

**Town of Johnsbury
Regular Meeting of the Town Board
Zoom Meeting
March 2, 2021 7:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2172603617>

Meeting ID: 217 260 3617
888 788 0099 US Toll-free
877 853 5247 US Toll-free

PRESENT: Andrea Hogan – Supervisor
Eugene Arsenault – Councilman
Arnold Stevens – Councilman
Laurie Arnheiter – Councilwoman
Justin Gonyo – Councilman
Kate Lorah - Town Clerk

Supervisor Hogan called the Meeting to order at 7:02 and the pledge to the flag was led by Deana Wood.

Approval of Minutes February 16, 2021 meeting

RESOLUTION #45-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Gonyo) Nays – 0 (Arnheiter not yet present)

Correspondence:

- Letter of interest for reappointment to BAR
- Letter of resignation from cleaner

Presentation of Employee of the Quarter was made to Ken Mulvey.

Old Business:

• **BAR appointment**

RESOLUTION #46-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve the reappointment of Candace Lomax to the BAR. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 4 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Gonyo) Nays – 0 (Arnheiter not yet present)

• **Trail Town Resolution**

RESOLUTION #47-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve a proclamation of support designating Town of Johnsbury, Hamlet of North Creek, a Trail Town as follows:

WHEREAS, The Hamlet of North Creek is in close proximity of the North Country National Scenic Trail; and

WHEREAS, The North Country National Scenic Trail (North Country Trail) is one of eleven (11) National Scenic Trails in the country; and

WHEREAS, the North Country Trail Association is the founder of the North Country Trail and continues as the lead volunteer organization for developing and maintaining the North Country Trail from New York to North Dakota for over 4,600 miles of hiking trail; and

WHEREAS, such hiking trail provides a year-round source of pleasure and recreation to the North Country's citizens and visitors to the North Country; and

WHEREAS, many of the citizens in and around the community of Johnsbury and other visitors and citizens of the North Country are becoming more health conscious and are turning to hiking as one of the major forms of maintaining a healthy body; and

WHEREAS, the community of Johnsbury is an ideal destination for many of today's visitors to the North Country, and

WHEREAS, Warren County offers a variety of outdoor and cultural experiences to residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, available supporting services and facilities such as lodging and restaurants make North Creek an outstanding heritage and nature-based tourism destination; and

WHEREAS, casual walkers, day hikers, and weekend backpackers want to enjoy the North Country Trail and the community of North Creek can provide the gateway to their experience.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Johnsburg, NY, does hereby proclaim North Creek to be a NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL TOWN and commends the North Country Trail Association for its work in developing and maintaining the North Country Trail and further encourages all residents of and visitors to take a hike on the North Country Trail.

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5
(Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **RFP for Town tourism website maintenance**

The Town had talked with Gore Mountain about helping with the Town’s website. There has been little done in this regard and the Marketing Committee has decided to put out an RFP as follows:

Project Name: Tourism Marketing Digital Specialist
Proposal Submission Deadline: 3/23/21
Project Start Date: 4/5/21
Project Timeframe: 1 year; Optional renewal annually
Point Persons: Deb Morris, Chair Town of Johnsburg Marketing Committee & Andrea Hogan, Town of Johnsburg Supervisor
Award Requirements: All or partial award may be granted.

RESOLUTION #48-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve RFP presented by the Marketing Committee for Town website maintenance. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Regulation of short-term rentals

Ms. Arnheiter began the discussion of regulation of short-term rentals by suggesting a fee be imposed, the proceeds going toward marketing the Town. She added that there are not enough hotels, and this approach would help with checking safety issues, parking issues, and that a fee of (for example) \$100 would be less expensive than an individual advertising their own property.

Comments that followed included a question of who would be the administrator,

this would invite criticism from neighbors, and the desire to work one's rental independently.

It was agreed that this is the beginning of a lengthy discussion, and that Ms. Arnheiter and Mr. Gonyo would begin a small committee to address the issue.

New Business:

- Trail Easement as part of Connections Trail Plan

As part of the Recreation Plan, there is a proposed easement that would connect trails on Gore to the Ski Bowl. Before sending the proposal to attorneys, Ms. Hogan is asking the Board their thoughts. Mr. Gonyo asked the intended purpose of the trails. It would be used for biking, back-country- and cross-country-skiing. It was agreed to send the proposal to Town attorneys.

- Building use guidelines for 2021

The Board discussed 2021 building use guidelines and agreed that anyone using Town facilities must adhere to Federal and New York State safety guidelines. The consequences for not doing so would be no refund of the deposit and no future use of the facility for two years.

- Vending on Town property

The Board decided that there should not be vending on Town of Johnsburg property unless for a specific event.

- **Cleaner – ratify posting of advertisement and discuss hire**

RESOLUTION #49-21

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to ratify the posting of advertisement for the cleaning position. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Committee Reports:

Mr. Gonyo has been researching resuming the use of the rail line between Riparius and North Creek in the Winter for snowmobiles. He is reaching out to snowmobile clubs to find out their level of interest. There would be questions of maintenance and insurance. The reason to pursue this is because ‘we market ourselves as Winter tourist attraction’ and snowmobiling is just that.

– Fire

Mr. Gonyo said that North Creek took delivery of their new fire truck.

Approval of Warrants

General Fund (Total \$12,550.26)
Highway Fund (Total \$5437.69)
Water District (\$241,491.74)
Trust and Agency (\$662.91)
Total all warrants \$260,142.60

RESOLUTION #50-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve the warrants. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Privilege of the Floor

Cheryl Gillespie asked about cleaning Tannery Pond after the cleaner’s last day. Ms. Hogan said the Parks Department will fill in.

Kelly Nettle brought up the subject of sand for the 2021-2022 Winter. Ms. Hogan said that mining our own sand saves about \$70,000 per year, but isn’t sure of other

expenses involved. The discussion should take place when Mr. Comstock is available, she said.

Deana Wood is interested in grant funding for the purchase of the Wevertown building for the Historical Society. Ms. Nettle said she will look for sources.

Motion to adjourn

RESOLUTION #51-21

At 8:50 Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to adjourn. With 5 members voting in favor, the resolution is declared carried. Ayes - 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays- 0

Next meeting Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah