

Dick Bennett\_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Campbell\_\_\_\_\_

John Allen\_\_\_\_\_

**Board Of Selectmen Meeting  
March 9th, 2021  
UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED**

**Present:** Dick Bennett, Chairman; Barbara Campbell, Selectman, John Allen, Selectman

**Attendees:** Willis Kelley, Jerry Dougherty III, Kevin Bennett, Jerry Dougherty IV, Hank Benesh, Sarah Clemons, Jenn Mello, Julie Atwell, Julie Hoyt, Barbara Theriault, Ginger Perkins, Diane Pratte, Sam Kitfield, Bridget Herlihy, Madeline Frasier Cook, Karen Burton, Jay Henry, Emily Benson

Meeting via ZOOM conference call with audio/video recording

1. Meeting called to order at 3:31 P.M.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 23rd meeting were reviewed. Selectman Campbell added a correction to the minutes regarding discussion of Iron Mountain Road (item 3.f), suggesting the use of the word “argued” be replaced with “discussed”. **Selectman Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Selectman Allen. Motion approved unanimously.**
3. **For Selectman Discussions and/or Motions:**
  - a. Upcoming Elections: The Board considered where and how to operate the upcoming town ballot and deliberative meeting. Town moderator Willis Kelley was recognized for comment. Willis recounted some discussion at previous Board meetings about potentially holding the town meeting outdoors if deemed necessary by COVID-19-related circumstances. He advised against a “drive-thru” or otherwise outdoor town ballot, stating the preparations would be particularly complicated and that the weather could adversely impact the operation of the ballot, and Chairman Bennett agreed with that advice. Jerry Dougherty III was recognized to comment. Jerry III echoed Willis’ concerns and stated he thought the previous elections held at the Whitney Center under COVID-19-sensitive regulations were carried out

safely and efficiently. He recommended holding the upcoming town ballot in the Whitney Center under similar formats and regulations as in the aforementioned recent elections. Jerry Dougherty IV was also recognized to comment. Jerry IV agreed with Willis' and Jerry III's opinions about holding the town ballot outdoors and with Jerry III's proposal to hold the ballot at the Whitney Center under similar formats and regulations as in recent elections. Town clerk Karen Burton was recognized to comment. Karen agreed that holding the town ballot outdoors would present significant logistical challenges and suggested arranging the ballot at the Whitney Center. With all Selectmen in agreement, Chairman Bennett concluded that the town ballot ought to be held at the Whitney Center, as originally intended, and not be held outdoors as previously changed.

Willis Kelley stated his concerns about the location of the deliberative portion of the town meeting. Karen Burton suggested using a tent to set up some seating outdoors but cautioned to confirm the availability of a tent for the date of the deliberative session. Jerry Dougherty IV volunteered the Jackson Grammar School's tent if needed for the meeting. Jay Henry warned that the tent would need sufficient clearance from certain other items, such as power lines and propane tanks.

Selectman Campbell suggested using chairs from the Whitney Center to set up seating beneath the tent. Chairman Bennett considered the use of sound systems to amplify the sound for attendees outside the main venue.

Selectman Campbell also suggested streaming a video of the meeting online allowing viewers to call in via Zoom. Hank Benesh was recognized for comment. Hank confirmed that he would be able to stream a video of the meeting. Jerry Dougherty IV, however, cautioned that viewers on the stream or calling in via Zoom would not be eligible to vote, as only physically present attendees may vote. **Selectman Campbell made a motion to move the location of the deliberative session of the 2021 town meeting to the Whitney Community Center, seconded by Selectman Allen. Motion approved unanimously.**

- b. Jackson Falls: Barbara Theriault, Chairman of the Save Jackson Falls Committee, was recognized to comment. Barbara asked the Board to give their approval for the Committee to continue their research and develop suggestions to improve parking, signage, and preservation at Jackson Falls. Chairman Bennett asked for Barbara's thoughts about trying to implement timed parking, and she replied that a "host" system might help to make visitors accountable for respecting the time limit. She recommended a joint effort with the Chamber of Commerce and with Jackson businesses to keep visitors informed about access to Jackson Falls. Bridget Herlihy was also

recognized for comment. Bridget informed that several visitors had wanted to use the Jackson Tennis Club parking lot on Valley Cross Road to park near the Falls and expressed her hope that education efforts would direct visitors away from parking in restricted places. The Board agreed that the Committee ought to continue in its efforts to improve circumstances at Jackson Falls.

- c. EMD Update: Emergency Management Director Emily Benson was recognized to comment. Emily informed the Board that the CDC was updating its COVID-19 guidelines due to the distribution of vaccines. She also reflected on the response to the windstorms and power outages over the previous week. Selectman Campbell extended thanks to Emily and to all town employees for their work in responding to the outages. Ginger Perkins was recognized to comment. Ginger voiced her concerns about the distribution of information and updates in the case of power, phone, and/or Internet service outages and asked if there were alternative means of communication established for emergencies. Emily responded that some local radio stations broadcasted updates about the power outages but extended the offer to discuss additional options for emergency communications. Fire Chief Jay Henry was recognized to comment. Jay suggested that, in the case of communications and Internet outages, townspeople could use two-way radios or other close-range communication devices. Town Clerk Karen Burton was also recognized to comment. Karen attested that several people had approached her during the previous week's outages, asking what options were available for information and assistance. Jay suggested posting a sign outside the town office to direct concerned individuals to the nearest active shelter.
- d. Old Library: The Board considered new requests to reopen the old library. Chairman Bennett raised his concerns about safely reopening the library, and Selectman Campbell stated that the facility would need to be thoroughly sanitized after use, which could require considerable effort and resources. The Board decided not to reopen the library at time of meeting, but the discussion would be continued at future meetings.
- e. Iron Mountain Road - Class 6 Section Plowing: The Board had contacted Peter Malia and decided on the distribution of "other-than-building" waivers (modified from the original building waiver form) to all residents along Iron Mountain Road. Fire Chief Jay Henry was recognized to comment. Jay mentioned that a vehicle had attempted to ascend Iron Mountain Road but had veered off into a ditch and had called for emergency assistance. Jenn Mello was also recognized for comment. Jenn attested to observing similar incidents in springtime with loose mud. She suggested possibly installing a seasonal gate near the class 6 section of Iron Mountain Road to deter non-

residents from attempting to navigate it. Chairman Bennett responded that a class 6 road would be subject to gates and agreed with Jenn's proposal. He suggested that Jenn poll her neighbors on Iron Mountain Road to determine if they would agree with a seasonal gate being posted. Sue Mason was recognized for comment. Sue had been concerned about the stipulations of a waiver and expressed gratitude that a new style of permit was created for the use of snow machines for transportation. She also stated that she would be in agreement with the installation of a seasonal gate, as suggested by Jenn.

- f. Easement of Property Map V-7, Lots 53 and 54: Chairman Bennett stated that an easement could not be granted on the two lots without being put to vote at town meeting. Since the deadline for adding warrant articles to the town ballot for 2021 had passed, the consideration for granting an easement was put off.

#### 4. **Short-Term Rentals (STRs)**

- a. New: No new applications were received for this meeting.
- b. Pending:
  - i. McInnis, William H. and Linda - 86 Dinsmore Road: The advertisement for the STR property was updated to conform with regulations for maximum advertised occupancy. **Selectman Campbell made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Selectman Allen. Motion approved unanimously.**
  - ii. Nelson, Jonathan and Christie - 28 Old Jackson Road: No response had been received from the property owners regarding the disagreement in interpretation of the language in the regulations.
  - iii. Wolff, Maura - 10A Georgia Lane: No response had been received from the property owners regarding the installation of egress windows conforming to regulations.
- c. Complaints: No complaints had been submitted for this meeting.

5. **Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. The following Board of Selectmen meetings, to be held virtually via the Zoom platform, were scheduled for the following dates and times:
    - i. March 23rd at 3:30 P.M.
    - ii. April 13th at 3:30 P.M.
    - iii. April 27th at 3:30 P.M.
  - b. Voting for the 2021 town meeting was scheduled for May 11th, beginning at 8 A.M. and closing at 7 P.M., to be held at the Whitney Community Center. The deliberative portion of the 2021 town meeting was scheduled for May 15th, beginning at 10 A.M., to be held at the Whitney Community Center.
6. **Public Comment:** Public attendees did not express any public comments for non-agenda discussion.
7. **Other Business:** The Board posthumously recognized Bea Davis, who had passed away the weekend before the meeting. Bea had served as a Selectman, as a member of the Planning Board, as a member of the Conservation Commission, and as the Emergency Management Director. She had also volunteered at many town elections and was a frequent attendant of town meetings. She was recognized with permission from her daughter-in-law, Nancy.

**Selectman Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Allen. Motion approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Will Reisig