

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
06/17/13

Selectmen: Ed Haskell, Dan Kimble, Cheryl Lewis
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow

Chairman Ed Haskell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes – The Board approved the minutes of 06-03-13 as amended.

Public Hearing - NH RSA 79-D – Discretionary Preservation Easement Application submitted by Richard and Mary Barnes, Lookout Farm, Quincy Road.

Chairman Haskell opened the public hearing at 7:15 to hear public comment on the application as noted above.

Richard Barnes purchased the farm with the large barn in 1979; the adjacent land and two other barns were purchased by him in 1984. He gave a brief history of each of the three barns listed on his application. He had pictures on display of the barns before and during the renovations (which are ongoing) as well as current pictures of them. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes stated that in their opinion, the barns qualify for the easement because “this is a tourist area on a main road to the Rumney village. By keeping the barns in good repair adds to the scenic enjoyment of the historic agricultural structures”. They stated any money saved from the barns being in this easement will go back into their upkeep and ongoing renovations. The farm is also a Certified Tree Farm.

Chairman Haskell asked for public input. Several residents offered the following comments:

1. It is a beautiful property and well maintained
2. This is a good program but concerned about the possible influx of other properties and the effect it may have on the tax base
3. Agrees it qualifies for the “scenic” criteria, but feels the actual “historic” part is more challenging to define.
4. Selectperson Cheryl Lewis read a letter submitted by Mark Andrew that he asked to have read: *“I am unable to attend tonight's public hearing regarding the Barn classification and special tax relief for it, but would like to share my views. I would appreciate it if you would read this at the public hearing and reference this email and contents in your minutes. To begin, I do not know all of the details around this special provision, but am aware of some of the basics. While it certainly is important to preserve our heritage which includes old farm buildings, they really are no different from other historic buildings in town. Do we give special allowances for the old crutch mill on Water St.? How about the General Store on Main St.? These buildings are probably a more visible reminder of Rumney's past than the barn in question. While this is something that would be nice to do, when a special allowance is made, we the taxpayers have to come up with the "missing" tax money. I oppose this for the same reason I opposed the increased Veterans exemption, even though I am a veteran and qualify for that. It does put an additional burden on the remaining taxpayers.*

If you choose to allow this exemption, I respectfully request you consider 2 things:

- 1. Do not allow more than a 50% exemption for the property.*
- 2. Draft a PILOT that would insure that the property owner pays for the initial Assessor inspection as to whether or not this property qualifies for the program, as well as the annual or biennial inspections required to insure compliance. We the taxpayers should not have to pick this up.*

Thank you for your time and consideration. Mark H. Andrew

The Board said Assessor Phil Bodwell had inspected the buildings and agreed that all three appear to qualify as historic agricultural structures and they meet the criteria of "scenic enjoyment" and may meet the "historically important on a local, regional, state or national level...".

Selectperson Lewis stated that the Board needs to take the pros and cons into consideration with their decision. They will discuss it further and issue a decision in the near future.

The public hearing concluded at 7:45 p.m.

Appointments

Brendan Barlow met with the Board and Ken Knowlton as a follow-up to their meeting on December 3, 2012 and to discuss his property relative to "junkyard" status. Although the Board received complaints about Mr. Barlow's yard in 2012, Ken Knowlton, code enforcement officer, has been unable to determine if it constitutes a violation of NH RSA 236:111-129 because he has not been allowed to go on the property. Mr. Barlow explained that due to his logging operation, he has been unable to do much work on weeding out vehicles, etc. Chairman Haskell asked if Mr. Knowlton could access the property with Mr. Barlow. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Barlow will continue to call in to the office on a monthly basis to report on his progress. He may ask Chairman Haskell to inspect the property with him in the future. Mr. Knowlton explained that he cannot determine the junkyard status without an inspection. An Administrative Warrant could be issued if the Board wanted to get on the property without his permission, but Mr. Knowlton wants to continue to work for the Town and with their clients. He said access onto the property is between Mr. Barlow and the Town and will do whatever and whenever the Board asks for his assistance in the future.

Doug Nadeau and Tonia Harris met with the Board and Mr. Knowlton to discuss their junkyard status and a payment plan for legal fees incurred during enforcement of this case. Mr. Knowlton reminded them that they are allowed four inoperable snow machines which must be in a fenced in area. Mr. Nadeau gave a summary of what he has:

1. may have up to five snow machines now but he is working on getting rid of them.
2. he does have a few vehicles that are over 25 years old;
3. Toyota plow truck will be sold as well as the boat and motor home; he may keep the pop-up camper
4. tires are all gone
5. currently has three race cars – 1 works, working on another, son owns the third

It was agreed that Mr. Knowlton will inspect the property on July 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Knowlton said there are two licensed junkyards in town; Mr. Nadeau may want to contact them for assistance in getting rid of some of his vehicles.

Payment Plan – It was agreed that they will begin making monthly payments – first one due on July 26th; an agreement will be drawn up outlining the terms and sent to the Nadeau's for their signatures.

Edwards – Junkyard status – after speaking with Mr. Edwards tonight, Mr. Knowlton reported that he is now in compliance.

Privilege of the Floor – John Bagley spoke on behalf of the Fountain Committee and stated that it will not be necessary for the Highway crew to deal with the fountain cover in the future. The Committee has decided to use a type of wrap for the fountain and will no longer need the heavy wooden cover. However, the eight benches in the common are owned by the Town and will need to be picked up and stored by the Town (Highway crew). Cheryl asked if the funds will be coming from the Fountain Fund; Mr. Bagley said they would be. He also said the fountain is not on at the present time due to the pollen.

Selectmen's Issues

1. Abatements – On the recommendation from the Town's utility expert, George Sansoucy, the Board denied abatements for Fairpoint and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.
2. Request to Waive Inventory Penalty – The Board received a request to waive an inventory penalty. After some discussion they agreed they would not waive the penalty. Their decision is consistent with past requests for the same thing.

Administrative

1. Property #11-06-02 taken by tax collector's deed. The Board received information from town counsel regarding the penalty outlined in RSA 80:89. Cheryl Lewis recused herself from any discussion on this matter. Dan made a motion to assess the penalty to the property as outlined in RSA 80:89; Ed seconded the motion. They voted in favor of the motion. Anne will notify the owners of the Board's decision.
2. Groton Hollow Road update – the road repairs should be done by the end of July.
3. Latulippe's Pit – Inspection was conducted by Rob Arey; no water tests were taken.
4. Veterans' Credit – granted and signed by the Board.
5. Nelson Scholarship/Trustees of Trust Funds – Due to the low amount of the Nelson Scholarship fund and with no further contributions expected, the Trustees voted to close the fund. Because the trust fund was created by the Town, and not by a will or by the Probate Court, it can be closed officially by a vote of the Selectmen. The Board agreed to close the fund. Cheryl Lewis made a motion to close the Nelson Scholarship Trust Fund, the motion was seconded by Dan Kimble. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.
6. After reading the Trustees' minutes of June 6, 2013, Cheryl Lewis raised a concern regarding e-mail communication among the trustees and Charter Trust. Anne will check with the Trustees for further clarification.
7. There will be a public hearing on the Cemetery Rules and Regulations on Monday, July 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the town office. The Board has copies of the draft for their review.

8. Comstar – There are two outstanding bills with Comstar for transports done by the Rumney EMS. The Board had discussed moving forward with collection of these two through the Small Claims Court process but due to decisions made by a previous Selectboard, this Board will not go forward with collection on these accounts. However, they will discuss changing this process at a later date.
9. At the Selectmen's June 3rd meeting, Ron Vance met with them and had requested assistance for the Lake Host program for Stinson Lake (monitoring boats for invasive plants before going in to the lake). The Board recommended contacting the Conservation Commission for the funding. They were contacted and they agreed to cover the \$750 cost for the Lake Host Program this year.

Signed: Checks; Veterans' Credit – Randall; 2013-14 Timber Tax Warrant; 2012-13 Gravel Tax Warrant; Abatements – Fairpoint, NHEC

Upcoming: 06/19 Safety Committee
06/20 Old Home Day meeting
06/24 No Selectmen's Meeting
06/25 Planning Board meeting
07/01 Selectmen's Meeting, Residents' Forum
07/05 Office closed for 4th of July holiday
07/08 No Selectmen's meeting; Public Hearing for Cemetery Rules & Regulations 7:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant