



**EMERALD LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT**  
HILLSBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 03244

**Monthly Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**

Emerald Lake Village District

**October 11, 2018**

ELVD Office, 147 Main Street, Hillsborough NH

Present: Diane Cunningham, Chairman of the Commissioners (in person)  
Wayne Held, Commissioner (in person)  
Jessica Vitkauskas, Treasurer (in person)  
Kim Grondin, Clerk (in person)

ELVD Residents and guests: Brett Taber, Melissa Taber, Jennifer Raiche, Richard Whiting, Eric Butler, Kaitlin Butler, Sergeant Delayne Brown, Joseph Feindel, and Eileen Feindel.

The regular Board of Commissioners Meeting was duly convened at approximately 6:00 p.m. at the ELVD Office as noticed, with a quorum of two out of three commissioners in attendance. Linda Whiting, Commissioner was unable to attend.

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Kim Grondin, Clerk states she does not have any meeting minutes to be signed off on at this present time.
- 2. Finances:** Jessica Vitkauskas, Treasurer states total expenses for the month was \$16,110.24, with General account equaling to \$8,068.11 and Water account equaling to \$8,042.13. Diane Cunningham, Commissioner made a motion to accept the finances for the month, seconded, and approved.
- 3. Old Business:**  
**Driveway permit Huntington:** Resident has submitted two driveway permits and payment to the commissioners. Discussion was had about the placement of a culvert. Wayne Held, Commissioner does not feel he has enough details to approve the request.

Wayne Held, Commissioner will email resident to get more details and will keep residents up to date.

**Hemlock Street:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states a property on Hemlock Street has water source going to the house, but the house had burned down years ago. Resident is not willing to pay water bill because he does not have a residence there.

**Michael Bean:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states that she doesn't have anything new to inform residents. When Michael Bean contacts her with response, she will let residents know.

**Memorandum of Understanding:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states Justin Richardson, Lawyer has advised the board not to sign the memorandum, until the BOC's have a clear understanding of the issues they are having with it. Diane Cunningham, Commissioner sent out a friend request to Sue Hutchinson, former treasurer to try and get some history of the memorandum. Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states "I sent Laura Buono an email stating Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer advised us not to sign at the moment and would like to set up something where the BOC's can sit down and talk with her." Laura Buono, Town Administrator replied, "I am very busy everyday this month, can you send the questions in an email." Wayne Held, Commissioner states "there is certain things that the town is required to do by law and we need to have a sit down with her". Residents would also like the BOC's to question why the town is able to put our money where they want to access it; whether it be the taxes or water bill. BOC's will keep us up to date on when she will attend a meeting to answer these questions.

**Sanitary Survey:** Sanitary Survey is set up for next Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and BOC's will meet with engineers at the ELVD office at 6:00 p.m. Melissa Taber, Resident asks what the sanitary survey entails. Wayne Held, Commissioner states the BOC's and WSO will meet with an engineer and go around ELVD to inspect all the water sources. Wayne Held, Commissioner explains "this is the initial step of the engineer to get acquainted with our system, so we can proceed in the months to come to take an overall view of our water source to include what projections can be, whether making our water wells better or maybe linking up with the town. We are trying to get water management for the future of ELVD and before we just jump up and fix this and that, we can get an overview from the engineer to see what all our options are for the future. This is the initial first step to improve our water source".

**Trunk or Treat:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states "Trunk or Treat is set up to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, eight residents have signed up but most just show up."

**Email from Justin Richardson:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states she has received an email from Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer stating, "The attorney general has declined to open the investigation into the 2017 annual meeting".

#### 4. **New Business:**

**NH Fish and Game/Bears:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner welcomed Sergeant Delayne Brown from NH Fish and Game. Sergeant Delayne Brown states he is not sure if the "momma bear" was taken, leaving the cubs alone, as he has been out of the office for a couple weeks but does know of two boars taken and that are being investigated.

Sergeant Brown states “my first recommendation is to check on our website, as our website (huntnh.com) has pages and pages of bear information. As for the spring this year, there has been an overabundance of bears; along with the squirrels. We have had three years of mass crop for the bears, as well as three easy winters so reproduction is through the roof but this year, there is nothing on the ground. The population has exceeded their carrying capacity. The harvest so far, to date, has already blown out any high year that we have ever had, it is a record year. Bear season closes in this area on October 12, 2018 but north of here goes into November. Hunters are tool to manage the wildlife population and we have a close eye on it. Our typical complaint that we field, obviously the officers get the complaints first, if it is an issue with protecting and serving, we are there to help but if it’s a behavioral issue whether it be bear or human, the call is then forwarded off to Wildlife Services in Concord. Between Wildlife Services and I, there has been over two dozen complaints, just from ELVD. I don’t want to step on anyone’s toes but every single one of them has been a people problem, not a bear problem. Bears have a brain the size of a golf ball and a stomach the size of a basketball and they think with their stomachs. If there is free food source out there, they are going to take advantage of it because there is not a lot in the woods to eat. They are switching over to their fall foods, which is not there, and their starving. Take down your bird feeders, cleaning up the BBQ grills, don’t feed your dogs outside etc. are all things that you can do to keep the bears away. If you remove the food source, you have removed the bear. Bears do not like pain, so an electric fence is the best method to keep them away. In general, most of all our bear issues are people issues.”

Melissa Taber, Resident asks “will they eat other animals, if they have nothing else”? Sergeant Brown states “they will eat vegetables, meat, etc. Bears are just an overgrown racoon and will eat anything.” Diane Cunningham, Commissioner mentions the cubs that we have hanging around ELVD. Sergeant Brown states “most likely the mother has conditioned them to eat human food sources. Most cubs unfortunately are looking for what mom has taught them to eat and if mom always had access to free human food, then those cubs unfortunately don’t know any better. If they haven’t become an issue, they will end up being an issue. People are worried about orphaned cubs this time of year and our hunting season doesn’t have any restrictions as far as age or sex of a bear. So, if a hunter with a bear license, can take a 450 lb. bear or a 30 lb. bear, as there are no restrictions.” Jennifer Raiche, Resident asks “how many illegal killings are there?” Sergeant Brown replies “I cannot speak for other parts of the state, but I average probably around six that are illegal and most of the time, it is dealing with illegal bait without having a permit.” Melissa Taber, resident asks “when do the cubs leave their mom?” Sergeant Brown replies “Cubs can stay with their mom up to two years, as they breed every other year. A sow (female mother) raises a cub from the den when they are tiny, up to late August/early September, she has given that cub enough knowledge to survive on its own. So once September rolls around they are good, if the sow gets hunted, the cub is orphaned but they are no longer dependent on her for milk and they are educated enough by her to know when and what to eat and what to do.

My concern for these cubs, that are in ELVD, is that they would not eat a dandelion or black berry if they walk by it, they are going to go for trash cans, bird feeders and things that mom taught them to eat and people are good food sources. Ammonia works good for bears, but you must do it day and night, as it doesn't last long. A metal top dumpster is best to use because they can't figure out how to open it. I will put together a bunch of links and send it to you for education." Kim Grondin, Clerk states her dog ran a cub up a tree and was concerned about the momma bear coming out. Sergeant Brown states "bears hate dogs and the only way that they will defend themselves is if they are cornered. Also, even if you don't have trash in your yard, if a bear gets onto a porch and get rewarded with bird seed, they are going to think that every single porch has a bird feeder on it, so they will investigate yards because he got rewarded in a similar scenario." Richard Whiting, Resident asked "do bears have any predators?" Sergeant Brown replies "no just us, they are on the top of the food chain". Joseph Feindel, Resident asks "Is there going to be a lot of starvation because of the lack of food for them?" Sergeant Brown replies "yes there is going to be a lot of winter kill that mostly will be dying in the den. It is mother nature, she has provided them with a lot of food in the last three years but not this year. In all the bears that I have handled this year, they do not have a lot of fat on them. Usually they have about an inch to 1 1/2 under the fur, but they do not have that this year. Mother nature has not been kind to them this year". Melissa Taber, Resident asks "I know about the bears but why are there so many squirrels this year?" Sergeant Brown replies "same thing, they are looking for food sources because the woods are not producing for them". Joe Feindel, Resident asks "is it legal to shoot squirrels?" Sergeant Brown replies "yes, squirrel season opens September 1<sup>st</sup> and you do need a license unless they are causing destruction. Any wildlife that is causing actual physical agricultural, livestock, or property damage can be dispatched but they must be doing damage. We ask that you call us first because we have Wildlife Services and our biologists that can give you a thousand tricks and tips on how to keep them away. A lot of people think, well a bobcat was killing my chickens, so now I can kill it, but it has to be killing the chickens at that time and have proof, it cannot be shot because it is walking through the backyard". Sergeant Brown states "we do have an administrator rule that carries the same weight as a law, where if someone is found intentionally feeding bears, they can be charged for essentially taking the bear, as it is bad for the bear." BOC's and residents all thanked Sergeant Delayne T. Brown for coming and for all the information.

**Office Hours:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner asked Eileen Feindel about setting office hours, as residents are finding it difficult that there are no specific times when someone is in the office. Eileen Feindel replies, yes, she will provide BOC's with set office hours that can be posted. BOC's will keep residents up to date.

**Melanson and Heath Contract:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner asked Eileen Feindel to contact Melanson and Heath to retrieve a new contract by the end of the year. Eileen Feindel questioned rehiring them because of past instances. Melissa Taber, Resident asks who they are." Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states they are the auditors.

Wayne Held, Commissioner states “it is already October and we don’t have that much time to find new auditors. I suggest doing a one-year contract and maybe research/advertise for next year because we need to get them on board and start the audit at the first of the year.” Eileen Feindel will reach out to them to send a new contract and get back to the BOC’s.

**Kate Merva:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner made a motion to accept funds from Kate Merva for Zumba, seconded, and approved.

**Rafts:** Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states Mark Martin, PJ, and Dennis, Residents removed the rafts. BOC’s thanked the residents for their help. Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states “someone had put one of the rafts back in the lake, which since has been removed again; as well as a picnic table being damaged, which Mark Martin, Resident had repaired. The camera has been put back up, so we can watch for it now.” Melissa Taber, Resident suggests chaining the rafts to a bench, so they cannot be removed. Diane Cunningham, Commissioner agrees that it is a good idea. Zane Merva, Resident will be coming to the ELVD office to retrieve the video camera’s and put them all back up.

**5. Public Comment:**

Brett Taber, Resident asks “at the annual meeting there were funds appropriated for a District Administrator, where are we at with that process?” Wayne Held, Commissioner replies “we were going to use that administrator to do some research and to communicate more with the state, but we have utilized Kathy Rodgers, RCAP to do that research. The primary thing that we wanted to do this year was to hire an engineer and start looking over our water source, which is what DES wanted us to do to get us on track, as well as replacing the infrastructure, which is what the Sanitary Survey is for. If the district still wants to get an administrator for next year, the money will still be in there but for right now, we are using other resources, such as Kathy Rodgers, RCAP.

Kaitlin Butler, Resident states “our concern is with the roads. We are aware that there is a specific road agent that takes care of the roads and places materials as needed but there is no compaction and we are wasting materials.” Eric Butler, Resident states “when they come to fill in the holes with a grater, they are just filling in the holes, so when the rain comes back, the holes show up again but if we had a compactor/roller to go behind the grater and add that compaction, we will be saving ourselves on the cost of materials.” Brett Taber, Resident states “my only concern would be, our current structure of our water system with all that vibration and would we generate more issues”. Eric Butler, Resident states “that would be a question for the engineer to see what kind of compactor could be used and whether it could just be rolled compared to actually using a vibrating compactor, but it is something that we could possibly look into and be saving ourselves money. I have watched that pile of dirt disappears with all the rain this year, I see the grater come by every other day, but the holes just reappear because it is not being compacted.” BOC’s will discuss this with the engineer, who will be coming for the Sanitary Survey, and will get back to residents.

Joe Feindel, Resident questions what is going on with the abandoned vehicles on Bog Road and Pine Glenn? Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states that she has not heard anything from the town on this subject.

Melissa Taber, Resident states she has contacted the Hillsboro Code Officer about 32 Gould Pond Road and was told the auction is October 30<sup>th</sup> for the residence. BOC's and residents thank Melissa Taber, Resident for the information.

Melissa Taber, Resident questions the assignment of keys to ELVD. Wayne Held, Commissioner mentioned some ideas on what he had in mind for the management of the keys but essentially its an honor system as of right now.

Melissa Taber, Resident asks "Is the building on Patten Hill complete?" Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states that the building is complete.

Melissa Taber, Resident asks "do we access the volunteer list on the website?" Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states "yes, we email them, when we need help with something".

Melissa Taber, Resident asks "what is the status of a contractor bid for the gazebo?" Diane Cunningham, Commissioner states that no one showed up to bid on the gazebo. Eric Butler, Resident states he will spread the word to some contractors and get some bids for the gazebo.

**6. Upcoming Meetings:**

Next BOC's Meeting is **November 15, 2018** at ELVD Office at 6:00 p.m.

Next Workshop Meeting is **November 7, 2018** at ELVD Office at 6:00 p.m.

Whereupon there being no further business before the Board at this time, it was moved, seconded by the public and unanimously voted the Meeting be adjourned.

**Adjourned at 7:28 p.m.**

**Diane Cunningham, Chairman of Commissioners**

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**Wayne Held, Commissioner**

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**Linda Whiting, Commissioner**

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**Board of Commissioners.**

**Certified by the Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_ 10/12/2018**