

Town of Casco

Minutes of the July 9, 2019 Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Members Present:

Holly Hancock, Mary Fernandes, Calvin Nutting and Tom Peaslee

Staff Present:

Town Manager Courtney O'Donnell and Administrative Secretary Bob Tooker

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the agenda for the July 9, 2019 Selectboard meeting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Approval of Warrants:

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve bills and sign open warrants: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Approval of Minutes: (June 18, 2019)

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 Selectboard meeting: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Town Manager's Update: (Courtney O'Donnell)

None.

Committee and Staff Reports:

None.

Public Participation:

Justan Strout, a medical marijuana caregiver, inquired as to when Casco might consider adopting an opt in ordinance to allow medical and recreational marijuana business establishments. Justan commented on 1) potential tax revenue for Casco; and 2) potential jobs related to the cultivation, testing and manufacturing of marijuana products. Holly Hancock stated that an opt in ordinance would require a Town Meeting vote.

Ronald Whitney expressed concerns about traffic safety on Route 121 resulting from the speed limit abruptly changing from thirty miles per hour to fifty miles per hour and back to thirty miles per hour through Casco Village.

New Business:

1. Selection of a Selectboard Chair and Vice Chair for the next year.

This agenda item was tabled.

Old Business:

2. Review of request for plowing Settlers Village under 1972 road standards.

Brian Chamberlain requested that Settlers Village be included on the list of private roads that receive Town plowing services. Brian stated that 1) when the attorney for Settlers Village discussed the issue of plowing with the Planning Board, Town Planner Jim Seymour stated that the issue would need to be pursued at a later date; 2) since that time, three houses in Settlers Village have been sold; 3) the road has been inspected and approved by the Town Manager and the Code Enforcement Officer; and 4) the road has been brought up to the 1972 road standards at a cost of \$11,000.00.

Selectboard Chair Holly Hancock stated that 1) the new Settlers Village Contract Zone Agreement states that “all maintenance, upkeep and repair shall be the responsibility of the homeowner’s association that will take ownership of the interior roadways and common open space after the sale of more than three lots hereby created;” and 2) the Selectboard has been advised that this is not something the Town can take on. On behalf of the Selectboard, Holly denied the request.

3. Requests for waivers or extensions regarding plowing of private roads with public easements.

Ian Heiselmeyer requested a road width waiver for Puckerbrush Trail due to an inability to relocate a telephone pole. Ian commented on plans to complete additional road improvements prior to the October 31, 2019 deadline.

Kevin Cote, president of the Coffee Pond Road Association, commented on recently completed and planned roadwork. Kevin requested road width waivers for areas limited by utility poles and an area limited by structures on either side of the road. Kevin 1) described a plan backed-up by contractor quotes to complete eighty percent of necessary road improvements in October of this year; and 2) requested an extension to complete the remaining twenty percent of necessary road improvements next year. Kevin cited financial concerns and the advantages of having the road inspected again after this year’s roadwork to ensure that any outstanding issues are addressed next year. Kevin requested that Courtney O’Donnell meet with him to inspect the road and review his plans in August.

Holly Hancock directed that the issue of whether a single easement from a legal road association is sufficient to allow the Town to plow a private road be reviewed by legal counsel. Holly stated that a request for a road width waiver from Parker Pond Pines Road due to a utility pole had been received via email.

4. Public discussion regarding a four way stop light at the junction of Route 11 and Route 121.

The Selectboard listened to citizens' comments, observations and suggestions concerning hazardous traffic conditions surrounding the intersection of Route 11 and Route 121. Participants included victims and relatives of victims of accidents who spoke, in some cases emotionally, about the need to take whatever steps may be necessary to improve safety and reduce the number of accidents at the intersection.

Comments included phrases such as "crash corner," "you cannot regulate impatience and stupidity," "stop rolling the dice" and "stop gambling with lives." One participant quoted sixty-one accidents, forty-eight injuries and one fatality at the intersection according to Maine Department of Transportation statistics.

Several citizens advocated for a four way stop light while others expressed opposition, in part due to a heavy volume of large trucks, including eighteen wheelers, that produce noise, emissions and odor. Suggestions for improving traffic safety included a full stop light, a four way stop light, increased awareness and behavioral modification, lane channeling, extra lanes, a rotary, street lighting, larger and more prominent traffic lights and signage, road painting, rumble strips and a new traffic study. Many citizens advocated for a significant reduction in the speed limit on Route 11 with strict and ongoing law enforcement. It was suggested that the Town revisit the possibility of paying for a Cumberland County sheriff dedicated to patrolling the area and enforcing speed limits.

On her second day as Town Manager, Courtney O'Donnell stated that there will be a meeting with the Maine Department of Transportation in the near future to see what can be done immediately and going forward.

5. Review and approval of the Cumberland County Regional Assessing contract.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the Cumberland County Contract for Assessing Services for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

6. Review of Emergency Medical Services billing.

It was moved, seconded and voted to send four names on the audit log dated July 9, 2019 to collections and to conduct further research on the third name listed on the audit log: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

7. Review of an application for relief from emergency medical transportation and services costs.

It was moved, seconded and voted to abate rescue costs for the application dated April 10, 2019: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

8. Discussion regarding the tax foreclosure on the Stephen Lindeman property, 15 Lake Shore Drive, Casco Tax Map 21, Lot 1.

Holly Hancock stated that the Southern Maine Agency on Aging is working with Mr. Lindeman to find grants for the purpose of repairing the home he lives in and finding a heat source. Holly stated that the agency is unable to secure a grant because his home (Casco Tax Map 21, Lot 1) has been foreclosed on by the Town. Holly proposed that the Town waive the foreclosure and list Mr. Lindeman as the owner of the property, adding that the issue of property taxes will need to be addressed at a later date. In response to an inquiry from Tom Peaslee regarding the setting of a precedent, Holly referred to an article published in Maine Town & City regarding recent legislation affecting senior tax-lien law.

It was moved, seconded and voted to return the property to the previous owner of record: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

9. Review of an application to license games of chance.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the application to license games of chance for the Lakes Region ATV Club: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

10. Selectboard comments.

- In response to previous discussions about traffic speed on Route 11 and the hazards surrounding the Route 11 and Route 121 intersection, Tom Peaslee stated that the Selectboard heard the message loud and clear and that this is an issue the Selectboard should be looking into.
- Mary Fernandes commented on concerns about parked vehicles blocking visibility at the Route 11 and Route 121 intersection.
- In response to a request to look into increased traffic patrols by the Cumberland County Sherriff's Department, Holly Hancock stated that the Town will arrange to meet with Patrol Captain Scott Stewart.
- Mary Fernandes commented on potential hazards resulting from speeding traffic on Route 11 near a new playground and a planned expansion of the parking area at the Memorial Field Recreation Facility.

- Tom Peaslee called for a need to be open minded when working with the Maine Department of Transportation concerning the Route 11 and Route 121 intersection, adding that recommended solutions may not be exactly what the Town wants.
- In response to an inquiry from James Garry regarding a collapsing garage on Town owned property on Webbs Mills Road, Holly Hancock stated that the Town is working with a potential buyer for the property.

9. Review of applications for abatement of taxes due to poverty or infirmity. *(Requires executive session subject to Title 1 M.R.S.A., subsection 405, paragraph 6, part F, and pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A., subsection 841(2).)*

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn to executive session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A., subsection 405, paragraph 6, part F, and pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A., subsection 841(2): 4 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed.

The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:15 p.m.

The Selectboard returned from executive session at 8:27 p.m.

It was moved, seconded and voted to return from executive session: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve an abatement in the amount of \$1,570.21 for application 6-18-19-A and an abatement in the amount of 2,979.79 for application 6-18-19-B: 4 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

ATTEST:

Robert Tooker
Deputy Town Clerk