointed Tree Warden. Anthony Pelton was appointed to the Cemetery Commission. Archie has made some calls about the Rescue and Health Officer positions. It still could not be determined which Planning Commission position requires reappointment. These appointments will be revisited at the next meeting.

b. The revised selectboard rules of procedure were reviewed. Doug motioned they be approved as written. Seconded. All voted in favor, approved.

c. Archie thanked Bruce for volunteering for the Windham County Solid Waste Management District (WCSWMD) board. Bruce spoke about the board meeting of March 12th. Of primary interest were the districts financial shortfalls and some potential cost saving measures. There will be a public information meeting on April 6th and another board meeting on April 9th to vote on the proposed budget. If the WCSWMD budget is approved as written Brookline is still looking at about a \$3,000 shortfall between our approved 2010 budget and our probable assessment.

d. The revised conflict of interest policy was reviewed. Doug motioned it be approved as written. Seconded. All voted in favor, approved. Archie will have the Town Clerk send a copy to all boards.

e. Archie solicited input from the board on goals for the upcoming year. Doug suggested controlling spending and improving working relationships with other standing boards. Dave suggested establishing highway goals and a formalized road plan. Alica suggested improving communications with other boards and better explanations in the town report on warning items. Mike suggested starting the budget development process much earlier. Archie suggested improved communications within the board and between the boards, ways to equalize the workload among selectboard members, that we develop formalized plans and goals especially for highways, and that selectboard members take advantage of available training.

5. Road Report:

a. Dave briefed the status of road projects. Mud season has started in earnest and the roads are not in very good shape. Some stone has been used on Whitney Hill and Grassy Brook Roads but will still have some left. The road foreman will rake some to see if it will help dry out the roads better than grading.

b. On March 20th there will be a statewide teleconference on stimulus monies, Doug will attend. One potential area we may be ready for is paving.

c. Archie stated that there may be further cuts coming in state funding for all highway programs (paving, structures, etc.). This may include another 15% from the next highway funding payment.

d. The board reviewed and signed the structures report.

e. Dave talked to the road foreman on the pay issue discussed at the last meeting. This issue still has not been resolved to his satisfaction. Dave will invite him to the next meeting and at 8:00 the board will go into executive session to discuss it with him.

6. New Business:

a. There will be training for selectboard members on April 4th. Neither Doug nor Alicia will be able to attend.

b. Mike asked about private contractor doing some ditching at the bottom of the Windmill Hill Trail. He wanted to know if they needed permission. Since it is a trail and not a class 4 highway no town permission is required.

c. The board discussed having a thank you party for outgoing board members Mike Fontaine and Joyce Meehl. We tentatively decided on April 9th (with the 16th as back-up) at the town office.

7. Other Business:

a. Cynthia briefed the board on the status of the southern loop project. Approval has been granted to start work at the Coolidge substation. Any questions to board members on the status from the public should be direct to Cynthia as our representative.

b. The current year budget status was reviewed. Archie will ask the treasurer for monthly reports from now through the end-of-year.

8. Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed. All board members should review the WSWMD budget. At the next meeting the board will make a decision on how to have our representative vote at the April 9th WSWMD budget meeting. OPEN

9. Pay Orders: Pay orders were reviewed and approved. Accounts payable warrants #13, \$171,997.78; #14, \$2,711.06; payroll warrants #17, \$679.03; and #18, \$416.34.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM. The next meeting will be April 1st at 7:00 PM in the town office.

Respectively submitted
Douglas Wellman
Clerk of the Board