



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2023

MINUTES

Selectmen in Attendance: Dick Norcross, John Hicks and Frank Day.

Attendees, Brian Merrill; Richard Merrill; Dana Forcier Jr.; Fire Chief, Dicky Perreault; Vinny Lanovara; David Boyle; Tom Mango; Rec Director, William Tracy; Tiffany Caswell; Public Works Director, Cliff Cousins; Animal Control Officer, Cynthia Eaton; Dan Larson; Lisa Hebert; William J. Flynn; Erik Walker; Cindy Walker; Chad Pine; Kristin Tremblay; Paul Cail; T. Kelley; Charles F. Day, Jr.; Patrick Lewis; Tom & Kim Espinosa; Bob & Cheryl Spear; Patrick Bryant; Cathy Berg; John Berg; Scott Ames; Ada Lane; Kimberly Betters; Brian Betters; Jim Metivier; Kimberly Brown; December Brown; Jeff Findler; Linda Draper; Susan Foster; Shawn Leighton; Joe Egan; Dennis Bourbeau; Joe M.; Peter Zack; Whit Lucy; Judy Mcilvaine; Judi Tordo; Richard Sanborn; Ron Donnell; Debbie Day; Travis Day; Phill Harnden; Conway Daily Sun, Daymond Steer; Administrative Assistant, Alvina Day; Richard Towle; Margaret Mills; Derek Walker; Lisa Saffer; Chris Wentworth; Roger Wharton; Jason Searles; Neal Mcilvaine; Terry Egan; Fred Smith; Cindy Rusakovich; Keith McCarron; Lori Tibbetts; Tom Pierce; Bruce Collins; Mike Mahoney; Hailey Boudreau; BJ Parker; Leanne Tracy; Sheriff, Matt Baker; Warden, Lucas Bellanceau; Bookkeeper, Lynn Boyle; and Zoom Attendees: Ipad(9) Paul Tucker; April Perreault; Paul Forbes; Iphone 14 (no name); 207; Paul's ipad; 9783171050; Samsung smn975u; Megan.

Dick Norcross called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM and asked people to be nice to each other and to raise their hands to speak. He said they will be sticking to agenda items.

The Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants were approved.

Dick motioned, John second to approve the Minutes of August 1, 2023. Voted affirmative by show of hands.

Vinny Lanovara suggests Articles 6 & 7 go on the warrant as they were originally written based on Maine Municipal Association response. He explained the process of writing articles and suggests they publish in the local papers what happened and why it happened. John said they are not invalid but it is problematic. Erik Walker suggests the Board have the Attorney look at Articles 8 & 15, also saying article 15 is short on the payroll for the Animal Control Officer and article 8 had two raises for one of the employees. Terry suggested rewrite the articles with the amendments corrected with legal language. Bruce Collins said articles at a special town meeting can be amended again but a referendum cannot be amended.

ATV use on Dugway Road involved safety, enforcement, and education. Kristin said she was here to talk about safety. She is not trying to take away what they love, she said it is a very dangerous situation and doesn't want to lose people we love. Dick said the key is enforcement and education. Warden Bellanceau said there are no laws that regulate ATVs on public ways, that game wardens' police off road incidents and Sheriff's Office incidents on roads. The Town of Brownfield has open access.

Lori Tibbetts introduced Bob Stare, President of the Denmark ATV Club. Bob spoke at length starting with the 1st issue for the Board to decide, is Dugway as a public road, safe for ATV travel and the 2nd issue, are ATVs, cars, & trucks on Dugway Road, a law enforcement issue. If he knows of an issue, he will send out notices and notify law enforcement every time he sends anything. He said Dugway Road is one of the safest roads he has been on. They have held a safety course in the past and are planning on doing another one next year. He explained they submitted everything to the State after they received town approval, this year they resubmitted everything because Maine DOT lost the paper work. He reported that in Maine we have quite a few miles, about 6,000 miles of ATV trails and estimate they receive about two hundred million dollars from the ATVs. The club is here to stay and their goal is to make it safe for everyone.

Joe Egan said he is not opposed to ATVs and asked what is a person to do when people are speeding recklessly on Dugway Road?

Kevin Merrill trail master cuts brush so signage shows.

Bruce Collins spoke on ATVs not having insurance but several people said they did have insurance.

Cliff spoke on working on Dugway Road recently and didn't have a problem with ATVs. There are more cars, trucks and jeeps speeding than ATVs.

Paul Cail spoke on safety issues and another person spoke on signage. Dick suggested when they put out signs to have someone that doesn't know the area go with them so the signs will show.

Terry Egan said the law is for children under 10 to have to wear a helmet. She said Dugway should not be posted as an ATV trail and should be an ATV access route.

BJ Parker said lawbreakers will not follow the law, people break the law no matter what, leave the risk to the driver.

John asked how many accidents have there been. There has been on accidents reported. Dick read the complaints to the Sheriffs as reported in the annual town reports as: 2018-1; 2019-0; 2020-1; 2021-6; and 2022-7.

Kristin said she took an audit from 9:30-3:30 on Sunday, saying there were 29 ATV's and Side by Sides. She said 5 were going the speed limit and the rest were not. She said there were some

convoys. She doesn't think Dugway is wide enough. She asked how do we make people safe and how is the town liable? Dick said if you hit the ATV, it is your fault but if they hit you, it is their fault. Someone asked Kristin if she had a radar gun and she said no.

Access Route signs are posted by Maine DOT on State Roads and Bob Stare said he can post the signs on Dugway as a Public Road not a trail. He said they took down the maps to limit the amount of traffic that we get. The only people that get them are club members.

Frank Day, Jr. said that ATVs should be driving the speed limit that vehicles drive to keep the flow of traffic.

Vinny Lanovara spoke on ATVs on the other end of Dugway, near Stone Mountain Art Center, he said he doesn't think we should shut the road down adding that we don't shut down the Saco River.

Cindy Walker asked what do you recommend people do if they are having a problem. She spoke on the bicycle hazard on Haley town road. Sheriff, Matt Baker said he doesn't think they should call the emergency line 911 but can call the office line.

Kristin asked about the difference between a trail or access route. Someone explained access route means a shared route with autos.

Terry read the law concerning a public way must be posted conspicuously.

Bruce asked what is the criteria for filing an accident report.

Joe said they came here not to shut down the road to ATV's but the speeding problem. He asked the ATVer's to spread the word and the club posted a sign that said "respect it or lose it".

Dick thanked everyone and asked Bob to get with Kristin and put up more signage and asked the Sheriff and Game Warden to make a couple of passes up there to try to slow people down.

Dick motioned, John second to adjourn. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.

This meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alvina Day, Administrative Assistant