

**TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
16 SCHOOL STREET
ALLENSTOWN, NH 03275**

Public Hearing at Allenstown Elementary School

Public Hearing

Sandy opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. to discuss Nor'easter 2007, and the part dams play in the Suncook Watershed. Sandy introduced the Selectmen. Officials introduced themselves. Officials present included: NH State Senator, Jack Barnes; Allenstown Representative, Suzanne Beauchesne; Epsom Representative, Charles Yeaton; Epsom Representative Margaret E. Porter; Epsom Representative/Carol M. Brown; Epsom Fire Chief/Stewart Yeaton; Epsom Police Chief Wayne Preve, Pembroke Representative/Frank Davis; Pembroke Emergency Management Director/Thomas Petit; Pembroke Deputy Emergency Management Director/ Larry Young; Pembroke Town Administrator/Troy Brown; Pembroke Police Chief/Scott Lane; and Outreach Director for John Sununu's Office/Harold Parker

With more than 75 people in attendance, Jim Gallagher, Chief Engineer with the dam bureau of the NH Department of Environmental Services gave a presentation explaining how local dams function and what happened during the flooding in April 2007 and in May 2006. Richard Verville of the NH Bureau of Emergency Management and Homeland Security told residents their towns could apply for federal FEMA grants. Grants need to be applied for by the Town. About 30 thirty residents signed a list to indicate their interest in the buy out grant.

Questions kept coming back to how the flooding occurred in the first place. Over the past two months, residents have questioned why the April flooding was so destructive, given that less rain fell during the Mothers Day floods the year before. Jim Gallagher showed a chart plotting the flow of the Suncook River against the average rainfall over the course of the year. Rainfall is generally steady, about three inches a month, the flow of the river peaks in April, doubling the flow in May.

Mr. Gallagher stated April's rainfall forced dozens of residents to evacuate their homes and in some cases, permanently. Between Allenstown and Epsom, at least 25 homes were condemned in May. The dams weren't the reason the river flooded Mr. Gallagher stated. He provided statistics that he said made the flooding inevitable: The total volume of rain was 9.5 billion cubic feet, and the river's capacity, if bone dry, is just 500 million cubic feet.

Residents also asked Mr. Gallagher for more specifics, and their questions focused on accountability. If officials knew the weather forecast days before the rain hit, why didn't they do something to prepare? If the river is getting progressively shallower and less able to hold heavy rain shouldn't someone be addressing that? And if the current dams don't have the capacity to handle the kind of rain the Suncook Valley's seen the past two years, what is the state going to do? Mr. Gallagher assured the resident's studies were under way that would identify more factors behind this April's floods and evaluate whether the Suncook's new course (the avulsion), it jumped its bank last year need to be altered to prevent future incidents.

FEMA is also conducting a study to determine the result of sediment transport and is remapping the floodplain. The studies are expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Residents stated that wasn't soon enough.

Selectmen Reconvene at Town Hall at 9:05 p.m.

Sandy gave a letter to Kelley from Senator Judd Gregg to be posted. A letter was sent to Sandy from Senator Judd Gregg also regarding senate House Bill 2.

Donigian's

BOS discussed Woodridge Estates construction bond. Sandy stated the Mr. Donigian will be giving a check to the Town; Mr. Donigian will get the bond in effect then the Town will write the check back to Mr. Donigian.

Evaluations

BOS reviewed and signed Town employee's yearly evaluations.

Deerfield Road

Motion made by Tom to approve the starting and completion of the Deerfield Road construction project. The cost has already been determined at \$68,500. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Boat Ramp

Sandy stated that she was at the Ferry Street boat ramp and had seen two vehicles park and put their boats in the river. It is posted. Motion made by Sandy to post another sign. Tom seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

2007 Contract

BOS reviewed and discussed 2007 contract for the assessing software annual support. Motion made by Sandy to accept the 2007 contract in the amount of \$3,300.00 for Tyler Technologies. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Mr. Tigges

BOS approved and signed a letter to Mr. Tigges regarding issues raised.

July 4

Board discussed alternate curbside collection day for July 4th holiday. It will be moved to July 5th on Thursday. Armand Verville will use the ARA sign to make residents aware of the change in curbside pick up dates.

15 Hillside Drive

Motion made by Sandy to abate the taxes on 15 Hillside drive in the amount of \$209.32. Carol seconded. Motion passed 2-1. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – no.

Road Agent

BOS voted on conditional offer of employment for the Road Agent candidate. Motion made by Tom to officially extend the offer to Christopher Roy to become the Allenstown Road Agent for \$43,600

prorated salary, with one week vacation. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Corcoran Associates

BOS discussed appointment to meet with Will Corcoran to discuss effects of assessments on flooded properties. Meeting will be June 26, at 6:30 pm.

Training

BOS discussed approving AA attending a Public Information Officer training class. Class dates are July 10, 11, 12. Board approved attendance.

Riverside Park Drive

BOS reviewed photos from Dennis Meuse, regarding the water issue on Riverside Park Drive. BOS will meet with Mr. Meuse on July 2, or July 16th, AA will give Mr. Meuse his choice of dates.

Fair Hearings Board

BOS discussed appointing members to the fair hearings board for welfare appeals.

Restroom

AA stated that it was brought to her attention that the bathroom downstairs at Town Hall is not handicap accessible, due to the filing cabinets in the bathroom that we use for filing. Cliff Jones, Code Enforcement Officer checked with the State and it is okay to post a sign in the lobby “No Public Rest Rooms” and also in the Town policy that rest rooms are for Town employees only. Motion made by Sandy to purchase a sign. Carol seconded. Motion passed. 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Abate Taxes

AA stated that Holiday Acres would like taxes abated on 25 Lane Drive. The mobile home is abandoned; and also on the tax deed list. The park will take ownership and have the mobile home removed. Motion made by Tom to abate the taxes on 25 Lane Drive with the condition that the park owner remove said property within thirty days as well destroying the property and not reselling. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Minutes

Motion made by Sandy to accept the minutes of June 4th 2007. Carol seconded. Motion passed. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.
Motion made by Tom to re-open the minutes of May 21, 2007. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.
Corrections Roll Call Votes: Minutes of 5/21/07 Motion made by Sandy to leave non-public meeting at 7:43 p.m. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.
Motion made by Sandy to leave non-public meeting at 7:15 p.m. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.
Motion made by Sandy to leave non-public meeting at 7:43 p.m. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.
Motion made by Tom to leave non-public meeting at 7:58 p.m. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Motion made by Sandy to leave non-public meeting at 8:40 p.m. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes. Amended as stated. Tom seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.

Appointment

Motion made by Sandy to appoint Priscilla Lemaire to the Fair Hearings Board Committee, expire April 1, 2009. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. *Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.*

Transfer Funds

Motion made by Sandy to transfer \$1562.00 from the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve to the Town account. Carol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. *Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes; Selectman Gilligan – yes.*

Route 3

Sandy stated that she had asked the members of the Planning Board if anyone was interested in serving on the Route 3 corridor study. Sandy said that no one was interested.

Purchase Orders

BOS discussed and signed purchased orders and checks.

Computer

BOS discussed the Highway Department wanting internet access for their computer.

Non-Public

Motion made by Tom to go into non-public session at 10:40 p.m. under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Carol seconded. Motion passed. 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes, Selectman Gilligan – yes. Motion made by Tom to go back into public session at 10:50. Carol seconded. Motion passed. 3-0. Roll Call Vote: Chairperson McKenney – yes; Selectperson Merrill – yes, Selectman Gilligan – yes.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Tom. Seconded by Carol at 10:51 p.m. Motion passed 3-0.

SANDRA A. MCKENNEY, CHAIRPERSON

CAROL M. MERRILL, SELECTPERSON

THOMAS R. GILLIGAN, SELECTMAN