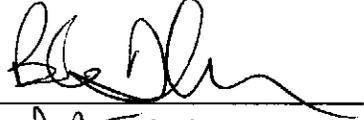
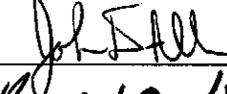
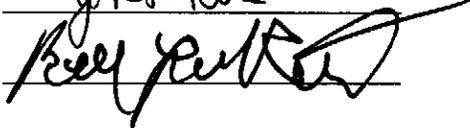


Bob Thompson   
John Allen   
Bill Lockard 

**Selectmen's Board Meeting**  
May 26, 2016

Present: Bob Thompson, Chairman; John Allen and Bill Lockard, Selectmen

Visitors: Town Administrator Julie Atwell, Administrative Assistant Julie Hoyt, Police Chief Doug Jette, Videographer Hank Benesh, Bea Davis, Bob Davis, Stan Weiss, Betsy Harding, Martha Benesh, Joan Aubrey, Sarah Clemons, Joyce Allen, Richard Levine

Chairman Bob Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**1. Amend & approve minutes**

- a. Selectmen's Meeting – May 12, 2016 The minutes were approved as written.
- b. Non-Public Session – May 12, 2016 **Selectman Lockard, seconded by Selectman Allen, made a motion to seal the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.** The envelope was signed.
- c. Non-Public Session – May 12, 2016 **Selectman Lockard, seconded by Selectman Allen, made a motion to seal the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.** The envelope was signed.

**2. Update on May 12, 2016 Action Items**

- a. Upcoming Selectmen's Meeting Dates The next meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup> and then June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

3. **NHEC – Tree Trimming** This is on the agenda at Betsy Harding's request due to a Memorial Tree being taken down in front of the Jackson Community Church. NHEC was asked about tree trimming policies. Scott Knapp had been to Jackson and communicated with the residents in the town and with the Office. The line Right of Way is fifteen feet on either side of the conductors and twenty feet over. NHEC has the right to remove all trees underneath the wires except those that will not be higher than eight feet. Before they begin work NHEC makes autodial phone calls to each abutter to a pole. Folks can update their information if they didn't hear about it through a calling. That information will be put out on Enews. The crown of the tree in front of the Jackson Community Church was up into the wires and the tree has a mature height of plus or minus eighty feet; it had to go

due to safety concerns. Scott would be happy to meet with Betsey to discuss planting another tree. That is the synopsis regarding the tree that had to be cut down in front of the Jackson Community Church. NHEC cuts trees on a regular schedule for safety and to assure service reliability; it's preventative vegetation removal. Betsey noted Scott Knapp is terrific to work with; he recommended a tree for near and/or under the wires. Her issue is with the town; she was referred to the Minutes with one line that said NHEC had clearing to be done until the beginning of April; that tree was cut on May 13<sup>th</sup>; everyone thought the tree trimming was done. The Selectmen knew this was coming; if the Board had put out the word folks would have been able to act on it. No one called the church; it seems incumbent upon the Selectmen who knew this was coming. Jackson has Enews and the Board should have used it. Gary Spears put that tree in about twenty years ago; it had been maintained regularly by the church so as not to cause a problem; now there's a big hole. Secondly, regarding tree trimming on Scenic Roads, any trimming of trees needs to be approved by the Planning Board and the Planning Board didn't get any notice about Thorn Hill Road. Scott said they were in very bad shape but there is a State RSA that requires notification. Road Agent Kelley was aware of this but the Planning Board should be giving its approval. Betsey asked Administrator Atwell to send out a notice of what could be happening and to reach Scott before trimming is done but Administrator Atwell didn't want to go with it. Administrator Atwell noted she was waiting for Betsey's attachment. This was something that should go out; she was tempted to do it but she felt it should come from the Selectmen. This happens every five years; it's pretty straight forward but it would be better to learn beforehand rather than to drive around town in shock. Bea would also like to point out that there is an RSA that states the property owner is responsible for the removal of dead trees on their property. There were trees removed that the homeowner should pay for, not the town. She will provide the Selectmen with that RSA. Selectman Allen noted he was Chairman when the tree trimming information came forward. He noted he didn't think it was a big thing; this is customarily done every five years; it's not new. Administrator Atwell will get the information regarding tree trimming on Scenic Roads and will also ask Scott Knapp about the dead tree removal. Betsey noted it's important to remind Scott that the trimming was done on a Scenic Road.

4. **Police Report** Chief Jette noted the Police Department participated (with the Bartlett PD) in the Bike Safety Day at Storyland two weeks ago; there were one hundred five kids who were educated about riding on the roads. A letter was received from the Mount Washington Valley Biking Club thanking the Jackson Police Department for participating. Over the past two weeks there were two arrests; one was for an altered registration and the other was for a significant amount of marijuana. As noted at the last meeting Chief Jette talked with Kenny Crowther about a height sign on the Covered Bridge. The response was that there is a sign that shows the height of the bridge just before the turn on to the road to the bridge. The DOT Officer told Chief Jette that getting the height sign back on the bridge is not going to happen; it's overkill so that's a closed topic at this time. It was an arguable point that Chief Jette lost. Chief Jette noted there's been some recent conversation from local business owners regarding extending liquor

licenses to outdoor venues and the effect on the noise level in town. A resident spoke with a business owner who was generating noise in town; a request was made to simply close their doors and windows so the music isn't heard until one a.m. The resident was met with disturbing comments from the business owner. Chief Jette will get together with Selectman Lockard and go talk with the business owner. Chief Jette may or may not be able to do something but it's in the Selectmen's lap as it's a community issue. Chairman Thompson noted even the state noise ordinance can be subjective; in Chief Jette's opinion, based on what he knows, was the business owner in violation of the state noise ordinances. Chief Jette noted it walks the line; if he were to fall back on the state law, then no the business owner wasn't in violation of that.

5. **Public Comment** Sarah has two comments. She put in a Right To Know request asking to look at the pay and benefits for town employees and to see the information the town used to compare Jackson employees pay versus what other towns pay their employees. She was informed by Administrator Atwell the comparison information doesn't exist. Sarah thinks that information should be available if the comparison was the basis for the four percent raise. Sarah has asked twice for the information and was informed that a specific RSA prevents Sarah from receiving it. Sarah walked into the town of Conway Office where she was treated with respect, she filled out no form and walked out with the information. Conway has a website and the information is right on the screen. Sarah wondered if it would be possible for Administrator Atwell and the Selectmen to review this and see about it. This would mean no copies, no paperwork and no bothering the Office. Stan Weiss would like to know why the Minutes were not published in the Enews before today's meeting. Chairman Thompson has no idea why it was not in the Enews. Administrator Atwell noted the Minutes were published on Enews either Monday or Tuesday; she will confirm when they were posted. Chairman Thompson noted, regarding Sarah's request for the comparison information, he has nothing left from the study that was done; he didn't think it was important. Other Boards have given two, three and four percent increases across the board. Regarding her request for information, the Office has gone right to the NH Municipal Association to ask if it is okay to give certain information out. If they give the okay then the information is given out; if they say it can't be given out then the Selectmen cite the RSA as to why they can't provide that information.

- a. **Wildcat Townhouse Resort Association** Richard Levine joined the Board; he is interested in buying back the lots the town owns (eleven through twenty seven). Richard noted he's here as President of the Homeowners Association. Nine years ago these building rights were taken for back taxes. Richard came in to the Selectmen three or four years ago and requested to buy them back and there's been no movement on the request. These lots are sitting there making no money for the town; and a request was made to the town to allow the HOA to redeem them or put them up for auction or sale with sealed bids. These lots are still sitting there making no taxes for the town. If the town approves the buyback then back taxes would be earned too. Richard is requesting that the

Selectmen contemplate this option. Selectmen Allen and Lockard think it is okay to look into the process. Richard wondered if the Board would request input from town council. Chairman Thompson noted he's been on the Board for more than four years and this is the first time he's met Richard. This is all new information to the Board; they will seek input around town and with abutters and will probably talk to whomever else is appropriate. This topic will be carried over to the next meeting and the Board will plan to have new information for the next meeting. Later in the meeting Chairman Thompson noted he'd like to run this by Assessor Jason Call as to what is the best way to proceed about this; he's pretty confident this hasn't come before the Board previously.

## 6. Building Inspector

- a. Weekly Report – Kevin Bennett Inspector Bennett is not in attendance tonight. Chairman Thompson reviewed the presented items.
- b. Building Permit 2016-27/Old Library – Signatures required **Selectman Allen, seconded by Selectman Lockard, made a motion to sign the Building Permit for the Old Library. The motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Building Permit 2016-28/Map V09 Lot 24/Owner – Rattay/76 Graustein Lane/Build Greenhouse
- d. Building Permit 2016-29/Map R12 Lot 154/Owner – Caruso/Pine Brook Road/Renew
- e. Driveway Permit/Map V1- Lot 106/Owner – Venema/271 Tin Mine Road/Install a new driveway entrance

## 7. New Business

- a. 2 – Report of Cuts – Signatures Required **Selectman Allen, seconded by Selectman Lockard, made a motion to approve the Report of Cut for Map R24 Lot 1, owned by Rick Davis. The motion passed unanimously. Selectman Allen, seconded by Selectman Lockard, made a motion to approve the Report of Cut for Map R30 Lot 17, owned by the New England Forestry Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. 1 – Intent to Cut – Signatures Required **Selectman Lockard, seconded by Selectman Allen, made a motion to approve the Intent to Cut for Map V08 Lot 221, owned by Karen Moore. The motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Channel 3 MOU Renewal – Signatures Required This is the renewal to the contract with Channel 3; there are no changes from last year.

**Selectman Lockard, seconded by Selectman Allen, made a motion to sign and accept the MOU with Channel 3. The motion passed unanimously.**

- d. JGS – Employee Enrollment and Tuition Agreement There is already an agreement in place that is honored with the school staff; the school would like to extend this agreement to town employees so a child of a full time staff member would receive free tuition; part time employees that want to send their children would do so at a cost of twenty five hundred dollars per child for the year. The Selectmen’s support is requested as the Grammar School is looking to get the enrollment up. This was brought to the Selectmen before as something to consider. Chairman Thompson asked if anyone had any thoughts about this. Bea feels the School is doing this just so they can keep their jobs; she thinks it’s wrong since the school is funded by Jackson taxpayer dollars. Sarah noted she’s been to many of these meetings and the Selectmen have said that decisions of this magnitude should go to the March meeting and she is asking that this wait; the Selectmen have said that to the public so many times at this meeting that it’s important to get more than just the opinion of those at the Selectmen’s meeting. This benefit has also been given to the Library too. Martha Benesh is not for or against this but she wants data, how many kids are they talking about; two kids or twenty kids? It would be nice to bring this up with a larger group. Selectman Lockard agrees it needs to go before the town; it’s a money obligation he doesn’t feel comfortable making. It was clarified that no one is looking to put an agreement into place for September. Administrator Atwell will talk to Jessica DellaValla to refer her to the Minutes of today’s meeting for input. Administrator Atwell noted Jessica was just leaving the information here for the Selectmen to think about. It is a valid concern if it is an agreement the Selectmen are entering into then the people of the town should be asked for their support at the Town Meeting.
- e. Trustees of Trust Funds – Withdrawal Requests **Selectman Lockard, seconded by Selectman Allen, made a motion to withdraw three thousand eight hundred five dollars and ninety cents from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund (0027) for the invoice dated May 19, 2016 from Innovative Creations, Inc. in the amount of three hundred nineteen dollars; invoice number 151873 dated April 21, 2016 from Fleet Safety Equipment, Inc. in the amount of one thousand five hundred eighty seven dollars and ninety cents and for invoice number 527347 dated May 4, 2016 in the amount of one thousand eight hundred ninety nine dollars. The motion passed unanimously.**
- f. NHEC – Vegetation Control Service, Inc. and herbicide spraying NHEC will be selectively spraying herbicide for unwanted vegetation within the powerline corridors. The lines are identified and anyone with sensitive areas within the ROW can notify NHEC they don’t want the treatment. Door hanger notices were left with each abutter. Selectman Allen noted

folks can opt out of the service. Martha noted folks in town have a tendency to get really upset about this, especially if they find out it was sprayed after-the-fact. She thinks the information should be put out there now; it's good PR and will save the Selectman a lot of aggravation on the other side. If Martha came home to find out her area had been sprayed without any discussion she'd be upset; there are some folks that will be furious. Selectman Lockard noted there was notification about the tree trimming and that didn't go well. If this is imminent he wants it out there in the town Newsletter, the Enews and on the counter here at the office with the maps. Selectman Allen will take the blame for not getting the information about tree trimming out but this hasn't happened yet and the Selectmen will get it out there. Chairman Thompson wondered if NHEC is informing the town they are doing it or are they asking for permission. This is a case of NHEC is going to do this unless an abutter contacts them. This is the first notice the Board has seen about this; the Office will craft an Enews notification; the packet just came in the mail. Scott Knapp will be called to learn more about the project; he could have come before the Selectmen; they are interested in learning more about it. The Board was urged to do the right thing and make sure folks are notified. The town had a Knotweed Committee and had discussion about what the options were before making that decision. Hammering that out was important to the people in Jackson. The biggest concern is will they be done by June 20<sup>th</sup> or will they be starting then? Just in case it's starting immediately, the Board will put the information together and get it out.

## 8. Old Business

- a. Building Inspector Job Description Selectman Lockard noted the Building Inspector's Job Description has been under discussion over the last two to three months; there's been talk about making changes to it. The Job Description Inspector Bennett is operating under was vetted through this venue (the Selectmen). Job descriptions are a flexible document. Ken Crowther and Selectman Lockard looked at it and removed two things having to do with septic systems. This won't degrade Inspector Bennett's work. The rest of the suggestions do not make any material changes; it all remains the same. **Selectman Allen, seconded by Selectman Lockard, made a motion to approve the new Building Inspector Job Description as revised May, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Transfer Station Updates So far there is no update; Selectman Allen is trying to get a date set for the committee to meet. Gene is very busy with the end of the year in Concord; he's promised to get back with the Board soon with dates. Chairman Thompson wants to know what would make the best step forward on this. Selectman Allen noted Jon Hebert is the Liaison for Bartlett; Jackson has permission to do the work up there and the money's been approved by both towns. This work will start with Selectman Allen and Jon Hebert talking to Engineer Burr Phillips to get some ideas to start with. There's been discussion a number of times about

the role the Highway Departments from both towns can have with this. It's agreed it's time to get the ball rolling; this is the time of year to get this done.

9. **Public Comment** Sarah provided Administrator Atwell her copy of the information she got from Conway; she noted this is what the Office is telling her she can't have from Jackson. This is the information that she got from Conway that she's being told that she can't get here from Jackson. She doesn't see why she can't get the information from Jackson on this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Martha D. Tobin*

Recording Secretary