

TOWN OF MONSON

A Town Where Friendliness is More than Just a Word”

April 5, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

Present were: Select board – Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, and Town Manager, Daniel Swain.

Town members attending: Brian Turner, Bob and Roberta Jarvis.

- 1) The meeting began at 7:00pm., with Daniel Swain and Select Board review and sign a few warrants. He then introduced a guest speaker:
- 2) Matt St. Laurent representing Moosehead Lake Region Economic Development Corporation, established in 2013-14, who gave a presentation to help educate Monson with their purpose for wanting to bring development to our area. With their branding of the Moosehead Lake region as “Americas Crowned Jewel”, Monson falls into their pre-determined 25 mile circumference range that can greatly benefit from their strategy. Monson is considered a gateway to Greenville by developers, and it seems the thrust (in part) is for us to realize developers need businesses to relocate to our area in order for all this to work together. Greenville as a town is trying very hard to attract business and tourism, offering business outlets, artisan cottages and housing, better signage, free Wi-Fi, and reconstructing the main areas of attraction with little parks and viewing areas for tourists. They would like to see the general population grow by at least 25% in order for our region to thrive. Matt offered to return of to be involved in anyone’s groups for a presentation. There were questions and comments as we went along. Toward the end in the context of business possibilities for this region, Brian Turner commented that he had received a call from a gentleman who wanted to know if there were any available store fronts in Monson where he could sell Medical Marijuana. Some discussion revolved around this subject and some places known to grow, produce and ship to other locations, such as the Autumn Brook farm.
- 3) Buddy Martin opened the *Public Comment* section of the meeting.
Public Comments: Bob Jarvis wanted the town to know that the folks involved with Monson’s Business Association wanted to have another business kick-off date on June 2nd after Memorial Day, but before the tourist season began called “Nosin’ ‘Round Monson”. The point of this day would be to offer a day for all our locals along with any enthusiastic tourists to have an opportunity to tour through the many different businesses in Monson. (The more they tour, the better chances they will have to win a prize.) Businesses will likely offer small goods (for free) to the patrons to encourage their tour. There is a committee that is working on this separately from the association keeping us updated.
- 4) **Old Business:** Daniel Swain presented a drafted form to the selectboard for the Gym rental. After reading it with some discussion, it was determined that the forms policies needed to be more specific and the rental costs needed to be revised to benefit the town, as it appeared the first draft rental costs were too low. Daniel will revise the form for the next meeting.

Daniel also rewrote the bid for the Homer Hill house. Upon reexamining the property, and with much discussion regarding the property value, Eric Vainio put up a motion to revise the bid so it reads a minimum asking price of \$18,000. Buddy Martin seconded the motion. The board determined the property was worth trying once more, with the bid deadline at May 10, 2018.

- 5) **New Business:** Travis Herrick was once again unavailable for contact regarding the ending of the winter roads contract. Buddy Martin offered to contact him.

A new date was set up for the interior Gym demolition for April 14th. Eric Vainio commented that there may be a need for tools, like saws, gloves, and other misc. equipment. Bob Jarvis said some men from the American Legion and some members from the Business Association would be available to help, however Brian Turner commented that volunteers should be insured. Eric suggested a waiver as a possibility. Bob commented that if someone is going to sue, a waiver isn’t going to stop them. However, Daniel will find out if we can get a waiver.

Rebekah took her plans for the future events of the Lakeshore House Pub to the Planning board for approval, and they did approve her plans.

Buddy Martin brought up the marijuana ordinance that was passed last year and if it covers both recreational and medical uses. Daniel will check ordinance and with MMA for clarification

Daniel was offered a full tour of Greenville with their town manager and told us about some of what they plan to do in the town which should in turn help Monson and the surrounding area.

Buddy asked about the work that needs to be done on Homer Hill. Daniel said that Chris Latter will do the work. One resident asked about drainage from the town pump house. Chris will examine to determine the need for a ditch.

Daniel said he still meets with Eric Melia weekly and all monies are turned into the town as well as training accountability. Most of our FD's calls were medical related. Though we have ten volunteers there are no new volunteers for our Fire Department. Apparently when someone transferred to the Guilford FD, they (Guilford's FD) were not happy with the amount of time it took for the person's records to follow. As a side note, Daniel informed us all that the Dover Foxcroft Fire Association has agreed to house our antique fire truck.

Roberta Jarvis commented that along with three other large burn piles, there was a tree on fire up on Homer Hill that went on for several days during Easter week, and at the time of this publishing, the Witmer's can still get wafts of the smell. They are unsure if the tree is completely out or is possibly smoldering deep below the ground. Apparently, Eric Melia is aware of the tree fire and has periodically checked on its progress but determined that because it was surrounded by snow, it was not necessary to put it out.

Bob Jarvis brought up the fact that the Bicentennial is only four years away – 2022, and wondered if we needed to begin planning. Daniel remarked that the fireworks were already purchased for the event.

At this time the meeting was called to end by Buddy Martin at approximately 8:15pm.

The next Selectman's meeting was set for three weeks away on **April 19th**.