

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting

October 10, 2017
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover, Martha Marchut, Dan Staples, Laurie Haynes, Heidi Alley

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Lisa Young, Cushing Town Clerk

Public Present: none

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve Warrants 42 and 43 as amended.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 09/25/17 Meeting:

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve the Minutes of the 09/25/17 meeting with corrections.

Discussion: Dan Staples recommended a minor correction.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Need to Replace Fire Extinguishers

ACTION: [Informal] Alton Grover agreed to talk to Arthur Kiskila.

Discussion: Dan Staples said that Ray Meservey had commented that the fire extinguishers in the Town Office needed to be 10 lbs., not 5-lb extinguishers like the ones that are there now. Ray said that one extinguisher is outdated and needs to be replaced, at the fire department. Also one in the boiler room might need to be replaced.

5b. Knox County Republicans Request to Use the Community Center for a Meeting.

ACTION: Dan Staples motioned, and Laurie Haynes seconded, to allow Sonja Sleeper and the Knox County Republicans to meet at the Cushing Community Center a day after the Selectmen's meeting.

Discussion: The organization has insurance and is willing to fill out an application. In prior years, Select Board had told political groups that the Community Center could not be used for political meetings, but they had found this to be illegal, so now these meetings are permitted.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5c. Free Burn Permits Online – Unauthorized and Illegal

ACTION: [Informal] Selectmen agreed to contact Arthur Kiskila. Lisa Young agreed to contact Cushing Posting and the town webmaster to get the message out.

Discussion: Per a letter that Town Clerk Lisa Young read to the Selectmen, it turns out that only the Maine Forest Service Director can develop an online burn permit system. Therefore, websites such as WardensReport.com and BurningPermit.com, which are private online fire permit systems, are issuing free—but invalid—burn permits. From the letter: “Any resident burning without a valid permit issued or authorized by the MFS is committing a Class E crime and is subject to an enforcement action. 12 M.R.S. 9321(6)” The Cushing Town Office had been encouraging residents to use WardensReport.com, but have to inform them that they are actually illegal. Information on how to obtain a legal permit online for \$7.00 can be found at <https://www13.informe.org/burnpermit/public/index.html>.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Antolini Easement.

ACTION: [Informal] Alton Grover agreed to write a registered letter and send it to Tony Antolini summarizing what the Assessor’s Agent said about the issue of his driveway not being on Town land.

Discussion: Alton Grover noticed that Cushing resident Tony Antolini had only put reclaim on the part of his driveway that he thinks he owns, after asking the Town to maintain the rest because he thinks it’s Town land. According to the tax map, it’s not Town land; it’s a right-of-way. The Town can’t plow it or maintain it, or there might be insurance issues. Dan Staples asked where the plow would turn around, if they can’t use Mr. Antolini’s driveway, and an alternative was discussed.

7. New Business:

7a. Sign Town Warrant

ACTION: Signed around.

Discussion: none.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjournment:

ACTION: Dan Staples motioned, and Laurie Haynes seconded, to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Town Clerk