

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
February 19, 2008

Meeting Open: 7:30

Present: Christina Conklin, Jack Lochhead, Joe Strzegowski, Tom Spiro - AA

Appointments

7:30 New Parks and Recreation Committee members - Michael Browsky, Donna Thatcher, Tom Shaw, Deb McGranaghan

Everyone introduced each other. Details regarding the committee's functions were discussed and some questions were posed and answered. It was noted that the committee should initially work with the Land Use, Trails, Open Space and Master Plan Committees. Christina said they should talk to Gail Connelly and Julie Sweet to get perspective on past events with an eye towards future tasks. Joe noted that there was some money to be shared annually with the Swimming Pool Committee who function separately from the town. Tom Shaw mentioned that it might be beneficial for the town to assume some oversight with the administration of the youth leagues. Everyone was told that they will receive a invitation to be sworn in, set up meeting times and determine the chairperson among others tasks.

8:00 Diane O'Connell - Private Roads

Diane wanted to speak about private road maintenance with regard to emergency vehicle access. She was concerned that multiple use roads were long and access was very difficult if not impossible in some locations around town. She was also worried about liability. Joe noted that common driveways were covered by covenant agreements but does not address roads that were grandfathered in before the Bylaws were enacted. Diane noted that she feels that there may be liability issues with injured people and ambulance workers as well. On rare occasions, town trucks are requested to assist in creating access for emergency vehicles. Diane noted that in those situations, owners should then be billed for the extra costs involved. She also noted that there have been law suits regarding people who felt under-served because emergency equipment and personnel could not reach them in a timely manner or at all. Some towns have looked into asking residents to sign waivers that alleviate the town's liability, and the Selectboard considered this as an option. It would give home owners a choice to make provisions for emergency access. There was also discussion about the revocation of the grandfather clause within a five year time period. Tom will check into the legal ramifications of servicing homes on a road where access is questionable.

Randy Williams came in after Diane left and was asked for his thoughts on this matter. He mentioned that a patient had already complained about the ambulance service by reporting an incident to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Randy felt that the complaint was unfounded as the written report of the incident had indicated. He said that Diane's main concern is accessing and removing a patient in poor conditions due to snow or ice.

Meeting Items

- approved minutes of 2/11/07
- The Selectboard made a motion to accept all of the new five members of the Parks & Recreation Committee, all in favor
- The Board voted to allow Peter Freisem to add a crafts fair on various Wednesdays along with the farmer's market during the summer.
- Tom suggested that the Selectboard assemble a meeting with most or all of the town committees so that everyone could meet and determine what each other were working on. They agreed, and Tom will arrange this meeting in September.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the Mizula matter. It was noted that we made a request for a hearing concerning his unemployment compensation.

Mail and Other Items

- Warrants signed
- other mail items as per agenda

10:05 PM

Motion to adjourn by Jack, 2nd by Joe, all in favor.