

Town of Fletcher – Select Board Meeting
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting> Password: 330460
Monday, April 19, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Virtually Present

Members: Jon Bondy (Chair), Rich Bidwell, Bruce Douglas, Matt Gillilan and Matt Swartz.

Guests: Cyndy Allen, Stearns Allen, James Blake, Jenn Caswell, Dan Crepeau, Dan St. Cry, Andrew Davis, Corey Decker, Monique Denault, Phyllis Fletcher, Eva Gillilan, Pam Jedlicka, Brad Johnson, Trista Ringer, Jan Sander, Pat Saylor, Thomas Saylor, Kimberly Sisson, Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Tara Sweet, Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk), Graeme Walford, Kimberly Werner, and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1) Call to Order:

- a. Jon Bondy called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- b. Jon explained the Zoom meeting format and that he would go through the participant list to ask each attendee their opinion on Metcalf Pond access.

2) Metcalf Pond:

- a. Jon summarized the history of Metcalf Pond access. Most recently, due to ruts caused by backing large boats down the beach area, traffic being block and other problems, the Road Crew put rocks to block the beach area. If someone wanted to use it, they would call the Road Crew to move rocks. This was not a sustainable solution. The Select Board tried to get a meeting together in the Fall for residents to discuss the issue, but that didn't happen. A letter explaining the situation was not sent in a timely manner. The meeting will begin with Select Board member comments and then Jon will ask each individual attendee for comment.
 - i. Select Board member comments:
 1. Matt Gillilan: Matt thanked Jon for the good summary. Matt is interested to see what attendees have to say.
 2. Rich: Rich would like everyone to know that the Select Board is not trying to prohibit what boats are on pond but trying to determine beach usage. The Town doesn't own the beach area but has a right of way from the road to the water.
 3. Matt Swartz: Matt reiterated what Rich said and is looking forward to attendee comments.
 4. Bruce: The State recently designated that part of the road for storm water management and the Town will likely have to mitigate run off from road into the pond.
 5. Jon: Jon shared his screen with a map of the beach to show the land the Town owns and the Town's right of way, which includes the beach area.
 - ii. Public comment:
 1. Dan Crepeau: Dan is a Summer resident on the Pond and agrees the beach access should be blocked off, but that there should be accommodations made for people who live on the pond to launch their boats at the beginning of the season and take out at end of the season. Dan said he has seen people capsize canoes and kayaks with fast boats not owned by people who live on pond.
 2. Andrew Davis: Andrew is not in support of blocking the access at this time but could support blocking it if due diligence is done to ensure that rescue services could access the pond if needed.
 3. Brad Johnson: Brad is a lawyer who represents one of the owners on Metcalf Pond. People who want to launch boats on the water for recreational use, should be able to do so by permit or something. Even if it was open for certain period of times.
 4. Corey Decker: Corey appreciates the pond and enjoys it being a peaceful place that is a wonderful part of community. Corey doesn't want to infringe on how anyone else choses to recreate, but if it was up to her she would keep it as small and quiet as possible. Corey does see valid points of safety concerns but doesn't want to weigh in one way or the other.

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5. Dan St. Cyr: Dan would like to see is that it is open for a period of time in the Spring and Fall to put in and remove boats.
6. Eva Gillilan: Eva had no comment.
7. Jan Sander: Jan is a property owner on the pond. She has a family member that has a small motorboat and many neighbors have boats. Jan thinks there should be a time in Spring and Fall, 1 or 2 weekends, to put boats in the pond. As far as people from out of state, they could make an appointment with the Town Clerk. Jan is not sure how emergency rescue would access. Jan said she appreciates having the pond limited to small non-motorized boats. There are some folks who come with powerboats who swamp canoes or kayaks.
 - a. Jon reminded everyone that the pond belongs to the state and the Town may not be able to decide how the pond is used, but we can say how the beach/town right of way is used. Jan asked if the state prohibits the use of jet skis and Rich said that jet skis are not allowed.
8. Graeme Walford: Graeme and Jenn own two camps and agree with Jan and limiting access. In response to emergency rescue, Graeme said most times the rescue boats they use are carry-able. Graeme agrees with limiting access to the Spring and Fall. If access is allowed year-round wouldn't that insinuate that the beach area is a boat launch? The beach area is also used for swimming.
 - a. Jon clarified that if we remove barricade, it doesn't mean we permit boat launches. When we refer to the beach area, it is not a beach designated for swimming. The use for the beach area has been informal.
9. James Blake: James's mother owns the island on north side of the pond. James agrees with everyone, but there has to be some way for residents to get boats in an out twice a year. James suggests putting a gate with a key or a code that can be changed every year. James said their biggest issue is that they have no usable right of way; the right of way they were given is at the back of the pond and is unusable.
10. Kim Sisson: Kim's family has owned a camp for almost 70 years. They only come up during the summer because they live out of the state. They were interested in finding out more about what the town wants to do about the beach access. They have used the beach to launch their fishing boat at the start of the season and remove it at the end of the season. Kim made alternative arrangements because they thought the rocks were going to stay. Kim said that they would be willing to make an appointment with the town for the road crew to move the rocks. Kim's father would never expect the town to drop everything to move rocks.
11. Kimberly Werner: Kim said she is all about preserving the pond. July is a nightmare. Her pontoon boat goes in for the season and then out at the end of the season. She uses it because she works with people with disabilities. Kim said emergency rescue is a concern for her. She does wish there was some way to get boats in once and year and out once a year.
12. Pam Jedlicka: Pam said she doesn't live on the pond. Some concerns are that it is a small area, erosion, watershed pollution, maintenance costs, and having town crew move rocks every time someone calls is ridiculous. The other issue is swimming in area where boats are used. There could be a gate with a code or a key.
13. Pat Saylor and Thomas Saylor: Pat and Thomas thanked the Select Board for being respectful. Pat thinks the Select Board's rational is key. If the town allows boats to be launched from the area easily, then it becomes a public boat launch. Then all the residents

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who live there have to deal with that. There have been increased numbers of people using the pond, launching dozens of kayaks at a time. Pat trusts the Select Board to come up with a process for residents and first responders. People are renting their camps and that creates problems. Pat owns the property opposite from the beach, and they have their mailbox there; most often people are respectful, but many times mail can't be delivered because people block it. The Saylor's support no parking on the road and for the Select Board to improve the parking area. Could there be a sign for people off loading kayak or car top boat, that the area is temporary parking. There should be accommodations for property owners to launch their boats. Pat thanked the Select Board for supporting this kind of dialogue

14. Phyllis Fletcher: Phyllis likes the idea of a gate. Most people who want to launch a boat would want to do so on the weekend when the town office is closed. There are renters on the pond; some people come up for a week and launch their boat. Will they be able to do so? As for motorboats on pond, Phyllis's family likes to waterski. Phyllis is not at the pond all the time but has seen people being respectful. Phyllis doesn't think giving people the opportunity to put boats in in the Spring and Fall will work for everyone.
 15. Cyndy Allen: Cyndy's family owns Pond Island on the east side. They purchased a pontoon boat to transfer camping equipment and building materials to the island. They have granddaughter with physical and mental disabilities and the pontoon boat has been a wonderful change. They were dismayed to receive a letter dictating that they would no longer have access to the public launch. Pat and Thomas Saylor grant them right of way, but not for a pontoon boat. The letter was upsetting because they were not given the opportunity to give input and they appreciate the opportunity to have a chance to speak tonight. Putting in a gate and letting residents use it in the Spring and Fall would be the best option. They appreciate quiet and peace and want to be able to have equal access for their motorboat.
 16. Stearns Allen: Stearns said that Cyndy presented it very well. They purchased a pontoon boat assuming the town allowed access. His concern is getting the boat in and out, and that emergency personnel can access the pond.
 17. Tara Sweet: Tara has no comment.
 18. Trista Ringer: Trista lives a few houses down from beach and uses the pond for swimming and kayaking. There have been a few times she's seen close calls on the road. She would like to see the pond remain quiet and peaceful. Trista supports set launch and removal dates and appreciate the Select Board listening.
 19. Monique Denault: Monique has no comment.
- iii. After hearing from everyone in attendance, Jon invited people to raise their hand or type something in chat if they had more comments. There were no additional comments and Jon concluded that the portion of the Select Board meeting. Jon believes the consensus seems clear that residents would like a gate and the opportunity to put boats in the pond in the Spring and remove them in the Fall, with the occasional opportunity to do this in the Summer as well. Jon asked for the Select Board's comments:
1. Matt Gillilan: Matt said there was a lot of good information. Matt's concern with gate is that a key won't work because of nights and weekends. If there was a gate with a code, the code would be shared. Matt said that people parking on the roadside is not safe and he is in favor of improving the parking area and putting up signs.
 2. Rich: Rich said it is important to address the rescue boat issue and if blocking the beach impede emergency response access. Matt Gillilan said that Fairfax has a 12' aluminum

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boat, Johnson also has a boat, but Matt doesn't think Cambridge has a boat. Jon said the Select Board needs to research. Matt Gillilan said that fire and rescue can launch a boat wherever they need to and would worry about getting the boat out later. Karrie asked if there was a gate, would emergency services would have a bolt cutter if they needed to open it? Matt Gillilan said that most likely emergency services would have a bolt cutter, but if there was a key or a code the fire department would have them. Rich also said if there was a gate they would need to consider if people would have the ability to carry in their boats and back a trailer down when the gate was open.

3. Matt Swartz: Matt thanked everyone for their comments. Jon summarized it well; it is clear what residents would like to see for access and it is up to the Select Board to come up with a solution.
4. Bruce: Bruce thanked everyone and appreciates the time. Bruce said the primary responsibility is for the roads. The short length of the roadway to the pond, needs to be looked at along with runoff and how that relates to compliance with storm water requirements. The meeting was informative, and Bruce is grateful for everyone's input.
5. Jon: Jon explained that the Select Board will be talking about this in the next meeting on May 3rd. Seems like we need a short-term solution soon.

3) Road Report:

- a. Wright Road Bridge: The bid opening is on 4/29/2021 at the town garage (so everyone can socially distance). Tyler, the engineer, will go through the bids and make a recommendation. Matt Gillilan will bring the recommendation to next Select Board meeting
- b. Mud season was above average in a couple of areas including Kinsley Road and Pond Road. It is in pretty good shape now, but the Road Crew did put in some overtime. Norman and Matt Gillilan met with Bethany about stormwater clean water grants. There is a storm water plan for beach area at Metcalf Pond.
- c. The Road Crew is working on the exclusion fence for beavers. They haven't been bad this year, as of last Friday. As for the Beaver Deceivers: The person from the state said they don't work well, but he said the exclusion fencing is more usable and recommended starting with that. They were supposed to have material and start building. Jon asked if this would help with the water level in the Pond. Matt Gillilan said it will help for now, but that the water isn't flowing out to the swamp area because there is too much vegetation. The state didn't provide a good answer about that.

4) Payroll and Accounts Payable:

- a. Jon, Matt Gillilan, Matt Swartz, and Bruce read and approved the payroll and accounts payable order.

5) Broadband:

- a. All of the town's documents on the list have been sent in and Aimee believes the remaining documents that are needed are for Mansfield Community Fiber to complete. Heidi from VEDA said that once the documents are received and are correct, she will schedule the closing for the loan. As soon as this is scheduled, Aimee will let the Select Board know.

6) Agenda Items from last meeting:

- a. Moving the heat pump at the town office: Rich spoke with Travis. Travis was going to look at moving the heat pump and get back to Rich. Rich hasn't heard from him yet, but Karrie and Aimee did see Travis at the building measuring. Travis was supposed to look at boiler at town garage, too. Brocks currently takes care of boiler at town office.
- b. Propane smell in town office: Karrie said there seems to be a propane smell in the town office. Brocks has done readings and didn't find propane, but they did an adjustment to the water softener and they haven't smelled it since.
- c. Annual maintenance events: Rich is working on the list.

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- d. Purchase Order policy: No progress yet. Matt Gillilan bounced it off Norman to think about. Jon suggested looking at the expenses we have had and us that information to figure out where the line should be drawn.
- e. Bid policy: This item is moved to the next agenda.
- f. Fire reimbursement ordinance: Aimee and Rachael met about the process. We missed the deadline to get it in the paper and online posting does not satisfy the ordinance adoption statute. Aimee requested that the Select Board reapprove the motion from last meeting. Jon, Matt Swartz, Rich, Matt Gillilan, and Bruce approve the fire reimbursement ordinance.

7) Other business:

- a. Rich asked if a ditch needs to be put across the beach area at Metcalf Pond? Matt Gillilan will check to see if it is required. Bruce would like to see the grant application to do further research before the Select Board takes any action about the beach area.
 - i. Matt Gillilan will work with the Road Crew to schedule a weekend or two where rocks are moved on a Friday and moved back on a Monday.
- b. Matt Gillilan said that the Road Crew needs to purchase more speed limit signs and he asked the Select board if they should get sign in each direction warning people to drive slowly and no parking signs for the road near the pond. Matt Gillilan will also confirm there is a sign at the fire hydrant and the parking area. The Select Board okayed Matt Gillilan to order the signs that are needed.

8) Adjournment: 9:34pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: May 3, 2021 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matt Gillilan

Rich Bidwell

Matthew Swartz

Bruce Douglas