

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2008

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, Douglas Garland, Jon Tanguay

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 08:30 AM.

Mark Porter of Porter Office Machine discussed with the Selectmen replacing the twelve year old broken copier with a new copy machine for the office. Porter stated that since the last copier was purchased that we have gained three generations of technology. Porter also stated that we would receive the State bid price of \$4800.00 and the cost per copy would go down slightly. The Selectmen agreed to pay \$2500.00 coming from Special Article #6 of the 2007 warrant and pay the remainder within two years. Porter will deliver the copier today.

Terry Miller, Saco District Ranger and Holly Jewkes, Recreation Assistant of the US Forest Service met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- 1.) They stated that due to a national effort they will be receiving money to go towards fixing up some of the 171 recreation sites to bring them up to the proper standards. Unfortunately, Sawyer Rock site is one of the sites that had damage from a fallen tree this year and it is not one of the sites being looked at to do repairs at. Selectman Tanguay inquired if this meant doing away with the Sawyer Rock site. Miller replied that it would be closed. Two of the three Selectmen would like to see Sawyer Rock remain open. Selectman Garland stated that the CC camp built this site and there is a lot of history there and there are more rustic sites like this that he feels should be maintained. Selectman Tanguay replied that the process makes sense but there is a lot of sentiment attached to this site. Chairman Chandler inquired as to when the list of sites they are closing would be available. Miller replied that it should be coming out within a couple of weeks. Selectman Tanguay inquired as to who decided which sites to close. Jewkes stated that everyone from the district got together and rated the site, the use, historical site, what trying to provide, the cost to operate and how important they were to each community. Chairman Chandler replied that there is nothing that is more historical than Sawyer Rock and that they seem to be ignoring places where families stop for leisure and concentrating on places like Sawyer Pond, which are just that, a pond. Chairman Chandler spoke against the fact that they are removing the shelters like at Wild River, Dry River etc. and that their goal seems to be to take out all shelters as more than half have already

gone. Miller stated that two of the shelters went down this winter and they aren't sure just how cost effective is to keep how many shelters. Selectman Garland inquired about Landon's Shelter. Miller stated that it is destined to be removed. Selectman Garland stated that this is an insult as to what they have taken out. Miller replied that wilderness is the intent. Selectman Garland replied that if you cut people off from the wilderness what is the sense to have the trail so they might as well close the trail if they can't use it.

2.) Miller briefly touched base on the area of the Merriman State Forest/Bartlett Town Forest/White Mtn. National Forest as they may acquire land (1EBRAN-64-R00) in that area which they hope to consolidate and have as forest land.

3.) Miller informed the Selectmen that there will be a timber sales hearing on April 22nd to hear any arguments.

4.) Miller also mentioned that they are revisiting the issues of the trails in the vicinity of the ball park in Bartlett Village and are looking more critically at this problem. Selectman Garland stated that this is not a public right of way.

Chairman Chandler reminded Miller and Jewkes that this would be a good time of the year to clear the overlooks on the Bear Notch Road. Miller replied that they are on the list for burning/clearing.

Hazel Ives and Mark Hansen met with the Selectmen to discuss the possibility of building a 65' high high wire adventure course at the property where Border Patrol (1RT016-263-L000) is located. They would keep the existing building and build the course off to the side. Selectman Garland stated that the height may be an issue as if it is considered a structure it can only be 38' at the peak of the structure but if not a structure it might be restricted to 60'. Lynn Jones, AA, read the size limitation from the Bartlett Zoning Ordinance. Ives stated that 60' is not a problem as they can vary the size and shape. Chairman Chandler replied that the use is the issue. Ives replied that they don't want to continue to negotiate for the land if this isn't an allowed use in Bartlett. Ives stated that they are opening the Monkey Trunks high wire course on May 26th in Chocorua. Selectman Garland mentioned that we do have a fairly lengthy zoning ordinance for commercial lots. Chairman Chandler stated that the Selectmen will review this request further to see if this is a permitted use and get back to them.

John and Mary Ellen Gallo (2RT016-181-SK3) spoke to the Selectmen that they had appealed their property tax abatement request to the State level and the State asked them to come back to the Selectmen. J. Gallo stated that he compared his home to abutter's homes as well as similar homes. He reviewed nine properties and six out of the nine have views and he doesn't. He also stated that, with the exception of one, that his livable area is the smallest and the rest have two full baths and one half bath and he has one bath and one half path. Six homes went up under 1% in 2005-2006, two went up ½ % and his went up 5.1% and that is why they feel they should be granted an abatement. Selectman Tanguay inquired as to how many acres of land they own. J. Gallo stated that he owns 5.2 acres, but he can have only one home on the lot. M.Gallo stated that the abutter has 17.7 acres. Selectman Tanguay stated that the abutter may have ten acres of that land in current use status. Lynn Jones, AA, requested that J.Gallo provide the list to the Selectmen that they are using for comparison figures. Selectman Garland stated that we will have to get in contact with the assessor, Ellis Withington of Patriot Properties, and set up an appointment to discuss the abatement request. Gallo stated that they would like to know ahead of time as they do have things planned and last time Ellis Withington came up they had another appointment and weren't available to meet with him. The Gallo's stated that they will be away from April 26th until May 13th. J.Gallo inquired if the Selectmen could make a decision with the information at hand. Chairman Chandler stated that we could. Selectman Garland reminded them that we hire an assessor and he is the one who sets the values. Chairman Chandler stated that we would have Ellis Withington come up again. Lynn Jones, AA, stated that she suspects that it would be the end of May beginning of June before Ellis Withington was able to come up. Chairman Chandler stated that Ellis Withington will need to look at the documents that the Gallo's are using so if they get to us what they are looking at that we would get the information to Ellis Withington so that he may review it. . Selectman Garland stated that we do hear their concerns and do want to be fair to all tax payers. J. Gallo replied that the last letter they had received from Ellis Withington never explained the discrepancies and an explanation is what they are looking for. J. Gallo inquired if anyone had ever been to his house. Lynn Jones, AA, stated that she and Mike from Patriot Properties had measured and looked at the house after the house was built and when they can't gain access to the building they have to rely on the information that the homeowner provides to them. Selectman Garland did

mention that there are a lot of factors that determine the value of the home such as dormers, hardwood floors, heating system, type of counters, etc. The Selectmen will forward information to Ellis Withington and see if when he comes up he can meet with the Gallo’s.

Selectman Tanguay made a motion at 10:20 AM to enter nonpublic session to discuss a request for aid according to RSA 91-A: 3 (c). Selectman Garland seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Chandler made a motion at 10:30 AM to end the nonpublic session. Selectman Garland seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Selectmen discussed the following issues:

- 1.) Paying for commercial driver’s license renewals for the highway department and they all agreed that we would pay for them.
- 2.) A letter to Dick Goff of the Glen Ellis Campground about the barn he is building as it appears its use has expanded since the original permit was requested.
- 3.) Selectman Garland made a telephone call to Kristen Pulkinen of the NH Wetlands board to try to do a follow up of letters written to them from the Conservation Commission Committee members as well as the Board of Selectmen about the wetland concerns on the O’Neill (1INTPK-WAS-XX1) property. Pulkinen answered some questions but asked to defer to her supervisor, Bill Thomas. Thomas was not available and will call Garland later.

Selectmen reviewed correspondence, building permits, signed letters and checks prior to and throughout the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.