Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, May 6th, 2019
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Draft Copy

Board Members present - Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock

1. Chairman opens the meeting: C. Wheelock opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Correction to 4/15/19 draft minutes – Re: water abatement, was not the RWP, it was a data entry error showing usage. The water has been off for a long time. This was to correct that.

   Motion to approve with correction by: J. Weagle, M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:
   a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer

      G. Cassady - Highway
      With all the rain we’re 4 weeks behind schedule, we were able to get out today to start some spring clean-up. With the rain the crew has been painting and cleaning equipment. We ran out of cold patch, waiting for more to come.
      The one-way signage around the High School is completed.
      We’ve been out to Page Hill 3 times with the loader, York rake and material to smooth out the road. The grader will be coming soon.
      Helped R. Charron with a water main.
      Doing Spring clean-up, the cemetery opened today so people can go in and clean up.
      Cassady said he needs to go out and assess the man holes. His main concern is near Hannaford and Moody Mug, it needs to be repaired. The store gets deliveries 2-3 times per week.
      Has been working on an issue at the pool and the rec fields.
      Will probably be moving in a week or so, will have the sweeper in soon. The crew will move on to big projects once school gets out.
      Cassady said he hasn’t heard from the State re: Church St.
      M. Phillips wants to meet with him to discuss the salt shed.

      T. Charron asked if the crew can get to the cemetery to clean up asap.
R. Charron – W/S
Turned the water on at the cemeteries today.
Got the water leak fixed, it seems to be the only one we’ve had all winter.
Ordered the new hydrants – EJP lowered the price to $3,020 each.
We have been doing a lot of line locating because of the State projects, they are trying to push out 20’.
Keith and Winston continue to work on meters – ordered another 3 cases.
Had some seasonal turn-ons to do.
Got in touch with Fitch on variable speed drives.
The running water program is done.
Charron said they have been helping the Highway Dept when they can.
Got the sewer line in front of Jim’s all cut out.
Easter Sunday flooding – he got in touch with the State, we didn’t have any issues.

b. Tim Emperor - Northern Gateway Trails Club – T. Emperor was granted permission from the Conservation Commission to use the Bag Hill and Town forest area. We will have one club to speak with for all the Town properties. M. Phillips said the previous club helped with the cost to maintain the trails; will this club do the same? Emperor said yes and they have put in for a $12,000 grant.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

c. Discussion of petition from residents - ATV trail matters – C. Wheelock said this is not a public hearing. We had a public hearing last year, we discussed what would be required to keep Page Hill area open. As discussed at the last meeting, it’s not by any fault of the Kilkenny club but due to State, Federal and Conservation restrictions and wetland, they were not able to find a way through.

The trail (going back 8 years) was granted as a temporary access to Lancaster and then 2 years ago, we discussed allowing for 1 more year (when MOM’s came into Town); Larry Meservy thought they would be able to make some progress in a year. We gave another year with the understanding if things hadn’t changed with the trail (Page Hill) would be shut down. Wheelock said he contacted people associated with the club to ask where they were, for the lack of a better term – the Lost Nation / Page Hill residents put up with it for approx. 8 years. Wheelock said we made the decision as a Board to not grant access to Page Hill this year. He spoke with Richard Cotter who put together a petition. He will talk about anything new that he can bring forward.

Richard Cotter spoke on behalf of the club, they have worked and done their due diligence to get off the road and completely understand. Unfortunately, there is just not a way around it, without Page Hill the Kilkenny Trail Riders don’t exist. As for the businesses in Lancaster, 15% of the campgrounds business was from the ATV’s, they were full. There was a lot of traffic and businesses in both Lancaster and Groveton gained a lot of business with the trail open. It’s a shame that it’s closed.

Norm Cotter spoke on behalf of opening back up but doesn’t want to waste his voice. As discussed at the April 15th meeting, it was said they can trailer to Groveton or trailer to Lancaster. There are a lot of people in both communities that don’t have trailers and they run the Page Hill Road and enjoy it. There are even residents on Page Hill that bought property because they were able to ride from Page Hill.

C. Wheelock said he looked at the petition, there are approx. 40-50 signatures on it. There are approx. 3 Lost Nation residents on it. It came down to the fact that we have a
number of people that have tolerated this for 8 years. If Groveton linked to another trail system in Lancaster – Lancaster has no trail system just the streets. Wheelock said we felt as a Board that the cons out weight the pros. He's not faulting the people that worked on an attempt to get through there. He spoke with a couple of people from the State this week and they felt this will force the State to do something, the State has relied on the private landowners and the towns to make it work. They haven't put anything into it, they didn't check with the locals, etc. After speaking with the Wayne Saunders and Chris Gamache, this is going to be the tip to having the other towns jumping on it. It’s in the paper often, if the other towns and clubs stick together and say we need to be able access State land to make connections.

Wheelock said he appreciates everyone coming, but with what we have today we are 8 years into a temporary trail, which he doesn't think was the intent.

Norm Cotter said it was his idea to have anyone that rides Page Hill and not just Groveton residents sign the petition.

J. Boisselle said she believes that when 25 registered residents sign a petition, a public hearing needs to be scheduled – C. Wheelock will check on that. Boisselle understands there are people on Page Hill that don’t like this, and she isn’t un-sympathetic to them, but she thinks the Board needs to consider as a whole and not the few. Wheelock said he thinks we did that, we actually opened additional streets in Town to make sure Groveton residents and businesses have trail access.

Nancy Merrow commented looking at Page Hill / Lost Nation / Winter St. there are maybe $10,000,000 in tax payers, they need to have some consideration also. We need to consider those that we don’t hear from.

M. Phillips said there is a proposal in the legislature to make specific roads/streets approved contingent on 2/3rds of residents on that street or road. That hasn’t been approved yet. He feels the rights of the $10,000,000 taxpayers trans-sends the other and feels there needs to be quiet places for people also.

M. Kennett commented that other Towns have had this same situation at their Town Meetings. A petition could have been put into the warrant and voted on at Town Meeting. This needs to be done by the beginning of February. J. Weagle commented that it’s still up to the Selectmen on the Board.

H. Rodger asked if they are just cutting off Page Hill, she asked about Gore Rd. to North Rd. C. Wheelock said we only control the land/roads in Groveton, Lost Nation is a State road.

John Jaworowski (lives across from MOM’s) commented that we put up with a lot of roaring from the race track on Saturday night. We have a lot of ATVs and snowmobiles across the street, but we look at it and it’s been a great improvement for the Town. For the past 10 years, he has been on the Northern Gateway Board of Directors. Northern Gateway represents Dalton, Gilman, Groveton, Guildhall, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Northumberland, Randolph, Stark, Stratford & Whitefield.

He read a letter from the Chamber asking the Board to reconsider the closure of Page Hill.

"On behalf of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, I would ask that the selectman reconsider the closure of Page Hill Road for ATV usage. As a representative for
the chamber, many of our businesses are impacted by tourists in our area. The ATV expansive trails has helped our business communities including Northumberland and Lancaster. Those riding ATV’s help the hospitality, service, retail and amusement businesses. The closure of Page Hill Road will interrupt the continuous trails from the “Gateway” of Coos County. Those that travel to our area not only help our businesses, but many times end up relocating and/or buying a second home. Money collected helps our towns and infrastructure. The Page Hill Road closure is not insignificant and will impact our Lancaster and Northumberland businesses and communities. Live, work and play in the Great North Woods is a draw. Please consider the reopening of the Page Hill sector”.

d. Kilkenny Trail Riders - Trail Connectivity – R. Cotter commented to defend the club that their #1 concern has been Page Hill, that’s why we don’t have trails going to Jefferson. C. Wheelock doesn’t think the trail between Groveton and Lancaster is done. As long as they keep the club, they have the best option to find something through the State. Wheelock suggested sticking with it and we will come up with another vote in the spring. R. Cotter asked if there is anything the club can do to get the road open. Wheelock said there won’t be another vote tonight, the clubs all knew about the April meeting and what would be discussed.

Comment was made that it wasn’t made public.

Shawn Swallow said he lives on Page Hill and has access to the trails. He wants to be able to drive from his home to the trail. Wheelock briefly reviewed the current ordinance. Wheelock said the State may have shut down Lost Nation Rd., which was discussed at a previous meeting. He suggested checking with the State to see if it’s still open.

J. Boisselle commented that based on the number of people here tonight, she feels there needs to be another Public Hearing scheduled on this matter. L. Meservey said there is also an online petition with approx. 1,100 signatures, he feels this needs to be addressed. J. Jaworowski asked why we can’t schedule a Public Hearing to let the residents and clubs know about it? Wheelock doesn’t feel we want to govern the town by petition, and this could be another one of those meetings that becomes very unproductive. Wheelock said the whole is not just the ATV group, it’s everyone. For every argument, another can be made. Wheelock said we were told 2 years ago there would be kiosks put up, trail maps, signage and help for maintaining the road. There hasn’t been anyone come in an offer to buy chloride to help keep the dust down or buy gravel to help the Highway crew. Everybody shows up and wants this access, but no one shows (other than the club members) to try and find a way around it. It costs $2,200 - $2,500 to grade Page Hill, G. Cassady said we graded 3+ times last year.

N. Merrow said it’s not the 3 selectmen, if people need to write letters to their State Representatives and get them on board. It’s the State that the people need to go to.

e. Letter to commercial haulers – The letter is to notify all commercial trash haulers that as of June 1, 2019, the Town of Northumberland will no longer accept compacted commercial waste at the Transfer Station located at 159 Brown Rd. The waste should go directly to a facility that processes such waste. C. Wheelock further reviewed the letter, which came from a Transfer Station Committee meeting last month. We have had a lot of contaminants. This does not include the curbside contract, that is relatively sorted. J. Weagle said we can’t exempt one business over others. C. Wheelock said we have the right to refuse people that don’t comply, we’ve found that commercial compact haulers are not complying. They have been warned but continue to do it. This doesn’t affect the
contracted curbside pick-up. J. Weagle said this is saying no compactors, doesn’t matter who it is. M. Phillips said it’s not the hauler, it’s the type of trash – commercial vs. residential.

Motion to sign the letter as written by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, 2 in Favor, 1 Against

f. NHDOT - Acceptance of crosswalk maintenance for specified crosswalks - proposed resurfacing program CY 2019 – This is an agreement with the State, as they pave, it identifies the crosswalks.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

T. Charron asked if it could include the crosswalk at the funeral home; C. Wheelock said they won’t be going that far and described where it will cover. Due to the sidewalk grant that we got, they will come back and finish when we are done next year.

g. 2019 Proposal for engineering services for the Groveton WWTF located off Eames St. This was approved in the budget – Horizon was late getting the contract in.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

h. Boy Scouts request for permission to plant flower seeds around train/bridge area. This is for a service project; the Boy Scouts have flower seeds to plant.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:
   a. Elderly Exemption Application –
      1. The resident does qualify –

      Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

b. Building Permits (2)- B. Matson will be present has 1 question for Board regarding W/S demand fee.

1. Boo’s Storage – for storage units between Dean Brook Dr. and Kwik Stop. Matson asked about the demand fee; the property went into a trust and there hasn’t been any W/S paid for years. He doesn’t plan to have a need for W/S, and it would save him approx. $100.00 every 3 months; he’s hoping not to pay the demand fee. R. Charron asked if the storage units across from his residence on State St pays for W/S? M. Kennett said no they don’t. Charron commented that it’s in the policy. The property is more valuable with the W/S option. Charron said there isn’t a hydrant on the lot, but there is one at Coos Pit Stop. J. Weagle said they can check to see if there was an exception made. Bears Storage doesn’t pay W/S either. C. Wheelock said we want to be consistent with the others in the area. Construction is planned to start on May 15th

      Motion to approve the building permit contingent on T. Bedell signing by: J. Weagle
      2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

      The Board will look into the W/S and notify Matson on the matter.
2. Charles Boisclair, 647 Lancaster Rd. – Rebuilding the Village Cones collapsed building.

Motion to approve contingent on T. Bedell signing by: J. Weagle
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

c. Intent to Cut
1. This is on North Side Rd. near the turnaround – 23 acres Gregory Mendez is the owner. John Aicardi of Forest & Lands is aware of the cut and wants to be visible during the cut. They will work closely with us and the State. C. Wheelock reviewed the cut.

They plan to start on 5/13. A. Hall asked if the Town asked them to post a bond in case of any erosion.

Motion to approve and if a bond can be put on request it be added by: J. Weagle
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

d. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application
1. Louis & Zachary Lamonte, 3 Roaring Brook – paid the fee.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:
a. Julie Boisselle
1) Community Events: submitted a listing of the events and the dates.

Motion to approve the events and dates by: J. Weagle
2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

2) Beautification Projects: Discussed last year; will be putting pavers at the Gazebo, plan to finish the fence at Chapman Park and get the sign up for Chapman Park. Will also be adding better solar lights on the entrance signs and replace lights at the gazebo and will be planting bulbs near Riverside Drive.

C. Wheelock said they are looking into cameras that will be put up near the gazebo. J. Kennett asked where Chapman Park is? It’s the small park next to Al Belands. Boisselle said we also want to put up an information sign at the park.

3) Ordinance Review(2) – hawkers and peddlers – Officer Micucci came to the ordinance committee, we reviewed and made some very minor changes. N. Merrow commented regarding RSA 320, why would we want to have anyone that’s exempt fill out a permit. J. Boisselle further explained that Micucci or Chief Pelletier would have a list of those that have a permit and it would save them time. J. Weagle said it’s more for a door to door thing. This is a brand-new ordinance, Wheelock said we would need to have a public hearing. J. Boisselle said the committee only makes a recommendation, it can be changed. The ordinance follows the State’s ordinance, but our fees are higher than the States. J. Weagle explained we can go above the States requirements, but not under.

C. Wheelock suggested the Board review and a public hearing can be held at a later date.
Nancy Merrow asked about posting the meetings and minutes. J. Boisselle said that Becky Craggy gets the meeting schedule and minutes are posted on the website.

J. Boisselle updated the Board with what the committee has done with the noise ordinance. C. Wheelock said the Board will review. Per RSA – A. Cotthell talked about jake brakes. W. Montgomery commented that it needs to be addressed there should be some control on them. Mike Kelly commented that in Towns that don’t want jake brakes used post signs. He drove a truck for years and didn’t know there was a State ordinance about it. A. Hall commented without signage it can’t be enforced. Further discussed noise levels with the trucks. N. Merrow asked if it addresses the motorcycles – J. Boisselle further reviewed the ordinance.

4) Ordinance Committee – regarding minutes, etc. – J. Boisselle said she has reached out to others; there is some information regarding an advisory committee. As it stands right now we are not regulated, we don’t need to let anyone know when there is a meeting. The Ordinance Committee isn’t mandated by the State.

b. Update and action plan for trash conditions on Old Village - D. & A. Cotthell – A. Cotthell said it’s been over 2 years since this was brought up; during the flood there were things floating that probably shouldn’t have been. C. Wheelock said our angle on it this year is though DES, Robin Irving is going to a meeting tomorrow. With EPA in the State of NH each town is required to have a health officer, we have Mario Audit. Cotthell said trash is being brought in from other places and left at the yellow building. Wheelock is going to check with the Town of Salem – they had similar issue. He said our intent was to have it smoother this year and asked about it at the last meeting; we want to do this in a politically correct manner. The ordinance is at the State and Town level. A. Cotthell commented that it’s a simple nuisance ordinance. It’s not just the big problem, but the contagious problem. With the recent flooding, she asked if the water gets tested. R. Charron said yes monthly, but her water source is in Town, not the village.

A. Hall said there are others in Town that have junkyards and don’t have permits. He asked when the Board will do something. C. Wheelock said one of the properties is exempt; A Hall said he’s not exempt and further discussed. A. Cotthell commented that all should be the same; a few people are ruining what could be a really nice neighborhood. A. Hall asked with the specifications for a junk yard, have we had DES check for disposal methods of oil, batteries, etc. M. Phillips is in favor of enforcing the ordinance. Cotthell commented that she has tenants with kids and doesn’t want them to get hurt. She mentioned that the business across the street is still peeing outside!

c. M. Kelly asked if there is any truth to the rumor of ATV’s cutting through and coming out on North Avenue. C. Wheelock said the only streets in Town that are open to ATV’s are: Melcher St., Main St., State St. and Riverside Dr.

d. Mike Kelly asked for clarification regarding the one-way street and the parking. C. Wheelock said the parking is 4 hours around the school. The biggest issue with that is when school is in session. If someone parks in front of your home or Saturday or Sunday that could be an issue. M. Kelly said for years we were depending on the police to enforce the no parking. If it’s going to be implemented, it’s going to be year-round and we need to have it enforced. Wheelock discussed, there is a learning curve for everyone. M. Kelly asked about signage, going North the sign can’t be seen and on the other side there should be a “Do Not Enter” sign. Wheelock said we want to hear about improvements that can be made. He was making calls on the 1st because he dropped the ball. Kelly said letters should have been sent to the residents. B. Pinette said he has
lived there since growing up. It’s a bad habit and it will be hard to break. On Park St. there are not any no parking signs. Wheelock said we’ve asked the bus drivers to let us know if they notice any other issues. M. Kelly said he will wait and see but mentioned having speed bumps. He will let the Board know what he sees.

e. T. Charron said the project at the cemetery is hopefully starting next week, she asked if they need a permit. If it’s under $5,000 they don’t need one.

f. K. Littlehale asked when we will get 24-hour coverage at the PD, there was a big issue on Pleasant St. the other night, it took 3 hours to get it under control. She doesn’t see well and doesn’t want to live like that. C. Wheelock said Chief Pelletier has started the process of hiring additional officers. Pelletier feels that we are a ways for full time coverage. Right now, he’s just trying to get every day covered, once he has a total of 4 officers, we should be covered. J. Boisselle asked if it’s possible to adjust the hours from day time to later in the day and into the evening. M. Kennett commented we need day coverage, especially when school is in session. Chief Pelletier said he usually works the day shift; D. Micucci works 3 weeks of days and 3 weeks of evenings and now we have Officer Rivera that will rotate shifts as well.

Kelly Littlehale commented that there has been a problem in Odell Park and now it’s on Pleasant St. Littlehale further discussed the situation that recently occurred. Who’s going to take responsibility for this? The landlords keep letting these people in, why can’t the police tell them that we don’t need them. C. Wheelock said we do have some leeway through the landlord with the drug issues. Last summer a landlord was held responsible and was charged with a felony. The landlord vacated the building.

Chief Pelletier further address disorderly conduct. A. Corthell commented that we don’t rent to those type of people, she talked about putting up a no trespassing sign. Corthell discussed evicting renters, it’s extremely difficult in NH.

g. Norm Cotter asked if 4 wheelers can still come across the covered bridge. C. Wheelock said yes.

h. Chief Pelletier said they have done the due diligence on the internet project and asked if he can move forward with the project. The Board approved moving forward.

6. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA’S 91-A:3,II (c)(e):

Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

Into Non-Public Session at 7:35 pm.

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public Session by: M. Phillips, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Non-Public Session adjourned at 8:45 PM

Into Regular Session at 8:45 pm

During Non-Public Session the Board reviewed several tax lien issues and a personnel matter. No further business was discussed.
7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by: M. Phillips, 2nd by: J. Weagle 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.*
May 3, 2019

Dear Northumberland Selectman,

On behalf of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, I would ask that the selectman reconsider the closure of Page Hill Road for ATV usage. As a representative for the chamber, many of our businesses are impacted by tourists in our area. The ATV expansive trails has helped our business communities including Northumberland and Lancaster. Those riding ATV's help the hospitality, service, retail and amusement businesses. The closure of Page Hill Road will interrupt the continuous trails from the “Gateway” of Coos County. Those that travel to our area not only help our businesses but many times end up relocating and/or buying a second homr. Money collected helps our towns and infrastructure. The Page Hill road closure is not insignificant and will impact our Lancaster and Northumberland businesses and communities. Live, work and play in the Great North Woods is a draw. Please consider the reopening of the Page Hill sector.

Regards,

Beth Cape  
Administrative Assistant  
P.O. Box 537  
Lancaster, NH 03584  
www.northerngatewaychamber@gmail.com
Attendance - Selectmen  5/6/19

Please Print:
Calvin Convair
Douglas Menzie
Rose Menzie
Shawn Gregg
Robin Gregg

Rick Milne
Melinda Gennett, TX
Tim Emerson
Glen Cassady

Jenise Meiners
Dee Brassette
Heather Loger
Abby Rogers

APP Rogers
Pete Marcelli

Northern Cornel

Richard Coffee
Rick Samson Coos
Wayne Scrapie
Mike Kelly
Bob Pratte

George Karnosky
Rodney Moohan
Grace Phillips

Nancy Phillips
Brian Matson

Julie Boissevill
Ann Cortwell
Brynn Rugg
Ted Burns
Bill Noons
Sue Rugg
Geraldine Tetreault
Olivia Farnsworth

John Devlin (Clarkhill-1792)
Ted King - Dennis

Melissa Dano-G
Addison Hull
Sandria McBay
Lawrence Bouled

Michael S. Robinson
Lisa Nacht
Bob Woodard
John Wellem
Chris Sherrill

Boogie Hill Rd, Groton

Larry Meserve
Donna Jordan