

LWVNH-MWV OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Name: Bartlett Board of Selectmen
Date: October 15, 2018
Place: Bartlett Town Hall
Observers: Ellin Booras
Official Present: Gene Chandler, Chair, Vickie Garland, David Patch (all present)

Business pertinent to League Programs: None

Comment on the conduct of the meeting and standards used in reaching decisions:

Selectmen were polite to all groups and listened patiently to their expressed concerns.

Include pertinent personal observations on attitudes of participants, both members of the board or agency and those in the audience.

Members of the board were respectful and attentive to the items on the agenda. There was definite reluctance to support the presenters from Back Country Alliance. Mr. Drummond was exceptionally professional and articulate as he patiently put his ideas forward and answered questions thoroughly and thoughtfully.

AGENDA

3:30 PM Community Readiness Center - Subject:

– ad hoc representatives were present. Two women presented their concerns about the removal of debris. There was a discussion about FEMA funding and timelines for solutions. The selectmen had little information or updates to share with the presenters.

3:45 Fire Road Access - Subject:

The selectmen welcomed the second group, which was prepared to present concerns about fire road access. The speaker submitted letters from the Fire Department regarding plowing, gates specifically around Allen Road. The speaker cited the Weeks Act as a foundational document governing access. The speaker provided context and history and presented fines he had received in the mail relative to maintaining roads, etc. His case is now on hold in the courts in Concord, NH. Selectwoman Garland inquired as to whether the gate currently prevents the speaker from accessing his property. He replied, “Yes”. Mr. Chandler said, “OK, we’ll draft them a note.”

4:00 PM Andrew Drummond, founder of the Back Country Alliance. Subject:

A burgeoning organization credited for sparking an interest in back country skiing throughout the valley. Mr. Drummond and a colleague made a case for clearing brush on a parcel of land, located in Bartlett that is adjacent to a new area being prepared for back country skiing. A lengthy discussion ensued with selectmen raising issues such as there is no precedent for such use of town land. There were questions raised with regards to a town vote not needed for purposes of voting access to recreate. Mr. Drummond brought up safety concerns if the parcel is not thinned out emphasizing the need for cleanup. Selectwoman Garland expressed that she supported the concept 100% but had some concerns around liability for the town. Mr. Drummond asked the board to look at actions taken by surrounding towns in similar situations citing Marshall Conservation Land and its agreement with the town of Conway. Mr. Drummond asked if his group could post no parking signs adjacent to the location. Selectman Chandler granted his request saying, “You can do that. There is no formal approval” A discussion ensued relative to transferring land and issues surrounding the town’s perceived or actual authority of the land under discussion.

Bartlett Fire Department budget - The presentation included a request for new equipment to accommodate two new members with safety gear. There was a discussion of compliance relative to the provision for state of the art gear to the firefighters. No decisions were made.

4:30 PM Adjourn