

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
September 27, 2021
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.; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Road Advisory Committee Members: Tamas Szepsy and Richard Lane; Larry Bell, Chm., Broadband Comm. and guests per the sign in sheet.

2.0 Minutes of Sept. 13, 2021 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes as drafted was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3- 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. Kelly advised an Order to Vacate 2787 Hallowell Rd has been received. Notice to the tenants and defendants will be made by personal service to them.

B. The Town has received \$195,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Stipulations prevent use of these funds on roads unless for upgrades to water or sewer is applicable (not in Litchfield). Everything but broadband must be COVID-19 related.

C. Kelly has received a request for a parking lot in front of the Grant Cemetery to be built at the requestor’s expense. Some additional information is needed to assess the request.

D. Discussion of hunting in the Community Park was held. A clear definition of the Park’s boundary was not readily available. Additional details are necessary.

E. Woodbury Pond Park – Income for the period June 15 to Labor Day - \$3,200. Not known is how many people used the park, the weather which affected hours, COVID restrictions or Brown Tail Moth issues, and the total of expenses for the Park were not provided. Signage still needs to be updated reflecting changes to admission costs, hours of operation and closure policies, as the Director had not done this. A group of people would like to form a “Friends of Woodbury Pond Park” to assist in it’s operation. There was no opposition. It was noted there were several postings on Facebook encouraging use of the park late in the summer season.

F. Re: R02, Lot 015, 2793 Hallowell Rd, Kelly advised the bank has foreclosed on this property and a letter will be sent to the bank requesting clean up of the property. The foreclosure has not been contested.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – A. Steve was excused by the Town Manager as he has an early class in Portland tomorrow.

3.3 Road Commissioner – A. Larry advised the chip sealing projects for this year have been completed.

B. The new fuel tanks have been received and painted.

C. He asked if the intent of the Select Board is to continue the bridges over Old Mill Stream and the Gustin Bridge as one lane bridges. That was confirmed. The engineer needs to know that.

D. Larry sought confirmation that grant money received for the Dead River Stream Crossings will be deposited into the Road account. Kelly will confirm that with the auditor, but it is the intention of the Select Board.

E. Numerous complaints have been received regarding the dust levels on the chip sealed

roads. This normally subsides within 2 weeks. Next year, additives to keep the dust down will be used and signage will be set up in advance of the work being done. Driving at reduced speeds helps keep the dust from rising so much and maintains better control for the driver.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Chief Mike Sherman provided a proposed Mutual Aid agreement with the Wales Fire Department for review and discussion. The Select Board recommended removing the sentence requiring **all** structure fires to prompt an Automatic Mutual Aid request as the Wales Fire Chief indicated the location of the fire could prompt closer departments to be called instead of Litchfield.

B. A First Responder class is scheduled to start Oct 18th with invitations made to surrounding communities for students.

C. August fire calls – 3, one fire, one accident and one car fire on the Turnpike.

D. August First Responder calls – 31 with 6 covered by Litchfield First Responders

3.5 Emergency Management – No report – quiet.

3.6 Assessing Agent – Here Sept 30 with several residents requesting appointments.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. Bryan advised last weekend business was steady with no incidents.

3.8 Broadband Committee – A. Larry Bell, Chairman, advised the results of the survey were posted on the website. A proposal has been received from Redzone for fixed wireless internet service. Four towers around Litchfield could provide coverage for all of the town. A workshop will be held on Thursday at 2:00 PM and the Redzone President will present an overview. This will be available via Zoom.

3.9 Other Town Committees – None

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

4.1 Woodbury Pond Dam Update

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Bid Opening/Acceptance – demolition at 2787 Hallowell Rd – 2 bids received:
C.H. Stevenson of Wayne - \$15,000 plus \$100/ton for disposal of non-hazardous debris
L. R. Nadeau, Inc. of Litchfield - \$9,400, proof of insurance was provided with the bid. A motion was made to award the bid to L. R. Nadeau, Inc by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0. Once the building has been demolished and removed, jersey barriers will be placed along the street to prevent vehicle access.

5.2 Disposition of foreclosed mobile home on 29 Loc Sloy Lane – Kelly advised this trailer should not have been foreclosed on. It has no value. The landowner has agreed to accept it and demolish and remove it so he can rent the lot to another tenant. A motion to approve deeding the trailer to Mr.Philip Parlin for the purpose of demolishing and removing it and authorize signing the document outside a regular meeting was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

5.3 Review/approve bid request for winter sand – After review, a motion to approve the bid as modified was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

5.4 Approve new mowing contractor – Kelly advised the contractor originally awarded the mowing contract had not fulfilled the terms of the contract. He suggested terminating that contract and awarding it to the next highest bidder, Catlin’s All Year Round Maintenance. Catlin’s have agreed to fill in the rest of the contract to 12/31/23. A motion to terminate Four Seasons Lawn Care and offer Catlin’s All Year Round Maintenance the rest of the contract was made by Rayna

Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

5.5 Approval of General Assistance Ordinance Appendices 10/2021 thru 10/2022 A motion to approve adoption of these Ordinance Appendices was made Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

6.0 Unscheduled Business

6.1 Woodbury Pond Dam Update – Larry Nadeau advised the immediate work requires the placement of large sandbags between Oct 15 and Nov. 30 (if the requested extension of time is granted). Positioning them requires putting heavy equipment over the dam and that would require placing steel plates over the dam. Larry looked into the cost of the steel plates and was told \$13,000 to \$14,000. After some discussion was held, additional sources of steel plates will be explored. There is currently about \$20,000 in the Dam account that is available without further funding.

7.0 Appointments/Resignations

7.1 Recreation Committee – Stephanie Vannah A motion to approve this appointment was made Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

7.2 Conservation Commission – Dian White, Denise Bechtel A motion to approve these appointments was made Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0. Denise was present at the meeting and was introduced to the Select Board.

7.3 Smithfield Plantation Trustee – Dian White A motion to approve this appointment was made Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

8.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Warrant #6 for \$52,733.36 A motion to approve the Warrant# 6 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3-0.

9.2 Town Payroll #4 for \$26,894.70 (8/24/21) A motion to approve the Payroll # 4 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3-0.

Town Payroll #6 for \$34,678.66 A motion to approve the Payroll # 6 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3-0.

10.0 Future Agenda Items

- 10.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook
- 10.2 R02, Lot 015, 2793 Hallowell Rd
- 10.3 R02, Lot 016, 2787 Hallowell Rd.
- 10.4 R02, Lot 017, 2783 Hallowell Rd.
- 10.5 Woodbury Pond Dam Update
- 10.6 Definition of Community Park Boundary
- 10.7 Street Lights Update
- 10.8 Grant Cemetery parking lot proposal

13.0 Adjournment at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz