



TOWN OF LYNDON
SELECTBOARD MEETING

April 26, 2021

5:30 PM

Selectboard: Christian Thompson-Chair, Dan Daley, Nancy Blankenship

Officials: Dawn Dwyer

Press: Todd Wellington

Public: Steve Gray, Pauline Harris, Ken Mason, Marty Feltus, Dave Stahler, Roni Leach, Brooke Dingleline, Mark Bean, Joe Buzzzi, Holly Taylor, Todd Thomas

1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

None

2. Sign the Orders for weeks 15-16:

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to approve the orders drawn on the Treasurer for weeks # 15 & # 16 with the Treasurer to sign due to COVID-19. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Excess Weight Permits:

Motion made by Nancy Blankenship, seconded by Dan Daley, to approve the three (3) Fleet Excess Weight Permits with approval for Justin Smith to sign on behalf of the Board. Motion carried 3 to 0. Permits are for Casella Construction, Kelley-View Farm, Redline Unlimited, Inc.

4. Zoning Bylaws Flood Hazard Regulations:

Christian Thompson, Chair, recapped that at the last Public Hearing held on April 14th, to get public comments on changes that were purposed to the bylaws, primarily Article 11, which are the flood hazard regulations. This agenda is for Selectboard discussion on what was heard at the Public Hearings.

Nancy Blankenship stated that the Board heard a lot of information and she keeps coming back to the facts. The questions are whether the Development Review Board (DRB) has a mechanism in place to handle any changes to the bylaws, to handle the application process, to vet expert opinion by engineers, and a redress process for neighbors and community members to weigh in by showing up at the DRB meetings. Nancy feels the work group addressed the issues the community has, and her opinion is to accept the bylaws as proposed at the April 14, 2021 Public Hearing.

Dan Daley concurred with Nancy's comments. Dan's concern was what tools do the DRB have? Dan reviewed the maps, flood fringe and cross sections and feels the tools are there for the DRB. Dan is comfortable with the changes proposed two weeks ago and it is time to move forward.

Christian Thomson also concurred with Nancy and Dan. He spent a lot of time the last 2 weeks going back to last year's Hearings, reviewing the work groups presentation, public comments from the Planning Commission meetings, and Public comments from the Selectboard Hearing. Christian still believes it is an imperfect bylaw, but it is the right one for right now. Christian also feels compromises were made all around. He looked at big picture. Lyndon was founded in 1780. The community has had 250 years to fill in the flood way and flood fringe and it has not happened. Five years ago, the 2016 bylaws were not very restrictive at all, and not much filling occurred. There was a small flurry of filling in response to the overly restrictive regulations that went into effect 5 years ago. With only eight properties left to develop, along with possible redevelopment of existing properties, Christian does not feel that it is realistic to think that the development to come will have significant impact on flooding. Christian also echoes Dan & Nancy that it is a compromise for regulated development and offers protection to existing property owners.

Motion made by Nancy Blankenship, seconded by Dan Daley, to approve the Flood Zoning bylaws as presented at the April 14, 2021 Hearing. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Appointment Zoning Administrator and Planning Director:

The Planning Commission interviewed two applicants and chose to recommend Nicole Gratton to the Selectboard. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to appoint Nicole Gratton as the Zoning Administrator for a one-year term and as the Planning Director for a three-year term with a start date of May 3, 2021. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Better Connections Committee:

Lyndon was awarded a Better Connections Grant in the amount of \$105,000. The Town will not have to provide a match as it was covered. The grant will be used to develop a plan for improved bike and pedestrian access along Route 5, redevelopment of unused properties in the Route 5 corridor, guidance as to how to better market the Town to attract business and tourists and will begin to address the need for storm water improvements at the intersection of Routes 5, 122 and 114. As a condition of the Grant, a steering committee is needed to administer and implement the grant. One representative from the Selectboard is needed. Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to appoint Nancy Blankenship to the steering committee for the Better Connections Committee. Motion carried 3-0. Justin Smith, Municipal Administrator, has information that will be sent to Nancy. Annie McLean is the contact at NVDA. This committee will be made up of ten-members.

7. Other:

Nancy Blankenship talked about Green Up Day which will be held on Saturday, May 1st. Bags can be picked up now under the front portico of the Municipal Office Building and will be available at the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) located on Church Street. Lyndon residents can bring filled bags to the NEKWMD on Saturday between the hours of 8 AM and 3 PM. There will be a trailer to receive trash in Green Up Day bags only. Northern Vermont University students are going to be cleaning up around the University and College Road. Mike Lowe from Lyndon Institute is getting student volunteers together.

Steve Gray reported that the NEKWMD will begin making appointments this week for Household Hazardous Waste disposal. The disposal will run from May 5th through October 5th. The NEKWMD had a meeting two weeks ago. Discussed were the appointment of the executive committee, the five compost grant applicants that replied to the RFP to establish a composting infrastructure on private property, and the recycling market.

Joe Buzzi thanked the Selectboard and Working Group for all the time and effort put into the bylaws. Mr. Buzzi said it is good to have it done and to move forward.

Mr. Buzzi also offered his dump trailer to be used for Green Up Day. Christian Thompson would speak with Lewis Elliott and offer Mr. Buzzi's trailer as back-up.

Mark Bean applauded the Selectboard for their hard work and time on the Flood Regulations. It is much appreciated.

Dan Daley reported a group of volunteers are working on getting the Fenton Chester Ice Arena opened in the fall as a non-profit organization. Andrew McGregor is looking into grants, costs, and structure issues.