

GILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Work Session with Glendale Committee
April 7, 2009
Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen convened in a special work session on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., at the Gilford Town Hall, 47 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH. Selectmen present were Gus Benavides, Kevin Hayes and John O'Brien. Also present were Town Administrator Scott Dunn and Executive Secretary Sandy Bailey. In attendance representing the Glendale Committee were Police Chief John Markland, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Morrissette, DPW Director Sheldon Morgan, Director of Planning and Land Use John Ayer and Dave Ewing.

Members of the public in attendance were Steve Buzzotta, Paul Goodwin, John Goodhue, Jim McBride and Ann Beane.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Chairman Benavides stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to continue last week's work session on the revisions to the Glendale Facility Regulations. The document being reviewed today is Draft #4a, dated April 6, 2009.

There was no discussion on Page 1.

On Page 2, Paul Goodwin asked about the addition of and to use the Boat Launch at the end of the first sentence under (b). Denise Morrissette explained that this would enable elderly citizens to have another party launch their boat for them. Jim McBride brought up the matter of the use of decals at the Solid Waste Facility and Town Administrator Dunn explained that there are independent ordinances for the Solid Waste Facility, Town Beach and Glendale, although they do use the same Town decals. Denise Morrissette also inquired about the language in (a) regarding defaulted parking tickets. Discussion ensued on how this would be handled. Denise Morrissette also asked if Governor's Island classified as an "island". Town Administrator Dunn replied that it is not, since to qualify as an Island Resident you must own property that is accessible only by boat.

On Page 3, Jim McBride had numerous concerns regarding guest cards. He sees problems with tying the guest cards to names on deeds, due to the use of trusts and LLC's. He also thinks that residential property owners are "entitled" to guest cards and he believes most guests are family members. Mr. McBride urged the Board to make changes more gradually and re-think some of the proposed changes.

Discussion ensued on tying guest card eligibility to deeds, based on past practices where guest cards have been abused. Denise Morrissette explained the meaning of "household" as it is linked to the parcel's map and lot number. Further discussion ensued on issues with parcels with multiple owners who receive separate tax bills. At this time, it is impossible for the Town Clerk's office to track guest passes for a parcel with multiple property owners. Denise Morrissette will look into the possibility of flagging multiple owner parcels with Finance Director Ruggles.

Jim McBride feels that launching, not parking, is the main problem at Glendale. John Goodhue stated that in the interest of limited parking space, he feels property owners should be allowed one guest card, which would not allow a vehicle to be parked with a trailer. He feels that upper level parking with a trailer should be restricted for Town decals only. Jim McBride feels that the 72 hour limit would take care of these issues. When asked how many guest cards were issued last year, Denise Morrissette replied that she ordered 1,500 and did not have many left over. She reminded Mr. McBride that guest cards are not exclusive to island residents.

Town Administrator Dunn stated that there are several matters that need to be decided within paragraph (c). First, the Board concurred that the issuance of guest cards should be linked to the parcel. The next issue is how many guest cards should be issued. Extensive discussion ensued on this matter. Various opinions were expressed on the number of guest cards to be issued, the cost of guest cards, and where parking should be permitted. Enforcement of parking violations was also discussed. Town Administrator Dunn stated that the new regulations will give the Gilford Police Department the authority to have vehicles towed.

Selectman Hayes does not feel that the Town of Gilford owes the guests of its residents/taxpayers a place to park their vehicles and trailers. Paul Goodwin pointed out that there are other locations in Gilford where vehicle/trailer parking is permitted, but the persons need to pay to park. Jim McBride reiterated his previously stated position that the original rights that were granted for the use of the Glendale Docks in 1970 cannot be taken away. He feels that the people utilizing the Glendale facilities should be permitted a total of three (3) guest cards with privileges for parking and launching. The Board concurred that there will be two color-coded guest cards permitted, one for parking at \$25 each and one for parking and launching at \$50 each. Any combination of these cards may be purchased.

The next matter to be discussed was whether or not to restrict parking on Level 4. Various suggestions were made and the Board determined that it would allow people with guest cards to park on Level 4 - vehicles only without trailers.

Dave Ewing stated that he is concerned with paragraph (d) combining Commercial Marine Operators with Commercial Contractors. Following discussion, it was determined that the cost for a CMO decal would be \$1,000 for up to three decals, and \$500 for each additional decal. The phrase "or above the waterline on the port side of the transom" will be deleted, but decals must be in plain view at all times.

Regarding paragraph (e), Paul Goodwin expressed concern with the requirement that "original" signed permits must be presented to the Glendale Attendant. Following discussion on this matter, where Sheldon Morgan stated that most permits are faxed in, the Board concurred to remove the word "original".

Brief discussion ensued on how the Glendale Launch is being abused by Marine Patrol, who utilizes it for training purposes.

The next section to be reviewed concerned Parking, starting with the regulations for Level 1. Jim McBride and Ann Beane both expressed concern with the restriction on parking between the hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. They feel this is unreasonable. Town Administrator Dunn stated that this restriction was intended to keep Level 1 parking as a day lot only. Following discussion, the Board removed the sentence "Parking in this area is not allowed between the

hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.” The Board also removed the sentence “There is a seven (7) day limit to the use of this area” from Levels 2 and 3.

Lengthy discussion ensued on Level 4 parking – should it have a seven (7) day limit? Chief Markland pointed out that during the hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., the docks are the only area at Glendale where the officers enforce the restriction. Chief Markland also stated that he felt John Goodhue’s suggestion to not allow guest card parking on Level 4 was reasonable. Ann Beane suggested that signage on Level 4 needs to be very clear for persons utilizing the Glendale Facility. The Board concurred to remove the sentence “There is a seven (7) day limit to the use of this area.” They also expressed the need to monitor the area this season.

On Page 6, paragraph (d), Denise Morrissette stated that handicap “license plate” should be added to handicap identification placard. Regarding paragraph (f) discussion ensued on changing the 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. parking restriction to read December 1 through March 31. The Board concurred to make this change. Sheldon Morgan pointed out that Level 1 is the only lot that is plowed during the winter since Levels 2, 3 and 4 are not plowed to preserve the surface as much as possible.

Jim McBride suggested that under paragraph (a) in General Information, a provision be made to allow the beaching of boats in the event of an emergency. Regarding paragraph (d) on fuel tanks, Ann Beane suggested increasing the fuel tank size to 40#. The Board concurred with these suggestions.

The next session discussed concerned fines and penalties. Jim McBride stated that the amounts are too high. Kevin Hayes pointed out that the intent of the fines is to stop abuse at the Glendale Facility, not penalize people who are conscientious and notify the Police Department when they know they have committed an infraction under special circumstances. Chief Markland stated that the Police Department rarely voids tickets generated at Glendale, because of the extensive abuse of the Facility. Denise Morrissette stated that the Town of Gilford cannot meet all of the needs of islanders – in that event island residents have the ability to purchase a boat slip from a private marina.

Paul Goodwin would like to see more enforcement at Glendale. On page 9 under Fines and Penalties, the Board concurred to combine items C. and D. This completed the review of Draft 4a, dated April 6, 2009. Town Administrator Dunn will prepare Draft 5, based on the changes made at this meeting. Draft 5 will be utilized at the April 8th Public Hearing.

All persons exited the conference room at this time, with the exception of Selectmen Benavides, Hayes and O’Brien, Town Administrator Dunn, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Denise Morrissette and Executive Secretary Sandra Bailey.

Chairman Benavides stated that the Board must now determine how to handle residents/property owners who have requested guest cards prior to the new regulations taking effect. He also stated that the effective date of the regulations needs to be determined. Town Administrator Dunn proposed a motion that would allow the Board to make the regulations effective on April 1, 2009, based on an emergency provision. John O’Brien stated that he has concerns with back-dating the regulations and considering this situation as an emergency. Extensive discussion ensued on the proposed motion. Denise Morrissette provided information on the number of people who have already made requests for guest cards.

Selectman Hayes moved to allow the persons who have submitted written application for a Gilford guest card, prior to the adoption of the revised Glendale Facility Regulations, to be treated under the existing fee schedule. Selectman O'Brien seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

4. With no further business before the Board, the Board of Selectmen's April 7, 2009 meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. O'Brien
Clerk