

February 26, 2019

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at 5:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Absent: Michael J. Buysse and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Also present: Brett McLeod, a Professor from Paul Smiths College, 7 Paul Smiths College Students, 9 Residents, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Mr. Wilson turned the floor over to Brett McLeod to talk about the Forest Management Plan for the Keene Community Forest at Marcy Field.

Mr. McLeod gave a brief introduction and began by saying Paul Smiths College had been fortunate in receiving this bid, he said the students had been working on both a long and a short term plan. He turned the floor over to the students to explain a little about what they had been doing.

Tristen said that he, Trevor and Mitch were the inventory group, he said they had measured trees on 10% of the 66 acres involved.

Jerimiah said that he, Katy and Tyler (who was not present tonight) were working on the arts and science of tending to the forest. Katy went on to explain that their group works on the health of the forest, including work on invasive species.

Olivia said she has been working on the stake holder's communication point; Lily said she is working with Olivia and further explained they are looking and fitting the goals into the plan.

Mr. McLeod had some of the students show and explain a map they had developed, which broke the 66 acres up into 6 or 7 different areas according to the types of trees it contained.

Mr. McLeod said it seemed that the goal wanted for this plan is more long term and said the surveys will help prioritize what the people are looking for.

Pete Nelson said this land borders both State and private land and asked if there was any coordination with those landowners.

Mr. Wilson said he has been in contact with the majority of the adjoining private landowners.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he was personally interested and asked if acceptance of the surveys was still going on; he was told yes it was and Mr. Wilson gave him one and made more available to the public.

Katherine Brown asked about the cutting of Christmas trees; Mr. McLeod went on to explain that there was an area off to the side of the field, about 2 ½ acres, that would be good for growing Christmas trees. He said it was not viable to grow them in the forest.

Mr. Wilson said he had spoken with a forester from Essex County Soil and Water about cutting Christmas trees in the Balsam Fir stands that are already growing.

Mr. McLeod responded that these trees are 40 or 50 feet tall, he said that logs could be harvested from the bottom, the boughs could be used for wreaths and the top 6 feet could be used for Christmas trees.

Tony Goodwin spoke about the soil being "too good" for actually growing trees; Mr. McLeod agreed.

Mr. Biesemeyer said there is an individual on the Molly Nye Road who marks trees of interest; he said the rare red cedar grove would be a good area to do something like this saying he would like to see the interesting things marked for others to see.

One of the students spoke to this idea mentioning a couple of interesting things he'd seen.

Mr. Wilson suggested with the aging population that this type of trail with benches could be productive.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if the Paul Smiths students would be doing the trail work; one of the students responded that they would not, he said they would be proposing the trail work.

Mr. Wilson went on to explain that the results of the mapping being performed by this group would enable him to apply for 2 other grants for the performance of the work.

(discussion continued)

Erin Pelkey, who said she used the existing trail up to 3 times a day some days said she would not like to see this area turned into multi-recreational trails. She said she would be very happy to see it turned into an educational place.

Marcy Neville, who said she lives nearby and walks her dog in this area said she worries about whether people trap there.

Mr. Wilson said he doesn't think so but said the Town could set rules for use.

Mr. Wilson said that recreation is the primary goal. He said that DEC and the US Forest Service has grants for educational and recreational projects.

Mr. McLeod said when their project is finished the Town will be supplied with maps made in layers for showing things like topography, trees, etc.

David Craig asked if the public would have access to these maps.

Ms. Pelkey asked if there would be a need for a steward or ranger at this site; Mr.

Wilson spoke about trying to get some volunteer hosts for Marcy Field.

Anne Hough asked if there was any consideration to enlarging the parking area; Mr.

Wilson said that would involve a lot of work and went on to say that it is possible that the old highway garage site may be used as an interpretation area with bathrooms, he said he is looking for \$1.7 million to make this happen.

Mr. Craig expressed his concern saying that for years his family had enjoyed visiting the site of an unusual burl and said one day they went to the site and it was gone.

Mr. Biesemeyer told his experience as a builder as it related to twigs and burls.

Mr. McLeod stated that it's pretty hard to regulate the harvesting of burls, though he said the harvesting of a few white pine each year is easier to regulate.

Ms. Pelkey asked if there is the possibility of the tapping of the birch.

Mr. McLeod said it takes a lot of birch sap to make a little syrup.

One of the students stated that there are some areas of this forest that could benefit from cutting it.

Mr. McLeod stated that he looks forward to coming back with a proposal that is practical for the discussed area.

Mr. Wilson closed by assuring those present that this would be a human power recreational and educational project.

The Board thanked Mr. McLeod and the students for coming and for their presentation.

Resolution No. 79 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at the request of Chloe Greppi, she and her fiancée be given permission to hold their wedding at the Holt House and Marcy Field on September 5, 2020. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

Resolution No. 80 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request, the American Legion be given permission to use the Holt House and Marcy Field for their 13th Annual Flaming Leaves Exhibition on Sunday, September 15th, 2019. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

Mr. Wilson shared a partial Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statement for December 2018 with the Board saying that Cathy Persons will be here on Thursday to work with Ms. Whitney to balance out 2018. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that the bid opening for the Salt Shed had been held on Friday, February 22nd.

He said that the bind the Town is in is that due to a recent increase in materials, the cost of this project as originally designed has put it over budget. He said to build using the original plan, the Town would have to find an extra \$72,800. He suggested to get back into budget, the design be dropped in size by 30 feet.

The Board asked Scott Smith if he was okay with scaling the size back; Mr. Smith said he was.

Resolution No. 81 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the bids as opened, scale the project down by 30 feet using the alternate bids and award the electrical and the general construction bids to the low bidders. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

Mr. Wilson said he had a couple legal issues for Executive Session.

Resolution No. 82 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board go into Executive Session to discuss legal issues. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

The Town Board entered Executive Session at 6:32 PM.

Resolution No. 83 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board reconvene into regular session. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 6:42 PM.

Mr. Wilson said no decisions were made in Executive Session.

Resolution No. 84 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

(list following)

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 103 to 131, totaling \$101,312.62, as follows:

General Fund Bills	- \$74,376.39
Highway Fund Bills	- 20,245.62
Library Fund Bills	- 70.18
Water District #1 Bills	- 2,147.11
Water District #2 Bills	- 4,473.32

Resolution No.85 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that with all business having been transacted, this meeting be adjourned. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Absent

This meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
March 1, 2019

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Councilwoman