

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes
July 22, 2020
Conference call

Present: Doug Telling, Rob Lingle, Bill Harker

Absent: None

Guests: Randy Crochier, Lisa Danek Burke, Katie and Patrick Banks, Phoebe Walker, Phil and Mary Ellen Banks, Marguerite Willis, Paul Fantuccio, Jen Mooney, Lt. Cormier (state police)

Called to order at 6:00 pm

Telling moved and Harker seconded a motion to join AHI passed 3-0

Harker moved and Telling seconded a motion to approve minutes from 6/24/20 and 7/8/20 passed 3-0

Crochier asked how many showers proposed for the campground.

Pat Banks replied they are proposing one.

Telling moved and Harker seconded a motion to approve temporary showers.

-Telling asked if the person showering needed to get their own water?

-K. Banks replied that person responsible will need to get water and can choose to heat it or not. There will be two shower bags.

-Lingle asked what if multiple people want to shower?

-KB. Designed for one at a time.

-Harker asked if there was a way to heat the water.

-K. Banks replied there is but they can also take a cold shower.

-Harker asked if there must be hot water

-Crochier replied not in campground code.

-Lingle noted that this is a temporary arrangement.

-Telling asked if two bags means two showers

-K. Banks replied no. This allows for back-to-back showers. \

Motion passed 3-0

On signing off on building permit.

-Lingle noted that septic plan not yet approved

-Telling said he signed off on kitchen

-Pat Banks replied that it looks like it was a cabin

-Telling: oops, will change it to the kitchen

-Crochier said need potable water and septic plan approved

-Lingle said that can sign off when Crochier or Danek Burke approve the plans

-Pat Banks asked that it be done as soon as possible

-Danek Burke said we need proof of plan and hot water.

-Crochier asked when was the well drilled?

-Pat Banks replied last Thursday (July 16)

River Issues

- Lingle, these are public safety issues. There is increasing congestion on the river and dangerous parking along the roads.
- Telling reported that he talked to Chief Jared Bellows today about what the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) can provide. Turned the call over the Lt. Cormier
- Lt Cormier state he is meeting with Chief Bellows on 7/23 to discuss what MSP can provide for added enforcement and what MADOT is offering for assistance.
- Walker said it would be helpful to hear from the BOH on what issues are and what they need for support. She clarified that she is on the call to provide information on what can be provided through the CARES Act.
- Lingle said it is both a public safety and public health issue due to uncontrolled congregation of people.
- Telling asked Lt. Cormier to outline what MSP can do.
- Lt. Cormier plans to place 2 troopers at Shunpike and 2 at the Zoar Picnic area. He can add two more roving troopers to control people who cannot park because reached maximum parking and to keep traffic moving, engaging in lawless behavior, and try to get people to abide by guidelines.
- Lingle noted that he has seen people holding tubes out the windows of cars.
- Crochier noted that over the course of the day, the following has transpired: DOT has agreed to install more no parking signs and portable messaging signs for “live parking only” in Shunpike and mandating face coverings. Over the next two days the health agents will be visiting the businesses in town to re-enforce COVID standards.
- Harker noted that citizens have come to him to report that they are being threatened. He appreciates the help MSP will offer.
- Willis asked if troopers are well trained and will take appropriate action, including arrest, if necessary.
- Lt. Cormier replied that the troopers are well trained and will take appropriate action.
- Telling asked if this is a one weekend action?
- Lt. Cormier replied that in general he thinks their presence will help reduce and help solve some of the problems. They will co-ordinate with Chief Bellows and offer additional resources, as they are able.
- Mooney mentioned that there is a large amount of public drug use, and is now as bad as public drinking used to be.
- Fantuccio asked MSP if they would allow parking on the grass at Shunpike. MSP replied that DOT is not going to allow parking on the grass and only live parking, which implies the person does not leave their car.
- Fantuccio asked that the selectmen put more no parking signs along the road and have that enforced.
- Walker stated that we recently learned from DOT that Shunpike is only a rest area for truckers and people who pull over.
- Fantuccio stated that DOT has refused to take responsibility for Shunpike.

- Lingle thanked MSP for their participation and asked FRCOG to look into portapotties, but is concerned this will place responsibility on town. Walker said that is not an issue; costs will be about \$1200 to have them until Labor Day and will be re-imbursed through CARES money.
- Willis opposed them. Believes it will set a precedent and will encourage people to come.
- Telling asked if there were any more questions for Lt. Cormier.
- Fantuccio thinks people coming to Charlemont is greatly appreciated, but noted that he was assaulted the past weekend and that some people are being violent and combative.
- Lt. Cormier his more than happy to bring people to help. They are only a call away and will take of any situation that arises.
- Telling likes the idea of sending police up River Rd to try to combat parking on the road and asked Fantuccio to email any other ideas he has.
- Fantuccio said Brookfield Power needs to be held accountable. Choir of agreement.
- Lt. Cormier was thanked for his support and he agrees that MSP needs to be there early. He left the call.
- Phil Banks noted that he has 2500' of river bank. He has had multiple rescues across his property. The main issue is lack of bathrooms, but also belligerent people coming on to his property. There were 3 rescues last week. They are worried about their health.
- KBanks said there should be a platform to notify people about the water levels. Telling noted that it is hard to get that information to those who enter the river on their own.
- Telling propose three portapotties (PP) for Shunpike. Willis reiterated her opposition.
- Walker noted that the BOH does have the authority to order them as a public health measure to combat the threat of disease.
- Willis said fine, but it is a waste of money.
- Telling noted that they are not the answer, but will help address the problem.
- Lingle believes it will not help.
- Crochier said we need to refocus. This is about the entire river and PP are one tool. They need to be in conjunction with other things.
- Harker said that the police would be reducing the number of people at Shunpike so PP makes more sense.
- Telling agreed and it will help reduce the number of people using the water and bank as a bathroom.
- KBanks if there are plans for enforcement on the river.
- Telling replied that we need to see if the CARES Act will allow us to bring in more police.
- Lingle thinks we need private businesses to be co-operative.
- Willis concerned about community spread. Rescuers for people injured or lost are at risk.
- Lingle said an issue is people won't wear masks and that the BOH cannot be on the river.
- Telling said that we have two decisions tonight, PP and parking, including places like the Great Outdoors, which can be enforced.
- Crochier confirmed that he would be writing an Order pertaining to the river companies.
- Crochier added that this would help put the businesses on notice and with enforcement.
- Telling asked Mooney if Crab Apple has a limit on parking. She replied they have a parking plan in their permit. She thinks 58-60 cars. Now there are 19 parking spaces and tables and they are reserved. They are operating at 25% capacity. She added that the tubing companies are not following these requirements and are operating at full capacity.
- Telling suggests waiting on the PP to see how enforcement goes.
- Mooney thinks that if Shunpike can get back under control, then PP are a good idea.

-Crochier wondered if the electronic sign announcing town meeting might include mandatory mask coverings.

River discussion ended

Telling noted that the last item we need to address is in-person voting. He suggested opening the town hall and having one-way traffic. In a reply to Willis' concern about handicap accessibility, he thought they could exit out the back.

Willis noted that the Select Board are going to discuss this and will get back to the BOH. She then thanked the BOH and is quite happy and surprised and encouraged by the State response.

Telling moved to adjourn Harker seconded. Approved 3-0

Adjourned at 8:05 pm

The minutes are not official until signed.

Documents Reviewed

7/22

- Agenda 7/22/20
- Minutes 6/24 and 7/8