

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Mason Wade for Orca Media, Liz Steventon, Nancy Woolley, Bruce and Doreen Jones, Terry Severy, Harland Mckirryher, Walt Wells, Tony Goupee, Bruce Flewelling, David Harvey, Joan Allen, Mike McIntyre, Dick and Diane White, Frank Russell, Marvin and Barb Harvey.

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Frank-Board of Listers and Board of Civil Authority. Mason-announcement. Mike-Brook St.

Doon moved to approve the minutes to the 05-27-19 Meeting. Pat seconded. So, voted

Joan Updates: Joan addressed the need for signage for the Bethel Mountain Rd. from the Bethel side to help direct traffic at the T. Joan addressed to the board that she had been working with Chris Bump to come up with a bid package for the Upper Bethel Mountain road projects and the issues with traffic was discussed with traffic flow and the overuse of Brook St. She discussed how the summer programs will be difficult for people to get around. Chris mentioned that he had sent a multi-page plan that was put together by someone from VTrans back in April. The document appeared extensive and complicated and after going back and reviewing Joan found that we could lease the large message boards and the cost would be covered by The Federal Highway Grant. She stated that we should have 2 placed on the Bethel side and 2 placed on the Rochester side. Chris will advise us for the placement of these boards. Joan also expressed to the board about how important it would be to have traffic signs for guidance for people to follow through the back roads. Mike brought up the concern for safety factors. Joan also discussed further how she met with Chris and the latest dollar amount for Bethel Mountain Road is nearly 2 million dollars. She emphasized how this in turn will initiate a Federal Audit and that the paperwork process for putting together the bid packages will need to be very complete in order to comply with the Federal guidelines. Joan went on to discuss how many of the small discrete sites along parts of Upper Bethel Mountain Road could now be considered all one job so that the ditching could all be done as one continuous connected system allowing the town to call sites 2-4, one site. With that information decided, then the bid packages can be completed. The updates to the changes for that bid will be explained in this week paper. Joan went on to explain that it does mean that the process will be delayed, and the bid process will have to start from scratch. She had hoped that the same contractors from the first pre-bid meeting will still show interest. Her concern is getting everything lined up so that the deadline date can still be achieved so that the paving can be done in time. Dick asked if there would be any money to prepare Brook Street after the project is done. Joan didn't have an answer right now but there might be a possible Structures or Backroads Grant to apply for. Mike asked if the Bethel Mountain Project had to be completed by October 15. Joan answered that for 100% reimbursement we would need to meet

that deadline. Mike then asked if the current delay would affect that due date and Joan answered that it would not.

Doon asked about the Grant and Aid for other hydrologically connected road sections if we are keeping busy with those as well. Joan said that after a discussion with Cooter, who had a great idea to use the Grant and Aide for the section of Bingo Rd. which has a major slide, is certainly hydrologically connected. He also wanted to do a fair amount of ditching, which would also qualify for Grant and Aid but would exceed the amount of money we would have available in that program because the funding is somewhere around \$17,000.00 - \$18,000.00. It would make better sense to fix the slide in Bingo. Cooter is meeting on Wednesday morning with Jaren Borg the Stream Engineer. Jaren will advise the proper protocol for working on that project. Cricket was also invited as well to that meeting. Once that meeting is determined, Joan concluded we do now have a road maintenance agreement with the Forest Service up in Bingo. Once we know what the scope of the project is, we can appeal with them about the funding towards the road. Doon then asked about the Equipment wish lists for a grant and Cooter wanted to add a leaf blower for cleaning out the ditches. Doon thanked Joan for her updates.

Doon motioned to approve the use of the Park for the annual Ice Cream Social through Pierce Hall Community Center on June 30, 2019 with ice cream for all, antique cars and games for kids. Pat seconded. So, approved.

Doon motioned to approve the use of the Park for the annual Harvest Fair through White River Valley Players on September 7, 2019. Pat seconded. So, approved.

Doon invited Frank to speak. Frank spoke about the Two Maple Hill Culverts whose outflow directly impacts Russell/Gagnon property. He thanked Patty for sharing with him 23-page document. Pat also included other insightful information. Frank shared photos relating to different storms and the outcome from each. Doon suggested sharing with Orca to reach a wider audience. Frank used the photos as a reference to the letter he wrote. The culvert from the bottom of Greg Whites driveway and it's on flow to the bottom of his property. Frank question about a different orientation of the culvert. Referring to culvert A from bottom of Greg White's driveway he would ask that the orientation of the out flow directly into the drainage ditch parallel to Maple Hill Rd. He voiced his concerns to the board about the culverts flow towards his LP tank. He asked that if the orientation of the culvert couldn't be changed, he would appreciate the town's assistance to restore a swale that previously existed, that was designed to take water away from the LP tanks. Marvin asked the chairman if he could interrupt and suggest that the selectboard call a special meeting to hear of the landowners concerns about their property. Marvin stated that we have heard his concerns for three different meetings now. Discussion was heated and ensued giving Frank the opportunity to finish his discussion. Frank's second item on the agenda is Rochester Infrastructure Resiliency Roads and Culverts Questions. Frank asked two questions. What are the duties and responsibilities of the Road Commissioner and the same for the Road Crew Foreman? Frank had hoped that DEC had provided a list of responsibilities for each of these positions. He had given an email for the response and the next question he had was how well are we fulfilling them? The next item on the agenda is Info: Local, State, Federal resources/contacts/agencies for "making whole" Rochester private property owners who suffered

from April 15 storm damage. Frank was surprised that it hadn't been addressed. He heard from Doon about the Rebuild Rochester Foundation and he heard That Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission was a resource for water related issues. He stated that the Department of Environmental Conservation is a rich source. It has a couple pages of numbers and resources. He was also looking for resources after we had accepted FEMA money. He thought DEC would be able to assist us for private property owners. His suggestion was to go to their website. The last item on the agenda was GMP: "Notification for Vegetation Management on Right of Way" Letter. He wanted to make aware to the public. Doon clarified that the letter was only sent to those property owners whom have an easement from GMP. Frank then discussed the addition he added to the agenda about the Board of Listers and Board of Civil Authority. Frank explained that he received a letter from the Board of Listers that his grievance was denied, and he asked why he didn't receive a reason. He asked about the process. He thought it would be helpful to know why he was denied. Pat explained to Frank how to further continue with the process. Mason asked if it could be explained, who is on our civil authority board and how that process works. He noted that there was a bit of an issue during the last election around civil authority and the town and some questions that are still going on. Pat explained that the Board of Civil Authority is made up of the Listers, the Selectboard Members, Justices of the Peace and the Town Clerk. Once the Listers have done a site visit for a grievance and have come to their next conclusion they do comparisons to other properties and conclude whether the property value should be changed. If the property owner still doesn't agree and would like to take it to the next step, they would ask to have a meeting with the Civil Authority. The board gets together, and each presents their point of view and the board of Civil Authority will do their own site visit and they have their own evaluation. If that is not settled it will go to the State and continues into deviation. Mason asked in relation to election issues if the realtors gets involve with the civil authority. He asked if the Listers are involved with the political process? Doon stated that they did not. The three listers, the five justices and the selectboard and Town clerk make up the Civil Board.

Doon asked Mike to talk about Brook Street. Mike stated that he received a letter from Chris Bump from the State after he wrote asking what can be done with the situation on Brook St. The letter explained that a Traffic detour plan was sent to the Town, which designates VT 12, VT 107 and VT 100. This plan includes portable, changeable electric message signs that are reimbursable. Mike asked if we have this plan. Doon explained that we do have this plan and we are now implementing it.

Diane asked if the speed bumps were ordered. Doon stated that they were shipped out and on their way. Diane discussed the ongoing of lost people using their GPS and navigating to Maine and MA through Brook St. Discussion ensued about the GPS and how it is wrongly directing traffic on Brook St. Nancy thought it would be helpful if Huntington House could move their open sign to the right, it's in the Town right of way and if they could move it over a little, people could view the traffic signs for Bethel mountain better.

Tony spoke about the Library having a longer meeting tomorrow starting at 4:30 and the regular meeting starting at 6:00pm. Diane announced that the Library is having wonderful programs on Thursday nights.

Terry announced that the new hydrant would be installed on Thursday. The town crew and Harveys will be doing the digging.

Mason announced the fantastic Lupine bloom on the left of Rt. 73 and Rt. 100 when your coming to town, for the next 3 weeks and hoped it would help put a smile on your face.

Missing Book: A big Thank You to Bruce for his time and work looking for the missing book. Harland talked about how he received a letter from our lawyer, and he shared how he spent a couple hours looking through records. He stated how he was still looking for documents that Doon quoted in a meeting in the minutes. He said it was only 2 or 3 years ago. He asked Doon if he read this information. Doon noted that it was information that came from Masons first Lawyer Toni Deslaurier. Doon said that as far as he could recollect, he didn't read it himself and said that she had that information. Harland asked if the minutes are officially gone. Doon stated he hoped not, and we are continually searching.

Harland wanted to complement the Road crew about cutting and grinding trees and brush. He noted that they took down trees before they fell without having to use a holiday or overtime getting it done

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Smith