

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

December 22, 2014

Present: Larry Straus, Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Joanne McDonnell

Guests: Martha Slater, Dan Gendron, Nancy Woolley, Angus McCusker, Josh Hanford

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Additions to the Agenda: Larry proposed to add discussion of work in the R-O-W on Cushman Rd under New Business, and also discussion of a draft of a winter maintenance policy. Robert moved the proposal, so voted.

New Business: Angus McCusker noted that through RASTA he has been working with Fish & Wildlife personnel on a mountain bike trail proposal on Cushman Rd. F&W would like to stick with the existing corridor, which is quite steep. They are trying to create a more reasonable 10% grade average or less up to the gap. He would like to ask the selectboard for approval to "step off" the existing trail which would involve some work in the right of way, and to possibly create a parking area. Traditionally wildlife management areas do not allow recreation use, so they are being very careful about staying within the existing trail for use. Angus is asking for town approval, and then F& W will review the request. Josh noted that this work would also make an easier hiking trail which people already use. Short discussion ensued. Doon recused himself from the vote as he sells mountain bikes. Robert made motion to allow work in the town right of way on Cushman Rd. No discussion, so voted.

Larry handed out a sample policy of a winter road maintenance policy for review. The board will revisit at a future meeting. Robert suggested that this policy be added to the website as an attachment to the minutes. Joanne will post.

Minutes from the December 8, 2014 meeting were approved. Robert made motion to accept, so voted.

Sue Hoxie, event director for the Vermont Gran Fondo bicycle race that will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015 is asking permission to use certain roadways in Rochester for their race. They did this last year, and the only concern was that they may have runners going by the Park during graduation ceremonies. This information was stressed to Sue last year, and it was not an issue at all. Robert made motion to approve consent, seconded by Doon. So voted.

The board received a contract from TRORC proposing that they act as project manager for the scoping study of town sidewalks at a cost of no more than \$4350.00. Doon made motion to execute the contract with TRORC, seconded by Robert. So voted.

Mailbox repair: A homeowner had submitted a photo of their mailbox that was damaged while snow was being moved out of the road. The homeowner has asked to have the town repair it. Short discussion ensued. The board agreed that the town will only pay for mailbox damages under extraordinary circumstances, and they do not want to set precedence by paying for

repairs to damages happening during regular snow removal, especially as mailboxes are placed in the town right of way.

Short discussion ensued about when the sidewalks in town were built, and if they were designed. Possibly the sidewalks on Rt 100 were designed by a state engineer at the time they were built. The other question that was asked was how many school age students live on Kennedy Drive. Short discussion ensued. These questions are being asked by an engineer who is responding to the request for proposals for the scoping study project for town sidewalks.

Stan Parrish stopped in briefly to let the board know that he had just received a letter from the road foreman regarding snow removal at the Skip Mart. He will talk to Dan directly.

Old Business: Larry noted that he had contacted Evan Chadwick, Atty to review the request for a subordination agreement from Lake Sunapee Bank's legal representative asking the town to subordinate their right of first refusal for the Peirce Hall Community Center property. Evan has some questions that he would like to discuss with the bank's attorney in order to clarify several issues.

The board received letters from the Vermont Land Trust notifying them of the purchase of conservation easements for Myron Bowen's farm on RT 73 and Richard Harvey's farm on Rt 100.

Doon revisited the topic of the rock that the bridge workers removed from the river that is sitting at the turnout just before the Rt 73 Bridge. Jeffrey Breslow had expressed interest in donating his time and materials to create a sculpture with the rock (he does rock sculptures, and had previously submitted photos of several pieces of work he has done in the past) to as a tribute to Rochester's resiliency during and after Tropical Storm Irene. Doon noted that it would be perfect to place the rock on the railroad bed embankment strip of land, which juts out into the meadow surrounding the wellhouse property. At this time, this small section of land is overgrown with brush. Doon spoke with Tom Pierce and Tom thought possibly the cemetery owned the land. Short discussion ensued. Nancy noted that it could possibly state land as well and she suggested talking to Norm Smith about it. After further discussion, the board agreed that it would be best to be sure this property is not in the flood zone. They would also like to see what kind of sculpture Jeff is proposing, and feel that it is a great idea.

It was noted that Mark Belisle, 2nd Constable has been very busy the past week or two-he turned in close to \$1800 worth of tickets over the past couple weeks, which will benefit the town.

Bills were reviewed and warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell