

# TOWN OF MONSON

*"A town where friendliness is more than just a word"*

## **November 8, 2018 – Select Board Meeting**

Present select board members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio. Town Manager, Daniel Swain.  
Various Townspeople

- 1) Meeting opened at 7:00 PM
- 2) Select board reviews warrants and unapproved meeting minutes.
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joanne Adkins wondered if the North Guilford Rd is going to be paved since steward rd was, Buddy Martin replied that it will not be paved right now, the Steward Rd was a priority due to the level of deterioration of the road.

Buddy Martin brought up the animal control issue regarding the Smith's pigs etc. Cindy Ranta explained that this has been an ongoing issue for many years. She submitted some photos of the pigs in her yard.

Jason Smith addressed the audience and stated that the pigs are now dead. He explained that he got them as a gift for his son when his sister passed away and that he feels it was a mistake. He apologized to the community for the damage and trouble that his animals caused. Cindy Ranta then explained that the animals are not properly cared for. Neal Pinkerton also chimed in about the rabbits and geese. Jim Greenleaf then brought up the fact that the Smith property is not in the agricultural district and therefore no farm animals are allowed. Buddy Martin then explained to Jason that the animals are costing the community money and are a public safety hazard. He then asked Jason if he will give the community his word that he will address the problem. Jason gave his word and said that he is working on it. Buddy Martin stated that the Planning Board is working on new ordinances regarding animals. Jason Smith then apologized again to the community and stated that he would be willing to help in any way he could to repair any damages. The Rantas requested that he stay off of their property.

### **BURNING MOOSE FESTIVAL**

Katahdin Fitzgerald explained to the group what the festival is all about and showed photos of potential art exhibits that might be on display. Buddy Martin asked how they will advertise their

event, to differentiate between it and the Burning Man Festival to insure that “rowdy” people don’t misunderstand and show up at the event. Katahdin explained that they will have family oriented advertising and will also work with the sheriffs office. He then explained that the event will coincide with Snow Roller Day. He also explained that this is all still very preliminary and there is a long way to go before it becomes a reality. He just wanted to give a basic idea of what the festival is about and see what the townspeople think. The plan is to start off with a small turnout and go from there. Jim Greenleaf asked how much acreage will be needed for the event and Katahdin stated that it depends on how many people respond. Jim then stated that Snow Roller has a lot of ice events and should have priority on the lake. Eric Vainio brought up the issue of parking, Buddy Martin mentioned the possibility of the weather being too warm for good ice. Bob Jarvis asked if the town could decide where the event will be set up, Neal Pinkerton asked if the organization has insurance. Daniel Swain noted that this would not be a town event and therefore the town would not be liable for any damages. Buddy Martin will get more feedback from the community and try to have an answer at the November 29 meeting. The discussion was then opened for audience feedback.

Jim Greenleaf feels that the town should give the festival a try, Bobbi Crockett wondered if they would be working with the festival committee, Buddy Martin replied yes, if the town decides to move forward. Bob Jarvis mentioned that the Festival Committee may already have too much on their plate and perhaps another committee could work with them. He also stated that the festival could be good for Monson if it starts off small.

Dee Adams expressed concern about alcohol being served and that it will interfere with Monson’s heritage weekend. Snow Roller is about “pre Libra” Monson. David Ray mentioned that oversight will be very important i.e. art approval, music approval, etc. Buddy Martin expressed concern about the name of the festival because it sounds so similar to the Burning Man. Discussion was had to consider asking them to change the name of the festival. The general consensus was to give it a try but set parameters.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

#### GYM COMMITTEE

Jim Greenleaf stated that more money is needed to finish up smaller projects such as the doors. He also wants to finish up the charter and move on with his life.

Dee Adams stated that the Gym Committee was established to fix the gym and keep it usable for the Monson residents. She feels that this has not been done as the roof and sill are still in bad condition and the budget is all used up. Daniel stated that there is \$7,200 left in the TIF account, and \$5,500 in the Durham account, which can be used for recreational use, therefore this money can be used to complete the projects. A quote for \$5,000 was submitted to fix the door. Buddy Martin mentioned that the frost issue around the door will need to be addressed so that the new door will not break. Brian Turner noted that the rest of the gym maintenance

should be left up to the town. Buddy Martin stated that the roof issue needs to be addressed. Jim Greenleaf stated that the stairwell was included in Killam's quote and that they need to come back to finish it.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Dee Adams stated that they are doing 'in town' basketball as not enough kids signed up to go out of town. There was a good response for the cheering try-outs. Dee requested a page on the web site to try to recruit coaches. She also stated that she needs people to do Christmas cookies and crafts with the kids.

#### FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Dee Adams stated that there will be a meeting on Tuesday to discuss Snow Roller and whether or not they want to work with the Burning Moose people. More volunteers are needed for the Festival Committee as it is too much for 4 people.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – No news

#### OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF 2018 AUDIT – Buddy Martin motioned to accept the FY2018 Audit, Eric Vainio Seconded, vote was 2-0 to accept.

STEWARD RD – Shim coat was added to protect the road for winter. Buddy Martin stated that the road is now good for 3 – 5 years max. The road was plowed by the snow plow contractor less than 24 hours after and it had held up.

TRANSFER STATION FENCE has been fixed for \$2,500.00

NORTH GUILFORD RD BUMPS – Daniel Swain stated that Chris ground the bumps out of the road and will be doing cold patch tomorrow.

#### NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE TO PERSONNEL POLICY – Daniel stated that Brita has reviewed the policy and finds it acceptable. Per MMA, the policy meets all legal requirements. The select board will review the policy for the next meeting.

Bobbi Crockett provided an update on the hospital. A judge lifted the temporary restraining order the previous day. He asked for more paperwork. The judge will rule next week to stop the law suit or let it proceed.

Buddy Martin told Cindy Ranta that Bob Young said there is an animal trespass law that will be looked into.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM