

GUNSTOCK AREA COMMISSION MEETING
July 29, 2022 at 10:30
Gunstock Mountain Resort: Historic Lodge
APPROVED MINUTES

GAC: Peter Ness (Chairman) remote, David Strang (Vice Chairman) remote, Doug Lambert (Secretary), Jade Wood

Public: Attorney Joe Foster (remote), Attorney Peter Callahan (remote)

Chairman Ness called the meeting to order at 10:34AM. Commissioner Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Ness stated for an administrative note, according to RSA 91-A:2, III(b) there is an ability to hold an emergency meeting of a body without a quorum physically present if not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action. The Chairman can invoke that provision and it has been discussed with Attorney Joe Foster.

Commissioner Wood noted that procedurally the meeting of July 26, 2022, was not adjourned and forced to call a recess. Chairman Ness responded that he had discussed that with Attorney Foster and that recess was not appropriate and that a new meeting should start and move to non-public as stated on the meeting notice.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding legality of adjourning the prior meeting before beginning a new meeting.

ACTION

Motion: Vice Chairman Strang made a motion to move into a non-public meeting.

Second: Chairman Ness.

Discussion: Secretary Lambert asked if one of the matters being discussed in the non-public was the check signing ability and rights. Chairman Ness replied that he talked with Attorney Foster and if those matters are discussed and a vote taken to confer authority then that can be done in public after the non-public session. Discussion continued regarding adjourning the meeting of July 26, 2022. Commissioner Wood put an additional motion forward to adjourn the July 26 meeting, second by Secretary Lambert.

Chairman Ness repeated the first motion on the floor to move to non-public according to the provisions set forth in the meeting notice including RSA 91-A:3, ii(l) regarding legal matters, RSA 91-A:3, ii(j) regarding financial information, and RSA 91-A:3, ii(a),(b),and (c) regarding employment matters.

Vote: Secretary Lambert- no
Commissioner Wood- abstained
Vice-Chairman Strang- yes
Chairman Ness- yes

Motion passes 2-1

Public session ends at 10:50am. The commission members moved to a private office space to start the non-public meeting.

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Public session resumed at 1:20pm with no vote due to lack of quorum.

Commissioner Wood spoke to the public about the gravity and enormity of the upcoming music festival coupled with the current situation. Commissioner Wood announced that at 12:08pm Chairman Ness tendered his resignation, witnessed by Attorney Foster via Zoom. Commissioner Wood stated that Vice Chairman Strang left the meeting at 12:10pm. Commissioner Wood and Secretary Lambert put out a call to the Belknap Delegation to step up and stand with Gunstock, local schools, businesses, and customers, and encourage Vice Chairman Strang to resign by 5pm on July 29, 2022.

Secretary Lambert also encouraged the Belknap County Delegation to be like Barry Goldwater, who went to President Richard Nixon at the height of his presidential crisis and asked him to resign for the good of the country. Secretary Lambert continued and stated that, based on conversations and signed documents from the former senior management team, they have indicated they will be back within days once Vice Chairman Strang has resigned. He also spoke to the public about how much he has learned about the mountain and the intricacy of the arrangement with the insurance company and that the reality is that a new team can't just be brought in. Secretary Lambert stated that if Vice Chairman Strang does not resign then he would be responsible for the end of Gunstock Mountain. Commissioner Wood added that they are just two people and cannot manage the full weight of the operation without help.

Public Comment

Denise Conroy (Alton)- Asked Commissioners Wood and Lambert if it was possible to talk with the team and that it is a 2-1 situation and understanding that the team does not want to work for Vice Chairman Strang, but could they work something out till the delegation appoints new commissioners.

Rep. Mike Bordes (Laconia)- The more time we are here the less time we must reach the deadline set forth by Commissioners Lambert and Wood. Call your delegates.

McKenna Howard (Gilford)- I am 13 years old and an avid skier. Gunstock is my playground and backyard, my family and home. I learned to ski on the Magic Carpet and of course I wanted to go to the big chair and go straight down as fast as I could. Just two days ago my mom explained what was happening and that we would need a plan b to ski this winter. But I don't want a plan b. Over the last three ski seasons things have changed for our world. My mom keeps telling me the adults will figure it out, I am telling you today to figure it out. I know the two of you are trying (Wood and Lambert) and I hope the delegates and Dr. Strang are listening to.

Jane Sisti- Asked if Vice Chairman Strang was now Chairman.

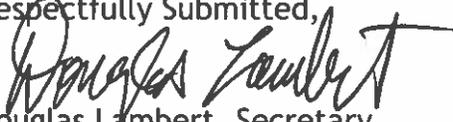
JD Evans (Gilford)- stated that he is an employee at Gunstock and how would they feel if they were in this situation.

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Skip Murphy (Gilford)- Stated to Secretary Lambert- “15 years ago you said a bad thing about a person, and you retreated. I had to watch you walk away and I defended you. Now you are doing the same thing to Dr. Strang.” Secretary Lambert replied “if we have his back and dig our heels in then there is not mountain. We have a responsibility to so many customers, businesses, etc. We have to no choice but to state the obvious. I am not looking my grandson in the eye and tell him I didn’t do everything in my power to keep this mountain from closing. Do you not get it?” Skip Murphy replied - “I am not a skier, I don’t care- and you are telling me your end justifies your present needs.” Secretary Lambert replied that his one motivation is to keep the mountain open, he has not other interests special or otherwise and he apologized for raising his voice. “If you don’t ski what about Piche’s, Patrick’s Pub and all the hotels if this mountain does not open this winter?”

Commissioner Wood recessed the meeting at 2:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Douglas Lambert, Secretary
Gunstock Area Commission