

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

**Present:**

Selectboard Members: Mike Dunham, Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Kyle Nuse, Eric Osgood

Others: Brian Story, Lois Frey, another member of the Conservation Commission

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order**

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:45.

**2. Discussion of Priority of "Old Business"**

The board and Brian reviewed "old business" items and discussed priorities. Most board members agreed that the reclassification of Mine Road should be the top priority. Doug said he feels that should be number two and derelict buildings should be number one. Nat said he agrees dealing with derelict buildings is important but he thinks it will take a lot of staff time. Brian said the Mine Road item won't be especially consuming of staff time. Eric suggested giving Brian two top priorities: Mine Road reclassification and derelict buildings.

Doug said he has been told that we have the ability right now under existing state statute to address derelict buildings. He doesn't think we should try to develop a policy but should figure out what state statute gives us leverage. Brian said he likes this issue as something to tackle.

The board agreed that Mine Road reclassification and derelict buildings should be the two top priorities.

Lois asked if something can be done with the animal control ordinance before summer. Brian said yes. He said none of the old business items are going away and some are moving forward regardless of whether they are top priorities. The animal control ordinance is almost done and so is the stop sign ordinance.

Lois said the Conservation Commission keeps getting feedback about having dogs on leashes at Journey's End. The board didn't want to require that but there seem to be more dogs running loose. It is a real concern.

Eric asked if the other communities have an interest in strengthening the leash law. Brian said he didn't bring that to the other towns. Nat said the selectboard made a decision not to call out specific areas in town where dogs would have to be leashed. Maybe we should revisit that decision. It wouldn't affect other towns at all.

The other member of the Conservation Commission said it may be difficult to enforce a leash requirement, but if it is in place then if something happens the dog owner can be held accountable. Doug said he thinks a more important benefit of a leash requirement is getting voluntary compliance. We could have a sign saying that leashes were required. We might have to delineate the property boundary within which leashes were required. Eric said

Journey's End is town property. We could control that separate from the ordinance. The sheriff's department requested an animal control ordinance that was uniform in all the patrol towns so he is hesitant to make changes in that to support something in Johnson. But we can make rules as property owner.

Nat asked if that is the only spot in town where there are concerns about leashing dogs. Lois said a generic recommendation is that dogs should be leashed or sufficiently restrained when near children and crowds, at summits, at campsites, at public swimming holes and at road crossings. Fish and wildlife guidelines state that dogs should not come within 300 feet of a deer wintering area. This includes all of Journey's End, the Prindle property, talc mill property trails, and Prospect Rock in the winter. Eric said the town doesn't own Prospect Rock but could have a policy regarding the others. We could put a sign at the entrance to Journey's End saying all dogs must be leashed.

Lois asked if the Conservation Commission can add that to the sign that is already at Journey's End. The board agreed to that.

3. *Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations for the Purchase of the Jewett Property*  
**It was moved and seconded to go into executive session to discuss negotiations for purchase of the Jewett property, the motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 8:05.** The board came out of executive session at 8:23.
4. *Adjourn*  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*