

Subject: Draft Minute June 17 meeting

Dear Chairman Peabody;

I was recently made aware that draft minutes of the June 17, 2020 selectmen's meeting have been posted online since at least Friday, June 19. After review of the draft minutes, it is clear that they are certainly inaccurate. Given the concerns we raised at the meeting regarding Selectman Sabourn and TA Shepherds obvious bias against us, I am concerned that they are intentionally defamatory.

Specifically:

1. We did not meet with the Selectmen to discuss our "current situation with the Post Office." As I emailed to TA Shepherd on June 12, 2020, I wished to discuss with the Selectmen a "request for letter of support for mail route extension". At the meeting I explained why the route extension was important due to health concerns and the need for me to be able to be able to order prescription medication and have it delivered due to concerns about the current Covid pandemic. This was omitted from the minutes.
2. A motion was then made to write a letter supporting the petition, the minutes reflect that Marianne Peabody abstained. She did not.
3. The draft language of the second motion, made by Selectman Sabourn, does not accurately reflect the actual motion made which was to remove both my mailbox and the bus company's mailbox within 30 days.
4. The draft minutes state "The Freeman's stated there has been a police report filed and requested that Selectman Sabourn not participate in any communications with them". We never said that the Selectman Sabourn should not communicate with the police. What we actually requested is that TA Shepherd and Selectman Sabourn have no more communication with the Post Office at all.
5. The minutes state "Freeman stated that Selectman Sabourn had no authority to remove the cooler from their mailbox. Selectman Sabourn referenced a letter from the Post Office dated June 12, 2020 that provides authority for the Town to remove mailboxes from their property." There was no letter from the Post Office.
6. There is no mention in the minutes that TA Shepherd and Selectmen Sabourn requested and obtained a letter from the NH DOT which they did present at the meeting. The minutes also do not reflect that the other Selectman including Chairman Peabody were unaware of the letter prior to the meeting.
7. The minutes do not reflect that we reminded the Selectman that our mailbox had been there close to 15 years and was set there because it would be next to the towns mail box and by the mail box of the Thornton PD.

Finally, it is deeply concerning that the Town has used these minutes to highlight statements Selectmen Sabourn made at that meeting. Because these minutes are posted online, the public reading them would assume that Selectman Sabourn's comments are fact rather than his personal opinions. Furthermore the way the minutes are written, it appears that the Thornton Board of Selectman are in agreement with his opinions and complicit in his action to remove the cooler which I believe is not accurate. Accordingly, I request that the draft minutes be immediately removed from the website and that the minutes be corrected.

As an aside, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic during the worst of the PPE shortage, Lee and I donated over two thousand N-95 masks to local first responders, including to the Town of Thornton, even though I needed those masks for my own personal safety. We never asked for nor received a thank you from the Town. We donated those masks, not for the public acknowledgment, but because it was the right thing to do. What isn't right is for a Town of Thornton Selectman and the Board's Administrative Assistant to personally attack us for trying to get life-sustaining medication and essentials delivered to our home. At a time when we should all be banding together, their behavior is unwarranted and cruel. It has to stop.

Sincerely,
Joel Freeman