

Select Board Meeting
Monday March 4th, 2019
Town Offices, Nowak Room
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Anne Surman, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting. Don Clement was not present. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gilman at 6:50 PM, and the board went downstairs for interviews. The meeting reconvened at 7:09 PM.

2. Water/Sewer Abatement Requests

- a. There were no water/sewer abatement requests at this meeting.

3. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. There were no proclamations/recognitions at this meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: February 25th, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to accept the minutes of February 25th as submitted. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

- b. Regular Meeting: January 28th, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to accept the minutes of January 28th as submitted. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

6. Appointments

- a. There were no appointments made at this meeting.

7. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Quarterly Financial Report Period ending 12/31/18

- i. This item was postponed until the March 18th meeting.

- b. E911 Road Naming Recommendations Continued Public Hearing

Ms. Gilman brought up the name change for Park Street. The proposal was to rename this section of Park Street "Clay Street," but there were objections from the residents..

Joseph Fetters of 60 Park Street argued that if first responders could find a new "Clay Street," they could just as easily find the odd numbers on Park Street.

Sally Ward of 54 Park Street said that the proposal is to make a name change for a short segment of the same physical road, which seems confusing. Park Street splits because of the Common, so she feels that the identity of Park Street is clear, it's the streets to either side of the Common. If they change the name, it won't be easy to determine where the new street begins and ends. She suggested that renumbering Park Street would help more than renaming a portion of the street.

Cliff Senate of 70 Park Street said that this recommendation was intended to make things less confusing, but he feels that it will make things more confusing.

Dave Sharples, the Town Planner, explained that the state is not just coming up with a general standard. The state creates a Map Book for each town, identifying every street, building, and address, and make these recommendations on a case by case basis. He had submitted the residents' concerns to the state, and they stand by their recommendations.

Mike Munck, the Police Captain, and Justin Pizan, the Assistant Fire Chief, were present to discuss the recommendations. Captain Munck said that this isn't about a state recommendation, it's about minimizing risk. Residents know the area well, but first responders may not. Renaming that short section of Park Street clearly delineates the addresses of those houses.

Assistant Fire Chief Pizan said that they're trying to be proactive. First responders are out in the middle of the night, in a stressful situation, and potentially from out of town, so they need the addresses to be clear. He read a letter from a resident of Jady Hill Circle regarding an incident where the ambulance took 10 extra minutes to arrive due to the confusing street names. He added that he doesn't believe it's a safe option to keep the name for that section of Park Street and simply renumber it; changing it eliminates one piece of risk.

Mr. Dean said that in the past, first responders may have primarily been from Exeter and familiar with the town, but this is no longer the case.

Ms. Corson said that although the change is painful, she agreed with Police and Fire. One to two minutes' difference in a first response could mean the end of a life, and this change could prevent that.

Ms. Surman said that as part of the E911 committee, she had listened closely to the residents' comments, but in the end, the Board has to defer to what the public safety officials say. She thought that Park Street was possibly one case where they could have simply renumbered the street, but if Police and Fire believe a name change will make it safer she defers to their opinion.

Ms. Cowan said she understands that this feels arbitrary, but she's talked to first responders and seconds matter. She doesn't like it, but she needs to err on the side of public safety.

Malcolm Westlake, 54 Park Street, argued that it would be less safe for most of Park Street for an emergency vehicle to pass Clay Street looking for Park Street. He understands that they have to change the numbers, but doesn't agree with changing the name.

Sally Ward said that they will have a different street name than the house next door, which will make her house less safe. Mr. Sharples said they discussed delineating Clay and Park with a stop sign. The board debated whether this house in particular should be on Clay or Park. Mr. Sharples said it's a close call but leaving it on Park Street was the least impactful.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to change the name of Park Street, the portion from the Epping Road and Winter Street intersection to the intersection with itself, to Clay Street, and renumber dwellings in accordance with Chapter 14 of Town Ordinance. Ms. Surman seconded. Ms. Cowan and Ms. Corson voted yay. Ms. Surman and Ms. Gilman voted nay and the motion failed 2-2-0.

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to keep Park Street as Park Street and renumber appropriately in accordance with Chapter 14 of Town Ordinance. Ms. Gilman seconded. Ms. Corson said this

will be setting a precedent, and for them to make that decision, they've opened themselves up to other street name changes to be contested. Having your street renamed is a serious inconvenience, but if a first responder can't get there on time, it will be the Board's fault. Ms. Surman said it's not setting a precedent. The E911 Committee makes recommendations to the Board and the Board looks, analyzes, and votes. She felt that changing the name in this instance could actually make it more unsafe. She is extremely supportive of public safety, but the situation on this street is unique. Mr. Sharples said he recommended against a motion to simply renumber, because the E911 Committee had not yet made a recommendation on that issue. Ms. Gilman withdrew her second for the motion.

Ms. Gilman moved on to recommendation 1, to change Park Court to Jacks Court. Doug Flockhart of 62 Park Court asked them not to change the name of their street, but if they must to change it to Jacks Court.

Lynnette Chase 66 Park Court asked if they could have a larger, lower street sign when they change the name.

Ms. Corson said in this case, changing the name is something that they have to do. Ms. Gilman agreed, saying that the name is almost exactly the same.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved that they change the name of Park Court to Jacks Court and renumber appropriately in accordance with Chapter 14 of Town Ordinance. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Gilman moved on to the recommendation to change Windsor Lane to Acadia Lane. Ms. Cowan said last time, a resident raised the question of cultural insensitivity, and she wanted to make sure this was not inappropriate. Sharon Summers, a partner at Donahue Tucker & Ciandella in the condominium complex, said that they've had difficulties since they moved in; the GPS systems do not work correctly and newer clients end up in Brentwood. She added that they looked into the question of the name Acadia, and they didn't find a cultural issue with the name. Mr. Sharples said that he also heard that the residents are in agreement on Acadia.

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to change the name of Windsor Lane to Acadia Lane and renumber appropriately in accordance with Chapter 14 of Town Ordinance if necessary. Ms. Corson seconded. All were in favor.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements and Exemptions

- i. There were no abatements at this meeting.

b. Permits & Approvals

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the application for Melissa Roy at Parks and Rec for a Senior Community Forum on April 1 2019, 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Town Hall. Ms. Cowan seconded. Ms. Gilman mentioned that the definition of "senior" is up in the air, as well as the name of the group. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the application for a road race event by Connor's Climb Foundation on May 4th, 2019. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the Granite State Quest for a 50 mile bike ride going through parts of Exeter on July 20th, 2019. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean said that there was a delayed opening at Town Offices that morning. They are in the midst of employee reviews for department manager positions. The Fire Department has been supportive of Berwick Maine so that York County firefighters can stand down to honor the on-duty death of Captain Joel Barnes. The retirement lunch for Chief Shupe is Friday March 8th. The annual Parks and Rec seasonal hiring process is underway. March 14th they are hosting a student group interested in town management, and four or five department heads have signed up to assist. Preliminary testing for 2018 audit will be March 20 - 22nd.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Cowan had no report.
- ii. Ms. Corson said the Communications Committee had finished the warrant article synopses and the last one should be in the paper soon. The library trustees had a great reception at RiverWoods and The Mill for their presentation on Article 6.
- iii. Ms. Gilman had no town report, but as part of the Municipal and County Government Committee at the state level, she heard several bills that affect the town, including allowing a municipality to charge up to a \$2 fee on rooms in addition to the Rooms and Meals tax. In the main chamber they talked about marijuana and put it to the Senate to discuss. This week her committee will be hearing a couple of bills on banning single-use plastics.

e. Correspondence

- i. The Legislative Bulletin from NHMA. Mr. Dean said on page three of the bulletin it talks about SB158, which would create a definition that would restrict NHMA from giving its policy positions within the legislature. The NHMA is a collection of all local officials in the state, so the things that they advocate for are reflective of the position of mayors, Select Boards, etc. On page 5, there is a discussion about downshifted funds; if these programs were restored, it would greatly benefit the town. Ms. Gilman added that the House version of this bill did not pass, and it's only before the Senate now.
- ii. A notice about the upcoming events for members of NHMA.
- iii. A note from the Environmental Protection Agency with reactions to the long-term control plan the town submitted.
- iv. A sample ballot for the upcoming election. Ms. Gilman said there was a mistake on one of the questions on the absentee ballots, but Mr. Dean

said it was being addressed. He added that DRA can disallow an article if there is a material defect, so they would consult with them if there were an issue.

9. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meeting is March 18th.

10. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A3:c reputational harm and RSA 91-A3:a compensation. Ms. Corson seconded. By a roll-call vote, all were in favor.

The Board emerged from non public session. Selectwoman Cowan motioned to seal the minutes. Selectwoman Corson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Adjournment

Selectwoman Surman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Selectwoman Corson. Motion carries. The Board stood adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary