

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

July 24, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel, Joan Allen

Guests: Martha Slater, Dan Gendron, Mark Belisle, Marv Harvey, Marty Mahar, Patty Harvey, Dan McKinley, Angus McCusker, Mason Wade

Meeting called to order at 6:15pm.

Additions to Agenda: Angus and Dan would like to talk about a Park permit for the backcountry forum, and Marty asked to discuss the Bingo Road access situation. Mason asked if the board has questions about the letter he left at the last meeting.

Corrected minutes from the June 24, 2017 minutes were reviewed, and Doon made motion to accept as corrected. Jim seconded, so voted. Minutes from the July 10 meeting needs a correction regarding "an E11 address" instead of "shelter". Doon made motion to approve with that correction, seconded by Jim. So voted. Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the special Selectboard meeting on July 10, 2017, seconded by Jim. So voted.

Dan McKinley and Angus McCusker explained that they would like to hold a backcountry forum on the Park, and Doon explained the Park Use form. They would like to have a 25x30 tent, ski swap, and hold it on a Saturday in the late fall. They would like to have vendors set up tents. Dan explained that it will be a busy day in the village as Catamount Trails will also have their annual meeting that day at Pierce Hall. Dan will fill out a Park Use permit. Angus noted that there will be a Vermont Back Country Festival with skiing in March hopefully using Pierce Hall and the Park again. This would be a similar kind of event. The board agreed to the Park Use. Angus noted that the Pump Track needs signage of how to use it, donors, etc. He would like to coordinate with the Rec Committee about that. They plan to be completed with the project on August 13th, and help resurface the Skatespace rink.

Doon told Mason that he had no specific feedback on his letter. Jim and Tom both agreed. All has been discussed in past meetings. Mason explained that this information is information that relates to local democracy, and that it needs to be available to the voters. Doon noted that he thinks information has been available around town. Mason said not in our official media or our official newspaper, The Herald. It has not been laid out, and he would think that this is a critical issue that the voters should actually have an opportunity to understand. He put in to question why we even have an official newspaper in this town that is supposed to relate to the voters. Doon explained that we are required to have an official newspaper where we place required legal notices, and different processes that need to be advertised. Mason explained that he thinks the board should look at another newspaper for that. Doon voiced his disagreement; the Herald is the most local paper and the only one that shows up at the store other than Boston Globe or what have you. There is no longer the Burlington Free Press. Mason interrupted that the Mountain Times in in town now once a week. Doon explained that he is not in

control of the media, and the Board tries to do our job here, and try to present as much information as they can, but it is not his newspaper, it's the Town's designated official paper. Mason again interrupted and noted that it might take a petition to change the paper. Doon agreed it could take a petition to bring to town meeting to discuss if Mason feels inspired to do that. Mark Belisle noted that his take is that the paper just does the highlights, and Doon noted that minutes can be found on the website. Mason noted that since early May, this has been in process and it has not been reported on. Since early in May when it was brought to the board's attention in early May. Zero explanation of.....Tom asked if he was referring to the land use and Mason replied yes, the letter that he gave them last week that they've been working on since May. Tom noted it was in the minutes, and Doon asked if Martha (Herald reporter for Rochester) had any input on this. Martha explained that her job is to summarize what happens at a meeting, not to print an entire document verbatim which is what she believes Mason is referring to. Mason replied that he is referring to Martha not reporting on a subject since early May. Martha explained that she discussed this with her editor who went back through her reporting and he felt that she had done what she was supposed to do. He reiterated that they can't print verbatim. Mason stated he wants investigative reporting. Doon noted that it isn't necessarily Martha's job to be an investigative reporter. Unfortunately, Mason was talking at the same time, and I could not understand what he was saying at this point. He then said that it seems like it would be something the voters would be interested in reading about, and it wasn't covered at all. Doon noted that he saw the letter around town in at least 4 places, so Mason did a good job of getting it out there. Nothing more was added by the board.

Discussion moved to the Bingo Road access situation. Marty explained that his understanding is that the town controls to the 4 corners which is not connected to the forest service in any way, and the USFS controls from there up to his property. He will have more discussion with Chris Mattrick this week. Doon noted that the general feeling was negative toward motorized access in the area, which was why the USFS denied the winter request for access. As far as the town goes, there has not been a formal request for plow the road. Marty noted that he is thinking that might be where he is at, and asked if the board is requesting that he make that request. Tom asked if this is primarily winter access request, which it is. How often will they be using the access if it is granted and Marty responded that it is hard to say at this point. Tom noted that this information could have an effect on the decision to be made. Short discussion ensued. Doon noted that Chris Mattrick had mentioned that the recreational use of Pine Gap and down that USFS road, it will "chop the loop" which is a well promoted and used loop for local skiers. Doon gave Marty the minutes from the June 24th and July 10th meetings to review.

Jola Labejsza will not be attending as a guest tonight.

Highway: The culvert below Terry Severy's is in need of work since the July 1st storm. He is meeting with someone Wednesday to review the situation and decide how best to repair. There is some storm damage to town roads. The culvert at town garage is for the Marine Hill culvert replacement. The big truck is under warranty work now, hopefully back soon.

Constables: Cruiser needs brakes, and will also need winter tires. He noted that the cruiser fills with gas at the Skip Mart, and the town does not submit for gasoline tax reimbursement. He wondered if there is a way to pay gas without tax. They used to have a card when filling the ambulance that reimbursed for the gas tax, and it might be worth looking into. He would like to look into the possibility of getting a card. Short discussion ensued. Mark also brought up the taser information and asked if the board has

looked at the policy to approve. He sent proposals for costs as well, and noted that it is not budgeted. Both are 5 year plans, one costs more up front. Short discussion ensued. Jim asked about the life expectancy of a taser, which is 5 years. Mark asked if the board could agree on this by the next meeting, but Doon noted that he is not sure that the board is ready to go forward with Tasers. Mason stated that this is a serious enough issue that the board should invite the community to have a special meeting about his concerns about how mistakes happen. People get shot, people get tasered, if a kid in town gets tasered or something, he doesn't know how it will work out. He thinks it's something that the board should talk to the community about before they make a decision. Mark explained that extensive training is now required and mental health issues are a part of that training so to better understand people and when to or not to use one. Any taser use is also reported to the state. Mason said that kind of information is what the community needs to understand and process. It's a big community issue. Discussion continued. Doon asked if Mark has ever had to discharge his firearm, which he has not in over 30 years, but has had to pull it a few times. Mark noted that as things get worse especially with drugs, mace is not as effective as a taser will be. Many departments are looking at use of Tasers in the future with the drug issues. Doon reiterated that it is more the issue of the decision of a constable vs police force and understands that it is safer for the constables to have them. Recertification happens every year. The board will discuss further.

Marvin Harvey noted that he would like to thank the board for getting the road fixed in front of his house after several weeks of waiting. He also felt that the white stone that is used is hard for walkers to get out of wheel tracks onto the side of the road due to being unstable. Short discussion ensued. Doon noted that over time, the stone naturally compacts. He has not experienced difficulty walking or biking on the roads in the Hollows. Mason asked if the town needs to drive over the road to compress it and help it bond better? It will take more time to drive over the shoulder of the road. Doon asked Martha to put it in the paper that people should drive sloppy in the hollows to beat the shoulders in....

Marvin also noted that when he gets his stump grinder on his tractor, he will grind the stump on the Park. The board gave approval to grind it as he volunteered to do and thanked him in advance. Marv also asked if he needs permission to work on salvaging a horse barn that is partially in the town right of way, even though he owns the land. Doon noted that for repairing the barn, he doesn't need a zoning permit, but for work in the right of way, he will need a permit.

Joan updated the board with a few things. She spoke with a staff attorney at VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center who referred her to the state statute that allows snowmobiles to travel on town roads that are not maintained in winter. Also along the road if not maintained and on any town road on a corridor if at least 5 feet away from maintained road. No statute about ATV use other than across the road based on 4 regulations. Anything other than that is up to the town to decide through creating an ordinance. Short discussion ensued about how this affects the Bingo Road potential request. Mason asked what is "42". Doon asked if it is the one that goes to the 4 way intersection or the one after it. Mason said it is pavement, which is Bingo Road and that it is a Forest Service town road, and Dan contradicted this statement and said it is a town road. Discussion continued.

Joan updated the board about through truck ordinances, and the Brandon ordinance is not helpful. She has put it out on Local roads website to see if other towns have something. Last spring we applied to BBR for a grant for engineering for design for two culverts on Bethel Mtn Rd. The grant came in for \$8000 but the engineering for one of the culverts would be \$12000. To do two would cost about twice

that. No matching funds, so she has been talking to WRP, who thought they could get some matching funds. Unfortunately they will not be able to do that due to the drop of 4 feet on the brook in the lower stream bed. WRP discussed this with the US Fish & Wildlife Service who agreed would provide matching funds for at least the Cushman Rd culvert. Short discussion ensued. Will move ahead with this and ask Cricket to do the design work unless we have to bid it out.

Wastewater project is in the final phase of design. The board signed the agreement with the Municipal Bond Bank. The public comment period for the environmental review findings began on July 18 and goes through Aug 17 2017.

New Business: CV Oil offered a prepay plan, and Doon made motion to pass over the prepay, seconded by Tom. Mason asked if we were thinking of going to wood pellets.

Dan McKinley noted that the Planning Commission is going to update the town plan and include an energy commission, which could be a starting point.

Motion made to move into executive session at 7:19, seconded. Dan Gendron and Mark Belisle both invited to attend.

Exited executive session at 8:45.

Action taken: Pay increases for Dan and Dana to reflect the 1.5% increase and the .25 increase for Mark will be forwarded to Joanne to begin at the next payroll. They will be paid retroactively to the first payroll in July.

Bills reviewed and signed, Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell