

Town of Nelson Selectmen's Meeting 3:00 PM

April 24, 2019

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: Patricia and Bob Jones, Joe Sarcione, Wayne Kassotis, Richard Pratt

At 3:00 PM David Upton opened the April 24, 2019 meeting of the Nelson Select Board.

● Patricia and Bob Jones came before the Board to present concerns regarding a pending Fire training event involving a "controlled" burn on property abutting the Jones parcel. They presented a letter that had been placed in their mailbox by the Deputy Fire Chief. They expressed concerns over the safety and environmental problems that could arise and were concerned for their personal comforts during such a burn if there is excessive smoke.

● Joe Sarcione, of the Nelson Fire Department, was in attendance to explain the details of the planned event and to answer any questions or concerns. Sarcione presented a history of the project and gave a brief overview of his personal experience in conducting similar training events as an instructor. He agreed that the letter placed in the Jones's mailbox was inappropriate in content and method of delivery. Sarcione went on to detail the technical aspects of the training project in an attempt to quiet concerns.

● David Upton noted that while the technical elements are important, it is imperative that the community be informed, have all their questions answered, and their concerns sufficiently addressed for them to support such an event. David continued, stating that lack of community notice and understanding will become a problem that the Select Board would then need to address.

● Bob Jones expressed concern that perhaps the planners were not aware that his boundary line is only about 150' from the property that is slated for the "burn". Patricia Jones noted again her concern that the smoke could keep her away from her home on that day or that she may have to deal with the unease if they remain.

● David explained that the Select Board had no objection to having a "burn" if all aspects of the plan are known and the community is well informed, however, that was not the case with this project.

● Patricia Jones expressed support and understanding of training but remained hopeful that this particular event be cancelled.

● Based on consideration of all presentations of concern:

Lack of Communication

Lack of complete event details including the full scope of the program and

Delay in communication with the community

The Selectmen, the Nelson Forest Fire Warden, and the Nelson Fire Department Training Officer all agreed that postponement of this event is the best action at this time.

● The Board agreed to draft a letter to the Fire Chief detailing their expectations regarding planning and communication on future events of this nature.

- David made a motion to approve the minutes for April 10, 2019.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 2-0 Maury was absent

- Gary made a motion to approve the manifest for April 24, 2019 as presented.
David seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- David made a motion to approve the manifest for April 17, 2019 as presented.
Maury seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- David made a motion to approve a refund request from the Town Clerk for an overcharge on a motor vehicle registration.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- Gary made a motion to approve a letter to SWRPC authorizing their assistance with a culvert inventory for Nelson at no cost to the Town.
Maury seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- David made a motion to approve the “Primary Contact”, and “Designated Users” for the updated emergency notification system “CodeRED”
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- Maury made a motion to approve a Purchase Request from the Highway Department for MV oil and fluid in the amount of \$1400.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- David made a motion to approve the cemetery repairs as requested by Elaine Giacomo and to have the Nelson Highway Department complete these repairs.
Maury seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- The Board agreed to ask the TBC to consider a project committee for appointment by the Select Board to help develop plans and promotion for the “Town Solar Project”.

- The previously approved cemetery contract for 2019 was presented for signing.

- The Forest Fire Warden recommendation form was signed for final submission to the State.

- Gary made a motion to approve an Intent to Cut for D. Upton on Center Pond Road.
Maury seconded.
The motion carried 2-0. (David recused)

- David made motion to approve an Intent to Cut for M. Collins on Old Stoddard Road.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 2-0. (Maury recused)

● David made a motion to approve a thank you letter to Skyler Cruz Woolsey for the interest shown in road safety at intersections in Nelson.

Gary seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Maury approved and signed minutes for March 27, 2019 as he was not present at the following meeting when the minutes were approved.

● David made a motion to approve the State Bid for paving of Henderson Roar unless a lower bid arrives by the April 29th cutoff date.

Maury seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● The Board admired photos of the new Partridge Woods signs recently installed by Rick Church and Rob Germeroth.

● It was noted the MFS still has not responded to the letter regarding requirements for using recording devices in the Town Hall.

● It was noted that the letter to the Fire Chief should include the requirement that copies of instructor certifications be submitted to the Town prior to scheduling the type of training event previously discussed in this meeting.

● With nothing further, Maury made a motion to adjourn.

Gary seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

5:36 PM Meeting Adjourned.

For April 24, 2019

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Gary Robinson, Selectman