

Town of Ferrisburgh
Special Selectboard Minutes / DRAFT
September 6, 2016

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, Michael “Red” Muir, Jim Warden.

Town officials present: John Bull, road foreman.

Visitors present: Carl Cole, Stacey Gibbs, Gary Taylor, Stephanie Taylor, Cathy Jones, Tom Kimball.

5:45 p.m. Regular meeting — call to order.

Loretta Lawrence, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

Joint meeting of the selectboard and Atkins Farm Association. Loretta Lawrence began the meeting stating that the town had purchased lot 11 in the Atkins Farm development and would abide by the association rules. She asked if there was a spokesperson for the Atkins Farm Association. Stephanie Taylor replied that there really was not, though officers have been chosen. She followed up by voicing the association’s main concern: the lack of notification to lot owners in Atkins Farm about the town’s use of its lot in the development as an access road to a spillover parking lot for the town offices building. John Bull stated that the zoning administrator granted a building permit, which was posted on the back of the building, as well as in other public places, for the required 15 days. When questioned by Stephanie why, as neighbors, homeowners were not notified, John replied that it is not required for approved lots. John continued by saying that he should have done more to make lot owners aware of the project. He said the town wants to be a good neighbor and member of the Atkins Farm Association.

The next concern addressed was a way to keep down the dust that filters down to homes from the top portion of the gravel road. John Bull said his thought was to pave from the town’s access to the top of Route 7. Questions were asked about road maintenance including how it would be funded and who would do the work. John remarked that this is what his department does. He offered to do the road maintenance (apply chloride and grade the road) as part of the town’s contribution, if the association paid for the stone; he noted the selectboard would need to approve this action. John also said he would ask for permission from the association to put in a culvert in the second driveway to fix the problem of gravel washing out. Loretta Lawrence stated that since the town was also a member of the association, the town would pay its share toward a fund for road maintenance. This topic would be an agenda item at a regular selectboard meeting.

Snow plowing for the access was also discussed. John Bull noted that he could plow just the top portion of Atkins Farm Road, and Peter Denton could plow the rest of the development. Or, other arrangements are possible and certainly up for discussion.

Controlling who enters and exits the access was discussed. John Bull said that the parking lot would be for events, the largest being elections. As for parents of children being dropped off for school using the access, he said he feels that the new stoplight at the corner of Route 7 and Little Chicago Road would alleviate this problem. Loretta Lawrence stated that parents would be notified not to use the access if seen dropping children off.

Carl Cole clarified that there are two separate mound systems. The development uses the north half; the school and the town offices use the south half. So, the town will contribute funds to maintain the south half of the system.

Stephanie Taylor asked that the minutes reflect that the selectboard will notify residents of Atkins Farm if the town has any plans for the access. Loretta Lawrence said that was fair.

John Bull's ending remark was that the town has a lot of resources to be a good neighbor, and would like to see the access have as little impact as possible on the residents. Loretta Lawrence commented that this meeting was a first good discussion. Both town officials and the Atkins Farm Association residents present agreed that communication is key to this partnership. Stephanie Taylor stated that she would get John Bull, and the town, contact information for future communications with the association.

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Steve Gutowski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira