## Wentworth Select Board Meeting Minutes April 7, 2020

**Those present**: Arnold Scheller, Andrew Lasser and Linda Franz. In attendance via Zoom conference call, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, Paul Manson and Chief Trott.

**Called to Order:** Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

Select Board non-contemporaneously signed the following documents, as permitted by NH Governor's Executive Order 2020-04:

Vendor and payroll checks. Select Board Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2020.

DRA form MS-232.

Letter to Cohos Advisors approving the 2017 & 2018 financial statements. Timber Tax Warrants for Thomson, Scheller and Bassingthwate.

Intent to Cut for Comeau.

Two Veterans Tax Credit applications.

Arnold Scheller thanked the residents of Wentworth who have been out cleaning up litter from roadsides throughout the Town. This has demonstrated good town spirit and is greatly appreciated. Mr. Scheller also noted that there are approximately 320 culverts in town. Many of them are at the end of driveways of town residents. It is the resident's responsibility to clear culverts of debris if they are located on their property. Again, it would be greatly appreciated if residents would perform this task to lessen the work load of the Highway Department.

Discussed progress of bridge projects. Nothing new to report. NHDOT is running behind schedule due to pandemic. J.King to ask HEB Engineering to contact NHDOT representative to keep Wentworth actively on agendas.

Addressed progress of completing deficient meeting minutes from 2019. O.Ahern to discuss with Francis Muzzey.

Regarding a letter of engagement from Cohos Advisors for services related to insurance claim. Consensus is that Cohos (then Crane & Bell) should not be charging a fee for writing the report required by the insurance provider as they were retained by the town during the time of the events. A.Scheller made a motion that Chairman Scheller call Cohos to negotiate agreement. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

Road Agent presented a request to expend \$16,000 for magnesium chloride. Select Board requests a certification from vendor that solution does not contain arsenic. Board also requests a review of vendor contract. Tabled until next Select Board meeting.

JKOCAJ

Road Agent presented three proposals for paving of Red Oak Hill Road and section of road by King Forest. Road Agent recommends R&D Paving as they have a reputation for doing quality work, and they are willing to work with King Forest's work schedule.

A.Scheller made a motion to choose one of the three proposals for paving projects. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to contract with R&D Paving as they will coordinate schedules with King Forest. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Road Agent presented three estimates for the purchase of culverts.

A.Scheller made a motion to purchase culverts from Core & Main. Seconded by

J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

Road Agent presented a schedule of spring and summer maintenance and construction. The schedule is an attachment to these minutes.

L.Franz discussed three proposals from accounting firms that will provide auditing services for a 3-year contract. She recommends Plodzik & Sanderson at a cost of \$14,000 per year (\$6,000 less than previous accounting fee). This is not the lowest proposal, but she feels that it is the best fit.

A.Scheller made a motion for L.Franz to negotiate a fee reduction with Plodzik & Sanderson and if successful recommends retaining their services. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

L.Franz addressed a complaint from a resident regarding the 2020 warrant article for videographer services. Per the petition for warrant, a videographer will be hired to video and record Select Board and Town meetings and live stream on YouTube. Videographer will then edit recorded meetings and upload to Pemi Baker TV who will then broadcast on their cable TV station. This procedure is in accordance with approved and passed warrant article. Andrew Lasser was hired to perform these videographer services by a carried motion of the March 24, 2020 Select Board meeting. A copy of the resident's complaint is attached to these minutes.

Discussed Wentworth Village Road closure during renovation construction of the Congregational Church.

A.Scheller made a motion to allow the Congregational Church's construction company to close road around the church, as proposed, during construction. Neighboring residents should be notified. Suggested Richard Borger, Sr. to notify. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

O.Ahern made a motion that the Town suspend purchases of non-essential, non-emergency products and services for 60 days due to the current pandemic situation. No vote taken, but acknowledged by those participating in meeting.

SKAT

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller Chairperson Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

**Board Member** 

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Jordan King

**Board Member** 

## Wentworth highway Department

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Spring & summer, maintenance and construction for 2020

## Yearly maintenance

- 1. Grade all gravel roads
- 2. Sweep all paved roads
- 3. Clean and wash all town Bridges
- 4. Inspect all culverts (325+ in the town)
- 5. Flush and clean necessary culvert
- 6. Mow / cut road sides back 6' +
- 7. Applying magnesium chloride to specified town roads

8. Hooper Hill emergancy lane

## Construction project summer 2020

- 1. Finish ditching roads (There is still probably 16 mile of road 32 lane miles) this will be a lot of work and time!
- Bridge work . saunders hill bridge needs to be re decked and new runner's , ellsworth hill bridge needs new runners , east side road bridge needs new runners and a new header on the north side of the bridge.
- 3. Culvert replacement, there is atleast 8 culvert that need to be replaced! 4 on red oak hill (need to be done before paving) 1 on currier hill road, 1 on turner road and 2 on cheever road, also one culvert

- needs to be lowered on eastside road just to the south of currier hill road entrance.
- 4. Paving, we will be paving all of red oak hill road and a 400' section on eastside road infront on king lumber. When paving is done, the town will be responsible for backing the pavement edges and creating a shoulder for proper drainage.
- 5. Gravel, Hauling and spreading gravel on roads that need it really bad, this will be accessed on a road by road basis

These are the major project's that the highway department is committed to getting accomplished this spring , summer and fall. There is no way that the highway department can do all this work with a 3 man crew and we will be contacting local contractors to sub out some of this work , the work I will be looking to sub out is some of the culvert replacement's and road shoulder work on red oak hill after the paving. The highway department has \$ 4000.00 in the budget for sub-contractors , line item ( 4312.09B )

Thank You

Paul Manson

Just finished watching the video of March 24, 2020.

First and foremost I OBJECT TO HIRING ANDREW LASSER AS RECORDER OF THE MEETINGS AND PAYING HIM AT A RATE OF \$30 PER HOUR for the following reasons:

- 1) He cut off the opening of **this** meeting for an unknown length of time for unknown reasons. No formal announced opening with time of opening appeared on the video and no pledge of allegiance, if such was cited, was on the video.
- 2) The video ran needlessly for over an hour with the message "be right back" playing while the Selectmen were in a Non-Public meeting for what is assumed to have been all of that time. As a correction to this needless recording, the chairman of the Board should clearly and loudly, if necessary, note the time entering the Non-Public meeting and the time upon the return to open regular meeting. And this gives reason for another objection:
- 3) The audio is terrible. Not only is the sound quality poor in the March 24 video, I have **NOT** viewed one recording in which the audio was acceptable.
- 4) Andrew volunteered at one time to volunteer his time to film the meetings if he was available. And apparently he is available! The Selectmen, at the time of the proposal of this service, and the Town's people at the Annual Meeting were led to believe that the \$30 per hour would pay for a more professional video and at the same hourly rate. without the cut-offs, and with a sound quality worth trying to listen to. I still do not know even after watching a portion of the video twice if I was chosen Cemetery Trustee or not. Voices were mumbled from the microphone (such as it is) being placed so far from the ones that are speaking.
- 5) I believe Andrew is taking advantage of the town at this cost having deceived many into believing that the recordings would be done by a more qualified camera operator with more professional equipment. His resulting integrity and that of the video is far from acceptable in my opinion.
- 6) There is no easily found link to the video or videos and the videos do not appear to be available to the public in a timely and convenient fashion. This absence of easy access was made known some time ago without a solution even noticeably attempted even at this late date. At least two previous attempts did not turn up the March 24 video for unknown reasons, possibly due to non-existence at the time or due to incorrect search criteria. A direct link to the video on the Town's web page would easily solve this problem and if the Town is going to pay for this service it should be through quality providers that know these things and expect quality from themselves. This service should not be a one man show with the poor quality and the potential for unreliability. 6) And furthermore the warrant article specifically states the money is: "to be used for
- participation in pbCAM for the purpose of making video recorded selectmen's meeting". Why would you even remotely consider spending the same money for lesser professional quality work? I believe your decision to pay Lasser any amount of money is in violation of the warrant article and the vote thereon.

Please read this at the next Board Meeting for public information.

Andrew Recording locally+live streaming, then next day will edit for non-publics, etc. and upload to pb CAM.

## Wentworth Select Board **Special Meeting Minutes** April 9, 2020

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, Chief Trott, Paul Manson, and John Comeau

The Administrative Assistant was excused from attending meeting due to inclement weather.

**Called to Order:** Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:15pm.

This informal meeting was held at the Highway Department building at 7 Bullseye Curve in Wentworth.

The purpose of the meeting was to view four pieces of old equipment and determine the value and disposition.

It was discussed and determined, that Road Agent will take pictures of equipment for Administrative Assistant to post on Town website for a silent bid. Minimum bid for each piece of equipment is set at \$40.00. Bids should be dropped off at the Town Office's outside mailbox addressed to the attention of the Administrative Assistant. Bids will be open at the May 5, 2020 Select Board meeting. The Select Board unanimously agreed by an informal verbal vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

A verbal account of meeting was made by Arnold Scheller, Chairman, to Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant, in order to create these minutes.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller

Chairperson

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

**Board Member** 

Jordan King **Board Member** 

## Wentworth Select Board Meeting Minutes April 21, 2020

**Those present**: Arnold Scheller, Paul Manson, Randy Rugar, Chief Ames, Andrew Lasser and Linda Franz. In attendance via Zoom conference call, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, John Meade and Chief Trott.

**Called to Order:** Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Select Board non-contemporaneously signed the following documents, as permitted by NH Governor's Executive Order 2020-04:

Vendor and payroll checks.

Select Board Meeting Minutes for April 7 and 9, 2020.

McGibben Environmental agreement.

TC/TC permission letter.

License for Rumtown Speedway. Subject to review by Chief Ames.

Timber Tax Warrants for Smith and Dinner.

Intent to Cut for Boucher and Dinner.

Veterans Tax Credit application.

Abatement request for Pine Haven Campground on hold until next meeting. A.Scheller to discuss with Avitar.

Reviewed Safety Data Sheet for magnesium chloride.

J.King made a motion to purchase the magnesium chloride and request that residents who do not want the application in front of their properties to notify the Administrative Assistant in writing prior to May 4, 2020. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Administrative Assistant will notify residents of this via Town Website, Face Book, and local postings and keep a list.

A.Scheller spoke with Paul Hatch, FEMA representative, regarding entering into a contract with HEB Engineers for Frescoln and Cross Road bridges. Upon contract review Federal and State funds may be able to be advanced.

A.Scheller made a motion to accept HEB's Scope of Services and proceed with contract negotiations and to notify FEMA and NHDOT representatives so they can review the Scope of Services. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to appoint Randy Rugar and Jim Folsom as the Town's representatives with the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

OCAJ

John Meade, Secretary of the Planning Board, presented a report on "What are the Duties of Wentworth Planning Board". General consensus was that it was interesting and informative.

O.Ahern made a motion to make the Planning Board's report an attachment to these minutes. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried. George Morrill commented that the only zoning in Wentworth is building in a flood plain and must adhere to FEMA regulations. This falls under the Select Board.

A.Scheller made an appeal for interested individuals to apply to Select Board to join the Conservation Commission. He would like to get this going again so the Townspeople can better enjoy its public lands by creating hiking and biking trails.

Randy Rugar reported that the Transfer Station sold aluminum cans to a local recycler, and that it has been very busy on weekends with lots of brush brought in. He had to fill in one day as an employee did not call or show up for work.

Chief Trott presented his report which is an attachment to these minutes.

George Morrill warned of an e-mail scam requesting gift cards. Chief Trott encourages residents use caution before making donations as there is an increase in fraud surrounding COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Ames reported calls for grass fires, a call to Glencliff, and a structural. Fire at King Forest. Wentworth response time for King Forest was very quick, and they were assisted by Warren and Rumney. Directly after this call, the WFD headed for the Easter Parade. A.Scheller thanked them on behalf of the Town. Also, the WFD is receiving many requests for fire permits. They can acquire them personally or by email.

Road Agent, Paul Manson, reported that highway department will be ditching Auguste, Zoe and Buffalo Roads. There will be a lot of material coming out, 300-400 yards of unclean fill. Questioned what to do with material.

A.Scheller made a motion to contact residents to see who would be willing to have fill dumped on their property and have Administrative Assistant keep a list. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Administrative Assistant will notify residents of this via Town Website, Face Book, and local postings and keep a list. O.Ahern will draw up a "Hold Harmless Agreement" for any potential liability.

Road Agent received three applications and one email of interest for the open highway department position. He also discussed paying employees a \$7,000 per year stipend in lieu of Town-sponsored health insurance. Stipend would be paid quarterly with eligibility after probationary period. Select Board was in agreement but no motion or vote made. O.Ahern, J.King and P.Manson agreed to interview applicants.

Administrative Assistant, Linda Franz, reported status of Cohos Advisors report to Primex regarding the pending claim. Report was received from Cohos on April 20,2020 and appeared to be quite simple as compared to their original request from Primex. Linda is hopeful that Primex will accept this report and settle the claim as soon as possible.

OCAT

O.Ahern reported that he is working on minutes and has completed one non-public.

A.Scheller reported that there was a washout on Nichols Hill Road that required an emergency temporary repair with gravel. He met with Road Agent and abutters to come up with a solution to reroute the road to avoid future washouts. This is on hold until 2021. He also reported that the bridge on Eastside Road is rotting away and will have to be addressed soon. Road Agent will be reaching out to FEMA for assistance.

John Meade would like to donate loam to Town for landscaping projects.

A.Scheller made a motion to have loam donated by John Meade for landscaping projects be moved by Town truck and stored at the Town Hall lot. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion the carried.

At 6:34 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 6:45pm.

A.Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller

Chairperson

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

Board Member,

Jordan King

**Board Member** 

#### What are the Duties of Wentworth Planning Board

The Wentworth Planning board is an elected 5 person Board. If the board does not have a full board elected it can appoint members for a period of 1 year until the next town election. Elected members serve 3 year terms. Wentworth Planning Board also has alternates to step in in the event a 4 person quorum cannot be met. Presently we have a full board and two alternates. We also have an Ex Officio Selectperson that votes with the board.

The present Board is as follows Chairperson- Marina Reilly-Collette 2022 Vice Chairperson- George Morrill 2022 Secretary- John Meade 2021 Member Palmer Koelb 2021 Member Hannah Paquette 2021 Alternate Member- Sonia Scheller Alternate Member - Craig Pasco Ex Officio - Selectperson Arnie Scheller

There is an adopted set of Wentworth Planning Board Regulations that has been recently updated that governs the board and its decisions. The Board is also tasked with keeping the Wentworth Master Plan up to date. The present Master Plan is outdated and has not been updated since the Mid 1980s. The Master Plan is so outdated that for all intents and purposes it cannot be used.

#### What does the planning board do?

Wentworth does not have any zoning. It does not have a Historical or Heritage district. It has no differentiation between Commercial and Residential Properties.

With that said building within Wentworth is limited to Selectboard Review of Engineered Septic Systems as well as Driveway Permits. The Police Chief assigns any 911 Addresses. Unless a property is subdivided anything can be built on the present lot as well as a lot of any size. Only septic and FEMA regulations can prevent building on any present lot in town

Where the Wentworth Planning board duties comes in to play is subdivision of land and any lot line adjustment. There are Minor Subdivisions (3 lots or less including lot line adjustments) or Major Subdivisions (4 lots or more)

#### What is a lot line adjustment?

Neighbors that abut each other want to change their respective lot size for any reason. One grows and the other reduces. A surveyors plan is brought before the WPB for preliminary review and comment. Once board comments are given to the Surveyor he pays an application fee and all abutters are notified by registered mail to attend the next scheduled WPB meeting. These meetings with a quorum are held the First Monday of every month at 6:30 PM in the Town Office Selectpersons Meeting Room. (Obviously the last meetings have been electronic and remote with Meeting credentials provided by the Secretary via e mail upon request) A lot line adjustment is brought before the board and is reviewed for conformity to the Wentworth Planning Board Regulations and are approved by majority vote. If disapproved or delayed the board will continue to review the documents until approval can be met. The legal change is then filed via plan with the Grafton County Registry of Deeds.

#### What is a Subdivision?

A subdivision is just as it sounds. A large enough parcel of land is subdivided for either Commercial and Residential use. The board with use of the WPB Regulations must determine

if the subdivision can provide adequate access via driveway and or new road. If this access will adequately allow emergency service vehicles reasonable entry. The WPB ensures setbacks and adequate space for septic systems and wells are met. Under 5 Acre per lot subdivisions require approval from NH Department of Environmental Services before WPB can approve the application.

This board is concerned with water table and wetlands that we have in Wentworth and ensure that all FEMA Regulations are met. This board is very open minded and at times will sway towards the rights of the landowner. That said upon approval the subdivision is filed with Grafton County Registry of Deeds.

This Board has tasked itself with updating the Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to be freshly updated every 5 years. Our present one is 35 Years old. The Master Plan is an intensive survey of the townspeople and landowners within town of what they want Wentworth to be and or remain. There has been much worry over this document being zoning. Quite honestly it is more of a guide for any boards within Wentworth for direction. How can Selectboard's rule if they do not understand the direction the majority of townspeople want the town to go.

There has been proposed Heritage Districts proposed for the Center of town and the village. This will be asked on the new Master Plan survey.

There has been questions concerning WPB approval of commercial properties to see if they conform the fabric of the Master Plan and how the Town looks today. That will be a question to see if the townspeople want to tackle this very sensitive question.

We are looking for any other questions to be added to the Master Plan Survey and you will see folks at the Dump, Town Office, Post Office and Shawnees as well as the WES asking for you to fill out the Master Plan Survey.

Finally to reiterate the sole authority of the Wentworth Planning Board is its Regulations.

There is no Zoning in Wentworth

# WPD Activity Report Presented 04/21/2020

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but, does not reflect all of WPD's activity during this time frame.

The WPD continues to take part in in the scheduled conference calls held several times a week, regarding updates, between Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the CDC, NH Health and Human Services and the office of the Governor. We remind Wentworth residents that if they have any questions to please call the Coronavirus Hotline at 211.

The WPD assisted the Plymouth Police Department with the service of a subpoena regarding a court case where a Wentworth resident was needed to appear. The service was completed and returned to the Plymouth Police Dept.

The WPD was called to a vehicle that was reportedly off the road on Atwell Hill Road and needed assistance. Upon arrival it was determined that the vehicle could be driven back onto Atwell Hill Road utilizing a little caution and gaining a little more momentum. This was accomplished with the assistance of the Wentworth Highway Department and we thank them for their help.

The WPD assisted with a vehicle that had gone off the road on North Dorchester Road. The owner was contacted, and the vehicle was removed later without incident and or damage.

The WPD covered a non-reportable accident that was called in by a Wentworth resident. There was some minor damage done to a linear pole with a reflective marker that was quickly taken care of by the Wentworth Highway Department.

The WPD took a theft report of some maple sugaring equipment on East Side Road. That matter is still under investigation. If there have been any other incidents like this, but not reported to WPD, please call and let us know.

The WPD handled a civil standby between 2 Wentworth residents to ensure that no domestic dispute issues would arise between them. The civil standby was conducted without incident. The WPD was asked that a trespass notice be served during this incident to ensure that no further issues come up. A trespass notice was signed by the property owner and served on the other involved party.

The WPD assisted the Plymouth Family Court with the service of some court paperwork that needed to be served on a Wentworth residence. The service was completed without incident and the resident was advised of a court date in May where he was required to attend.

The WPD assisted the New Hampshire Electric CO-OP with a report of theft of services. Chief Trott accompanied the NHECO-OP to a residence where it was confirmed that some persons had tampered with an electric meter and jumped the meter obtaining electricity illegally. This matter remains under investigation by the NHECO-OP and the Wentworth Police Department.

Chef N. Jall

### Wentworth Select Board Meeting Minutes April 30, 2020

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, and Paul Manson

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:09pm.

At 5:10 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) *The hiring of any person as a public employee.* Seconded by J.King. A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 5:43pm.

A.Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by O.Ahern. A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by O.Ahern. All voted yes and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Jordan King

**Bøard Member** 

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Franz

Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller Chairperson Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

Board Member