

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
HELD AT THE BROWNFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
AUGUST 20, 2024
MINUTES

Selectmen in Attendance: Ricky Emery and Frank Day.

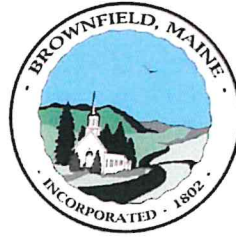
Other Attendees: Senator, Rick Bennett; Dakota from DOT; Public Works Director, Clifton Cousins; Fire Chief, Richard Perreault; Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton; Rec Director, William Tracy; Brian Merrill; Tiffany Caswell; Chad Pine; Vincent Carbone; Vincent Lanovara; Dan Larson; Deborah Tait; Brian Fortier; Joe Egan; Whit Lucy; Terry Egan; Deb Merrill; William Flynn; Edward LeBorgne; Lori Brann; Alice Fitzgerald; Laura Ameika; Steve & Dawn Metivier; John Mouney; Erik Walker; Brad Fuller; Kevin Sullivan; John Broaddus; Steve Bartoa; Roy & Eledz Towle; Paul Kofton; Kimberly Kofton; William Sorreti; Doug Smith; Andrew Walton; Patty Barber; Bruce McLaughlin; Peter Cole; David McNault; Karen McNault; Dan Hester; John Lambert; Jack Wadsworth; Jason Briggs; Lillian Tilson; Sooz Eland; F. Bruce Sleeper; Nate Wadsworth; William Nunan; Hollie Hazzard; and, Clifford Cabral.

Chairman, Ricky Emery called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and called for a Pledge of Allegiance.

Ricky motioned, Frank 2nd to accept the Minutes of August 13, 2024. Vote 2-0-0: Unanimous by show of hands.

Payroll and A/P were approved.

Ricky explained that this is a BOS meeting and asked Senator, Rick Bennett to come forth. Senator Bennett explained the process started with the Mountain Division Alliance and stated the rails are a State Asset, that they started with a plan to remove the rail line and convert it to trails. He said we are now at a point where the Mountain Division Trail Feasibility Study has been done and we are planning how to build the trails. Dakota Hewlett from Maine Department of Transportation spoke on the progress so far and explained that they will develop in segments based on available funding and that the earliest phase will be 2026 for the 31-mile section; The lack of land for a trailhead in Brownfield and concern about rescue in event of an emergency was discussed; State property might be an option for a trailhead; Road crossings and safety were another topic of concern; For maintenance they are looking forward to a possible trail employee but it was said that the Town of Fryeburg Public Works maintains their section; They will try to work with abutters of the properties along the way; Phase 1 is Fryeburg to Brownfield; As for the cost of this, Dakota said we will be seeing an increase of costs over the years; Non-Profits might volunteer



with some maintenance and funding and whether they were going to plow the trails, allow snowmobiles, ATV's and horseback riding; Who would be responsible as far as liability is concerned, Dakota said it would be similar to sidewalks; Other concerns were put-puts, working farms, and fences; The State will own the corridor and maintain it for future rail use; In event of a hurricane, clean up would be determined on a case by case basis; Corporate Sponsors are a possibility; Taxpayer burden for a small town is another concern; Dakota said they are assembling data on the cost in Fryeburg; Donation boxes might be considered to ease burdens; Another issue is access for construction equipment; direct abutters will get notices. Dakota also said that they will not start without a maintenance agreement.

With no further discussion or questions, Ricky motioned, Frank 2nd to adjourn. Vote: 2-0-0. Unanimous by show of hands.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alvina Day
Administrative Assistant