

DRAFT November 20, 2006

APPROVED

HOLLIS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 10, 2006

Selectmen Present: Peter Band, Melinda Willis, Vahrij Manoukian, and Don Ryder

Staff: Catharine W. Hallsworth, Director of Administration

Chairman Band called the emergency meeting to order 7:00 AM in the Community Room of Town Hall. Hallsworth had posted this meeting in the afternoon of November 9th at the Post Office and Town Hall in the outside case.

Noah Dow Cooper Shop. Hallsworth explained that she had been directed to contact Attorney Drescher in regards to paperwork to allow volunteers to enter the property of the Billingsley's of 117 Broad Street at the location of the cooper shop. She pointed out an area of the letter Drescher wrote in regards to the paperwork, stating that once the Town starts to take down the structure, the Town is responsible for the total take down and removal of everything and this could cost the Town money, especially if all the work is to be done prior to December 1st.

Hallsworth also pointed out that although the Town has up to \$10,000 coverage for medical expenses above each individual's own coverage, the Town does not have worker's compensation coverage for volunteers, but only employees. When the Lawrence Barn was dismantled, a professional company with worker's compensation coverage for their employees did the work. This project needs the same type of professional group to do the dismantlement. Hallsworth also stated the report from the Building Inspector is available to the public and states safety concerns for anyone going into the building or dismantling the building. She felt there was a high risk of injury and liability issues facing the Town if this project was left to inexperienced volunteers.

Willis stated that K. Moriarty who had first stepped forward as a private citizen to work on accepting the barn had been overwhelmed on Monday evening, November 3rd, with both the timing and the steps to the project itself. Moriarty decided she could not be the "program manager", but she has a good relationship with Mr. Billingsley and will continue to be the contact person. Moriarty will step back from the project and allow it to go to another place. Willis stated there are three other people who have expressed an interest in ownership of the cooper shop.

Manoukian suggested that anyone who wishes to take the cooper shop should step forward and organize to have the work done. He felt there was too much of a risk for the Town to oversee this operation due to the possibility of injury, disability and suits. Ryder again pointed out that the building was determined to be unsafe by the Building Inspector.

MOVED by Vahrij Manoukian, second by Don Ryder, THAT the Board deny the Town's involvement with the dismantlement of the Noah Dow Cooper Shop.

Willis reported that John Butler was planning on photographing, measuring and documenting the building this weekend. She felt the Board should sign some form of the document that Drescher had presented to allow this to happen.

Ryder pointed out that six years ago he had signed a paper for the expenditure of \$20,000 for an antique structure to be saved. There was supposed to be no further expense to the Town. He stated he would not sign any document. The Town cannot take this building therefore private parties should work out the details for documentation, dismantlement and removal. In the interest in the Town Ryder felt he would have to vote for the Town not to be involved.

Both Willis and Ryder felt the public should be informed on Monday evening.

MOVED by Don Ryder, second by Melinda Willis, THAT the Board TABLE this motion until Monday evening, November 13, 2006. Voting in favor of the motion were Band, Willis, Manoukian, and Ryder; none was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0. Lindsay was absent from the meeting.

Band felt the Board should make it very clear on Monday night that we feel this is a private matter. The paperwork should come from private individuals. This cannot be an official town sanctioned project. The Town is not officially involved. Hallsworth stated she would email Honi Glover and Kirsten Moriarty to inform them that the project is now considered a private initiative, that private liability insurance would have to be used and to work out the details with Mr. Billingsley. Although supportive of the project, this is no longer a Town function. The individuals of the Heritage Commission, if they continue on with this project are acting as private individuals. She would also try to call Mr. Billingsley.

MOVED by Don Ryder, seconded by Melinda Willis, THAT the Board adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Manoukian, Ryder, Willis, and Band; none was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catharine W. Hallsworth
Director of Administration