

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Wentworth
October 03, 2023

Those present: Rick Ducheneau, Brian DuBois, Chief Trott, Izzy Mercier, Ron Giroux, Lee Pierhal, Omer Ahern, Conexon and NHEC Representatives, and Erin Ganzel

B. DuBois called the meeting to order at 5pm.

B. DuBois took a moment to reflect on Randy Rugar's memorial services. He thanked Chief Trott for officiating, and all those from Wentworth that took time to celebrate his life.

Chief Trott shared his report. He received notification from the NH Department of Safety that the Wentworth Police Department is a recipient of two State grants, effective October 01. One grant is specifically for traffic enforcement such as speeding, DUIs, etc. The other authorized the Town to purchase two mobile speed radar signs, summing around \$6000, which will be fully reimbursed through the grant program. He reports that the last two races at Legion Speedway were gratefully not rained out. Chief Trott commends Ron Giroux for doing such family friendly events. The last race of the year was geared towards families and children, with the racetrack giving away prizes for the kids. He reports he was amazed at the turn out of folks for Randy Rugar's services, mentioning that both the graveside service and celebration of life for Randy Rugar were very well attended.

I. Mercier reports she has been working on the Town Forest Ordinances.

B. DuBois states that the warrant article was written in conjunction with abutting landowners, the Select Board, other concerned or affected landowners, and the Town Forester. It was very much a cooperative effort.

R. Ducheneau reports on a meeting with the Conservation Commission. They worked together to come up with a warrant article for the Town Forest Ordinances that can eventually be listed on the Town's website. He briefly mentions stipulations such as – dogs must always be leashed, the forest is only open sunrise to sunset, and hunting will be allowed.

Chief Trott suggests that the ordinances also outline that tracked vehicles and bicycles are also not allowed.

R. Ducheneau makes a motion to accept the warrant article as written to submit to the 2024 Town Meeting. Seconded by B. DuBois. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

R. Giroux provides an update on Legion Speedway. He states that he has had racers and fans travel from all six New England states in addition to New York. He is working hard to ensure that Legion Speedway is family friendly and fun. This season, their main focus was to do a lot with the kids which is why they had weekly raffles and giveaways for items such as bikes, fishing poles, and candy baskets. The racetrack also focused on doing ADA upgrades to make the racetrack accessible to all patrons. He states that the racetrack enforces a strict zero tolerance policy, meaning no alcohol is allowed.

L. Pierhal reports that the noise from the racetrack is excessively heard on Cheever Rd, interfering with his ability to be outside at the same time. He would like the racetrack operating only one night a week. He inquires if it's possible to practice on Friday, before the races start rather than on Tuesday nights.

R. Giroux responds that practicing just before the races is not feasible for several reasons. Because the races are on Friday nights, there would not be enough time for many drivers to get to the track early enough to practice due to work conflicts. Additionally, the tracks must be prepped before the races. There would not be enough time between practice laps and the race to get the track where it needs to be. He reports

that the schedule is submitted to the Select Board by April for approval. There is never more than one race a week, with some Tuesday nights being open for a small group of racers to practice.

L. Pierhal responds that racing one night a week is not a problem. He states the loud speaker is the cause for most of the noise he is hearing. He will work with the racetrack next season to sort this out.

Chief Trott stated that if any excessive noises are heard, especially outside of a normally scheduled race, he would like to be notified.

R. Ducheneau requests a list of Tuesday nights also be included with the Friday night races for next season.

Representatives from NH Electric Co-op and Conexon did a brief update on the rollout of Broadband. There are staggered zones being hooked up at this time. The hope is all will be available for hook up by the end of February. It is important that interested parties request to get signed up as soon as possible, because technicians are in the area so it will expedite the process. Jonathan, NHEC Representative, clarifies that Conexon is installing the lines with NHEC running them. Conexon has hired several subcontractors, one of them being Eustis Cable.

O. Ahern reports on funds received from the Federal Government for broadband. He states the money is to be used for all of Grafton County, which concerns him due to duplication of services in an area. This could prevent another area from receiving broadband. Another concern is that there could be private businesses or entities that will benefit from this funding.

O. Ahern reports that the Grafton County Nursing Home provided pay increases to their employees, which has brought in more nurses. A problem they are having is employing enough nurses to be able to bring in residents. Recently a new law has been implemented that a Registered Nurse needs to be on the premises 24/7. The fiscal year starts July 1 for the county, which will include generous pay raises.

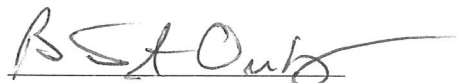
Chief Trott states he was hoping his dispatch fees may go down for the year, but it did not appear they did. He and Omer will discuss.

R. Ducheneau makes a motion to cancel the Halloween Meeting. Seconded by B. DuBois. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

R. Ducheneau makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm. Seconded by B. DuBois. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Erin D. Ganzel, Town Administrator

Arnold Scheller, Chairman



Brian DuBois



Richard Ducheneau