

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
November 8, 2021
Draft Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz, Clarence Gowell III (identified as Rick Gowell in these minutes); **Staff:** Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; Michael Sherman, Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Tamas Szepsy, Road Advisory Committee Member; Lindsay Nelsen, Chm., Conservation Comm., via Zoom.

2.0 Minutes of October 25, 2021 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes with 2 typo corrections was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2- 1 (Rick was absent from this meeting).

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. Kelly introduced Oleta Connors, the new hire for the Town Office.

B. Voting on November 2 had gone smoothly and 1220 votes were cast, 212 were early voters or absentee votes. There are just over 3,000 registered voters.

C. Kelly, Rayna, and two Dam Committee members, Mark Evans and the Monmouth rep. (via Zoom) met with the Monmouth Select Board regarding Woodbury Pond Dam. Kelly understood that Monmouth would support repairs to the dam and considered 20% a reasonable percentage. The possibility of a no-interest loan with a 5 year payback was discussed.

D. Kelly and Larry visited the Grant Cemetery field. They determined the Transfer Station tractor should be able to easily bush hog the field and the small trees growing around the edges. The tractor will be driven over.

E. The empty house at Purgatory has not been accessed.

F. A handout is included regarding a proposal from Ampion which wishes to partner with Litchfield to market their solar generated power to Litchfield residents. The benefits would be \$100 gift card to new Litchfield customers and \$100 each would be donated to a fund or charity identified by the Town. The Town Manager will contact MMA to see if there are any impediments to this proposal before a decision is made.

G. Jeff Phillips, Kelly advised he has prepared a summary of activities regarding Mr. Phillips two accounts and has emailed and snail mailed a copy to him. Mr Phillips has advised he will be out of state for an extended period.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – A. A proposal for a new road name has been received. Cartonio Lane, off the Plains Road. A motion to approve the road name, Cartonio Lane, was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 – 0.

B. A Permit Log for October was provided showing \$600 collected in fees and \$491,600 in owner-estimated value of construction and improvements.

C. Steve advised the new town maps are very close to completion.

D. The Planning Board approved adding new RV lots to The Birches Campground at their October meeting

E. A pre-approval meeting was held with the Planning Board regarding the new fuel depot. A Public Hearing is scheduled for Nov. 19, 2021.

F. It appears some proposed Land Use Ordinance provisions will be developed in the spring to

address solar arrays.

G. Plumbing Inspector Issue: the house on Ferrin Road with a non-functioning septic system is being pumped every week. The existing system is totally illegal.

H. 2793 Hallowell Rd – A second letter has been sent to the bank that had foreclosed on the property. There has been no response.

3.3 Road Commissioner – A. Getting ready for winter. Plows are being hung on trucks next week.

B. A new employee was hired this week. All 4 plowing routes will be covered.

C. Discussed the Soldier’s Monument fence. It will be a great winter project.

D. Larry will be meeting with MTA representatives and walking the Small Rd. next Wed. at 1:00 PM. This is to assess the condition of the Small Road before the Route 197 MTA overpass project closes the Richmond Road and traffic is detoured across the Small Road.

E. Larry was directed to adjust the water flow at 2787 Hallowell Rd. to effect better drainage from the west side of the road.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Mike Sherman, Chief, provided the report of responses for October: 8 Fire Calls including 3 Accidents, 1 Fire Alarm (this was a fire drill at the school that the FD was not notified of), 1 Un-permitted Burn, 2 Wires Down and 1 Mutual Aid Request. 18 EMS calls were responded to 5 times.

B. Chief Sherman advised a letter had been sent to 5 members of the Fire Department who are not Covid-19 vaccinated. He advised all responding to medical calls will be 100% compliant. Those firefighters not vaccinated will not be put on Leave of Absence. A copy of his letter was provided to the Board.

3.5 Emergency Management – No report

3.6 Assessing Agent – Zeb Pike was here last Thursday and will be back in December.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. Bryan reported to Kelly that he will try to get stump removal done before frost.

B. Kelly was directed to inform Bryan to contact Public Works to get leaves and brush pushed back if it builds up.

3.8 Broadband Committee – A. Kelly reported for the Committee that they met with Redzone regarding the contract counter-proposal. They are expecting a response soon. Other towns are looking at moving in this direction.

3.9 Other Town Committees – Conservation Commission- A. Discussion was held regarding the area in the Community Park to be posted for no hunting. With maps to reference, an area was identified that will be proposed to the Conservation Comm. at their next meeting. It was noted that some metal bridge material across the trail could be removed as a safety improvement. If ATV traffic becomes a problem, it will be addressed.

B. Lindsay advised the Conservation Corps did not come to Litchfield in 2021 as proposed.

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

4.1 Signage for problems with the traffic lights on Rt 197 to call MDOT.

4.2 Fencing on Woodbury Pond Dam

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Set Public Hearing Date for Auto Graveyard/Junkyard Permit – L. Bolton. This will be held at the next Select Board meeting on Nov. 22 at 7:00 PM.

6.1 Unscheduled Business

6.1 Signage for problems with the traffic lights on Rt 197 to call MDOT. Calls are currently coming to the Town Office and/or Chairman Parker. A motion was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell to request MTA to immediately erect signs on Rt 197 by the traffic lights to call MDOT (provide #) regarding traffic light problems. Vote 3 – 0.

6.2 Fencing on Woodbury Pond Dam – Chairman Parker advised the fence on the North side of the dam should be moved. A motion to obtain cost estimates to accomplish moving the North side fence outward 6 – 8 inches was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

7.0 Appointments/Resignations

7.1 Appoint Planning Board Alternate – Pamela Mancuso (attending via Zoom) – A motion to appoint Pamela Mancuso as Planning Board Alternate was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

8.0 Warrants

8.1 Town Warrant #9 for \$104,984.27. A motion to approve the Warrant# 9 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3-0.

8.2 Town Payroll #9 for \$23,738.11. A motion to approve Payroll # 9 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3-0.

8.3 RSU Warrant November \$306,328.42 A motion to approve RSU Warrant for November was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 2-1.

9.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

9.1 Flagging Discussion – Next year’s budget needs to include sufficient funding for flagging services when road work requires it for safety.

9.2 Street Lights – Kelly advised 8 street lights are being removed with no additional costs to cancel them.

10.0 Future Agenda Items

10.1 Feedback on Selectman’s Handbook

10.2 R02, Lot 015, 2793 Hallowell Rd

10.3 R02, Lot 017, 2783 Hallowell Rd.

10.4 Budget Committee Suggestions

10.5 Woodbury Pond Dam

10.6 Constable

13.0 Adjournment at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz