



TOWN OF RICHFORD

Selectboard

P. O. Box 236

Tel. 802-848-7751, Ext. 6

Fax 802-848-7752

~~UNAPPROVED MINUTES~~ APPROVED AS AMENDED

On Monday, January 21, 2019 at 7 P.M. board chair Linda Collins called the 2nd regular monthly meeting to order. Other board members present are Wayne Hurtubise, Sherry Paquette, Arthur Pond, and Norris Tillotson.

Also present are County Forester Nancy Patch, Clerk & Treasurer Alan Fletcher, Camera operator Sarah West and Scribe Eric Collins. Conservation Commission members ~~Debbie Foote~~ and Greg Campbell [and Mrs. Nancy Campbell] joined the meeting a few minutes after 7.

Board members remarked of their pleasure towards the maintenance of our roads, streets, sidewalks in this most recent storm as the agenda got underway.

Clerk Fletcher:

- Presented the Board with the Annual Warning to sign off on, in preparation for town meeting. Norris Tillotson abstained from signing.
 - Requested Vaughn Comeau; by motion, be used again for this year's annual tax sales. Mrs. Paquette made the motion to do so, Mr. Pond seconded, motion carried.
 - Annual Lease renewal for 15 Troy (for James Clawson) was signed.
- Clerk Fletcher left the meeting.

Franklin-Grand Isle County Forester & Town Forest Manager Nancy Patch was present to explain the updated 'Forest Management Plan for Property of Richford Town...'. Immediately pointed out by members of the board and acknowledged by Ms. Patch is this 146+ acre parcel is not a town forest by definition but was deeded to the town as a 'watershed'.

During Ms. Patch's presentation it is evident this land is a special place and we are fortunate to have her knowledge in its evaluation. Descriptors used during the talk are "unique protection area", "no good reason to harvest", "steep steep ground", "valuable for ecological use", "undisturbed songbird habitat", "opportunity to study climate adaptation", "no invasive species", "pristine", "trees average 100-120 years old, some 150 years old", "leaving dead wood... leaving what falls; is on the cusp of becoming an old forest". Ms Patch summed her presentation saying "there is an opportunity here to have something very special in the community".

Ms. Patch's second topic was the Emerald Ash Borer. While Richford has the distinction of having first inventoried for this invasive bug in Franklin County we have yet to do anything about it. Once the Ash Borer spreads here it will decimate 99.9% of every ash in its path. The answer is to cut every ash tree over the next four to five years on every town road. The inventory results listed some 600 trees on the busiest town roads. Ms. Patch will provide the town with an ordinance for its review that it may wish to use to assist in the matter.

Ms. Patch and Conservation Commission members left the meeting.

The chair called for the approval of the January 7th, 2019 minutes. Mrs. Paquette made the motion to approve, Mr. Pond seconded, motion carried.

Chair reminded the board of a meeting Thursday morning at 9AM with Aldridge-Elliott to review the 'Asset Management Plan'.

Highway Dept. Commissioner Hurtubise mentioned the 'village plow' had issues again but the department was able to keep the fixes in-house. He was happy with the clean-up from the storm. Mr. Pond interjected a concern he had with a recent house fire that lead to icy streets and what the ongoing policy should be for punching in to sand the streets. Board consensus is {the fireman that is a highway employee shall punch in to take a truck to sand in the event of an emergency and punch out afterward so that the town's insurance would cover any unforeseen incident}-paraphrased.

Water/Sewer Dept. Commissioner Tillotson reported straightening out a couple of outstanding issues with water problems: one customer complaint turned out that the meter installed in the residence was of a commercial type meant for higher volumes. Once changed the problem resolved; the other was a leak in a line requiring some digging, also fixed. As for the sewer department, sometimes efficiency gained in one area is something lost in another. The new blower runs so much cooler that additional heat is required in the blower building lending to a higher heat bill.

Buildings. Commissioner Paquette is playing the waiting game on arrival of parts and gathering of quotes regarding her outstanding and planned building projects.

Cemeteries, Parks & Playground. Commissioner Pond reports all is quiet in the cemeteries, while a flag needs replacing a Davis Park and the Christmas lights have yet to come down off the Main St Park; waiting on warmer weather.

Police. Commissioner Pond has met with the new sheriff.

Chair sought a motion to adjourn to reconvene as the Liquor Control Board. Mrs. Paquette made the motion to do so, Mr. Hurtubise seconded, motion carried.

Before the Liquor Control Board is one application for the renewal of the Jolly Store's license.
[Mrs. Paquette recused herself from the vote.]

Ms. Collins made the motion to approve, Mr. Hurtubise seconded, motion carried.

Meeting of the Liquor Control Board adjourned at 8:20PM

[Amendments. Original text is struck through and new text is underlined and in brackets.]

True copy:  Attested: 2-6-2019