

**TOWN OF HARTLAND  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
January 3, 2017  
Hartland Consolidated School  
4:30 p.m.**

Present: Shirley Humphrey, Hadley Buker, Judy Alton

Staff: Chris Littlefield, Town Manager

Several Citizens

Guests: Rich Groat and Wayne Chasse Tasman Leather Group, LLC

Jason Urquhart Orkin Pest Control Services

Al Tempesta Hartland Code Enforcement Officer

1.) Minutes of Previous Meeting – Hadley read aloud minutes from 12/19/2016  
Motion to accept, voted 3-0

2.) Public Forum- Several citizens complaining about rat issues in and around their houses. Questions asked: Where are the problem areas?  
Are they a health risk?  
Can we condemn buildings?  
What can be done about it?

It seems that Water Street and Commercial Street are impacted the most at this time. Several pictures shared with rats in bird feeders and dead rats that have been trapped. Al Tempesta to call CDC to inquire as to the health risk and can they help? Jason Urquhart who is a rat specialist said chances are that each place that has the rats has a food source and holes that allow the animals into the homes. Jason also represents the Tannery along with Wayne Chasse and the both reported that there was a rat problem at the Tannery several months back however, that had been under control for several months now. Jason also stated that the home owners need to be proactive and clean up trash and food sources and plug holes to keep the rats out. He assured us that the rats will always be around, but can be kept from getting inside houses. Condemning buildings should be a last resort per the Code Enforcement Officer as there is a great deal of expense associated with it that the Town doesn't have.

Action plan:

Chris Littlefield, Al Tempesta, and Jason Urquhart to do inspections around

the Water Street and Commercial Street areas and report findings to the Selectmen.

Al and Chris to be very aggressive with home owners about disposing of the trash that they find during the inspection and will follow up weekly until the rat siting's subside in homes. There is a chance of many repeat offenders of compiling trash...Town to impose substantial fines for these situations as that is what our policy states.

Education pamphlets will be distributed and posted in the Rolling Thunder to help educate home owners on why rats come around.

Town to consider a cleanup day around Town and deposit dumpsters so that excessive trash can be cleaned up

Other comments:

Minimal budget available for this issue as it is not a Town issue (we budget for domestic animals not Wild ones per State law) we can expend some money to extend education and encourage folks to go to the dump.

Hadley noted that dump sticker fees have been eliminated to help entice folks to use our Transfer Station

3.) Old Business

4.) New Business

Discussed winter up charge from CMP

5.) Other

Next meeting Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

6.) Signed Warrants

7.) Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted  
Chris Littlefield  
Town Manager