



SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
MONDAY APRIL 18, 2022

Present: John Kiker and Steven Mattson with 10 members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 P.M. and the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The board accepted a petition to reconsider the replacement of Birch Mill Rd bridge and instead remove the bridge in its entirety, close off both sides of the road at the location of the bridge, and install a walking bridge over Falls Brook. George Fowler and Anthony Irving spoke in support of the petition and cited the environmental benefits of flood plain restoration and the use of the road as a "loop walk" for several residents. 24 residents have signed the petition and expressed their preference for a "T-turn" option as opposed to a cul-de-sac road termination on both ends of the present bridge that may be required.

The board explained the costs already expended for the bridge replacement project that would be lost along with the 50% state reimbursement for a local bridge replacement project that would not be available, the additional costs for research of the altered project scope that would need Board of Finance agreement, the need for land easements from the neighbors to create adequate turn around space beyond the town road right of way, and the need for town meeting approval to abandon part of a road. The petitioners stated that their support for the plan as stated in the petition is dependent upon the suggested "T-turn" road termini and their lack of support should cul-de-sac termini be required. The petitioners also considered the installation of a walking bridge to be necessary for their support.

The board agreed to research the feasibility of the option submitted and the associated issues raised.

Judy Davies, Registrar, updated the board on preparations for the May 3rd Region 18 education budget referendum and the difficulties stemming from staff shortages on that date. She assured the board that the referendum will be handled.

The board appointed John Kiker as Lyme's representative to the Eight Mile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee and Susan Fox as an Alternate Member on the Conservation Commission Inland Wetlands Agency. The board also appointed John Kiker, Steven Mattson, Jim Miller, and Alan Sheiness to the Pension Advisory Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Mattson
For the Board of Selectmen