

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman B. Scott Kuhnly at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: B. Scott Kuhnly, Ronald Desrosiers, Sally King, Mark Neumann, Edward Ohannessian, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; and Student Liaison Emily Jackson

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC SESSION

Granby resident Jerry Ledger inquired about a start date for the sidewalk project that will run down Salmon Brook Street and connect to Salmon Brook Park. He indicated the project is long overdue and he is willing to do anything as a Granby citizen to help get the project going.

Granby resident Bob Smith addressed the Board about a noise ordinance that has been studied for quite some time now. He has concerns as to why it is taking so long to be resolved. He hopes it will be a favorable recommendation.

III. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 2014 as presented.

IV. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

A. Further Discussion of Report from Planning and Zoning Commission Regarding Recreational Vehicles Subcommittee Recommendation

Town Manager Smith has received an informational packet from Francis Armentano, Director of Community Development, that speaks to the issue of a noise ordinance suggested from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The matter of creating an ordinance to deal with complaints concerning noise, especially from dirt bikes, is not a simple solution. There are many factors that need to be considered where noise is concerned. Town Manager Smith indicated the Board needs to respond to the Planning and Zoning Commission on this issue. Also, there are not enough complaints this time of year to make a decision on this issue. It is suggested this be monitored during the next spring and summer seasons and then be reviewed in the fall.

The concern is having an ordinance that is costly and difficult to enforce.

Selectman Desrosiers responded it seems we are just kicking the can down the road. We need to work out something as the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended, possibly forming another committee.

Selectman King reminded everyone the noise ordinance committee rejected an ordinance before.

First Selectman Kuhnly has asked Town Manager Smith to review previous studies and come up with more information in regard to this issue and any changes that may have occurred.

V. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

There are still vacancies on the Holcomb Farm Board of Directors (3), Library Board (1), Park and Recreation Board (1), and Development Commission (1).

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to appoint Pamela J. Fish, 32 Cone Mountain Road, to the Holcomb Farm Board of Directors for a term ending June 2015. Also appointed is Mark H. Fiorentino (R), 296R Loomis Street to the Holcomb Farm Board for a term ending June 2016. These appointments will fill the two town member vacancies.

B. Discussion of Local Parking Ordinance

During a recent Development staff meeting, illegal parking on town streets, and other unsafe parking areas was discussed. It was noted that parking violation fines are all turned over to the state. Having a local ordinance in place would allow Granby to retain such fees. Although there are not an abundance of violations in Granby, having an ordinance would streamline the process and allow the town to retain the fee. Town Manager Smith will look into this matter further.

C. Information Concerning Cost Sharing Agreement Regarding Traffic Control Signal Installation at Salmon Brook Street and Floydville Road

As required by the state, the town is prepared to make payment of \$10,000 to the State Department of Transportation for their contribution of an approved signal light at Floydville Road and Salmon Brook Street. It was originally indicated that the amount could be included in next year's budget, but since funds are available in our bonded Various Alignments category, Town Manager Smith has authorized payment from that account. First Selectman Kuhnly asked if sidewalks will be installed and the response was yes, as well as a walk signal button. No final installation date is available although we are hoping for a 2014 install.

D. Consideration of Extending Cell Tower Agreement

SBA COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION, leaseholder for the cell tower at the Town Hall Complex, has asked the town to extend the lease for another 40 years. There is still 10 years remaining on the current lease. Town Manager Smith indicated he feels this is rather excessive, but the town might consider adding another 15 years. SBA Communications Corporation indicated they would agree to this. The town receives nearly \$50,000 annually from antenna rentals using the tower. In addition, the town uses the tower for its public safety communication systems.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the 15 year extension of the cell tower lease for a total of 25 years.

E. Consideration of Approval for Mardi Gras Celebration by the First Congregational Church at Salmon Brook Park

The First Congregational Church has requested holding a Mardi Gras Celebration at the Recreation Community Center at Salmon Brook Park on March 1, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. They have requested to allow those in attendance to bring alcohol if they choose. Under "Park Rules", a recommendation by the Town Manager and approval of the Board of Selectmen is required to consume alcohol on town property. The applicant must also be from a non-profit community group in connection with a special event.

Selectman Desrosiers indicated he is leery about this during park season. He did not think the new facility was built for parties with alcohol. Selectman King responded they are a non-profit group as required by "Park Rules" and March 1, 2014, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. is not seasonal, meaning there are no ball games going on at that time.

Town Manager Smith reiterated there is not an ordinance governing this issue. It is within "Park Rules" that states the requirements for alcohol at the park. The church falls within the guidelines and their paperwork is in order.

Selectman Ohannessian asked if the alcohol would be contained inside the new facility. The response from Town Manager Smith was yes.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted 4-1-0 to approve the application of the First Congregational Church to hold their Mardi Gras Celebration and allow attendees to bring alcohol if they so choose. Selectman Desrosiers was not in favor of the motion.

VI. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

A. 2014 CIRMA Risk Management Achievement Award Recipient

On May 16, 2014, CIRMA Risk Management will be the recipient of an achievement award. They are being honored for their high quality insurance risk management service that keep rates down and gets us our rebates.

B. Licensing of Town Owned Lands for Farming

The town has again offered for license various town owned agricultural farm property. Four applications have been received so far and the Agricultural Commission has agreed with the license agreements. There are a couple of areas at Holcomb Farm that are still available for lease.

VII. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (B. Scott Kuhnly)

First Selectman Kuhnly announced Wednesday March 12, 2014 as GIRL SCOUT DAY. This day marks the 102nd anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA. A Proclamation has been issued by the Town of Granby to honor this achievement.

First Selectman Kuhnly reviewed the Budget Workshop dates. They are March 6th, March 10th, and March 13th if needed. All workshops will be held in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 6 p.m.

Koffee with Kuhnly will be held on Monday, February 24, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

VIII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman; Ronald Desrosiers, Mark Neumann, and Edward Ohannessian; and Emily Jackson, Student Liaison)

Selectman Desrosiers reported he has received some calls with regard to an area of Floydville Road that is covered with hard packed snow and ice, making it dangerous. Town Manager Smith indicated the town is aware of this problem area. It continues to be a problem because of the continuing inclement weather, wind, and drifting snow. The wind drifts become a challenge. The Department of Public Works was complimented for doing a great job of keeping the roads cleared.

Emily Jackson, Student Liaison, reported the school had a texting while driving assembly recently. It was very informative.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager