

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Walt Wells, Joan Allen, Harland McKirryher, Bruce and Doreen Jones, Dick and Diane White, Mason Wade for Orca Media, Rachel Cunningham,

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon asked if anyone wanted to add any additions to the agenda. Mason Wade-US Forest Service, potential policy. Harland- noticed cones removed from jersey barriers in Bingo on top of a blue sedan. Rachel Cunningham-update from Envision Rochester.

Minutes from last meeting on August 12, Doon noted that the minutes needed a correction in the discussion for the school tax rate there was a request for the waiver of interest and or penalty for the late payment and since our town doesn't add the penalty till the May payment we would not waive the interest to the late payments for the first installment. Doon noted that he would approve those minutes with that correction and Tom seconded, so voted.

Doon noted that with Harland's explanation to the missing cones, that they would investigate the situation. Doon asked Mason to speak about the proposed new Forest Service Policy. Doon understood that today was the final day for public comment on that. Mason noted it was the 25th. Mason noted that the knowledge was first known through the newspaper's article and not directly from the Forest Service directly. Doon noted that he didn't know if the local forest service had just known about this. Mason asked if the board had read the article and if they had any opinions or concerns to the discussion in the paper. Martha asked if he could explain what the article was about. Harland spoke to explain that the Forest Service is discontinuing public input to any of their projects. Martha asked if the board agreed to this information. Harland said he called the Forest Service and gave his opinion that he was against it. Doon was surprised that there wasn't anyone reaching out to explain this situation to us as we are the largest landowner of Forest land. Mason suggested that it be added to the next selectboard agenda with a follow up from the selectboard. Doon noted that we could do that. Martha asked if they would be coming in to explain. Doon noted that the request was to report a conversation with them and report the findings. Doon thanked Harland for his input and making a call, said that this was a good point.

Doon asked Rachel for her update towards the future of Rochester with the Envisioning Rochester group. Rachel introduced herself and the ideas of the group. She explained that the group is sharing ideas and resources and concerns and ideas for opportunities. She noted that recently the selectboard, Pat, gave permission to attend the recent leadership summit in Randolph. Rachel thanked the board for the tremendous summit. She noted it was hosted by the Vermont Counsel on Rural Development. That is a non-partisan organization that is interested in what we are doing here in Rochester. She noted that they have encouraged us to come to the selectboard, which we will do formally at the next meeting for 2 things. One, is to get an official endorsement, if you are comfortable to do that for Envisioning Rochester and the outcomes of the community facilitation process. Rachel also asked the board if they would officially request a partnership with the Vermont Counsel on Rural Development. Rachel noted that they could provide information to the selectboard to review before the next selectboard meeting. She noted that no decision would need to be made this evening, it was just informational. She noted at

the last meeting in the spring there were 22 people who signed up individually to volunteer on different teams. Rachel noted they were business owners, young people, older folks, retirees etc. She noted that there have been four meetings with lots of new faces at each meeting. She noted the goal is to support the town selectboard and the town plan. She noted they are eager to read the final draft and seeing where we can give public input when its appropriate. She asked on behalf of the Envisioning Rochester group if there will be hard copies available? Doon noted that there are already copies available. Doon noted that the current copy is not quite ready for final yet. Pat asked about what she meant by them are interested in what we are doing in Rochester, and asked who they are and what they are interested in what we are doing? Rachel explained that the steering committee of Envisioning Rochester invited Jenna Kaloski to come to one of their meetings a few weeks back and gave her an update on what our group and community has been doing and the business people thinking about their plan and strategy on some of the new tax information. She noted that the opportunities are bubbling up from the new Town Plan revision. Rachel explained that Jenna was interested in what were some of the results from the community gatherings. She noted that the ideas were shared. Rachel noted that this information would be shared with the board prior to the next meeting. There is a whole community facilitation process that this organization works on along with other consultants, such as TROC. She noted that this group has been working with our neighborhood towns. This group is interested in doing a modified version with us because we have already jumped through several hoops in getting the community motivated, talking, networking and really putting our thinking caps on. She noted that in our neighborhood communities we are ahead of the ball on that. She noted that with the earlier meetings and the outcome from those meeting this group is excited with what we have already achieved. Doon noted that items will be added to the next agenda talking about all of that in detail. Doon thanked Rachel.

Joan Updates: Bethel Mountain Road. Joan noted that Pat and herself have been attending the weekly construction meetings that take place Monday mornings. Joan noted that as of this morning the project is still considered on schedule. She notated the some of the highlights are that 8 culverts so far have been installed. Two more culverts were going to be installed today. Joan noted that several of the geotechnical sites, which are referred to areas where there is drainage and erosion control, these structures would be installed on both sides of the road. The upside as well as the downhill sides. If you notice these big stoned areas that are being dug out, they refer to these geotechnical areas. She noted these are the heavy-duty areas and several of these are finished. She noted that there are a lot of concrete poured in place culvert both inlets, where the water comes in on the uphill side and on the downhill side, they are called headwalls. She noted that originally, they were going to be cast in place and preform concrete but because of the slope and other conditions, it made it difficult to do precast. She noted they are moving along as well. She noted that the bottom line, terms of the schedule by the end of the week they will be on schedule. She noted that by mid-October, around the 13th all the geotechnical sites will be completed. Joan noted that they have encountered unexpected conditions on the downhill side. More slides then they expected. She noted a lot of times the topography is steeper than what was originally thought. She noted that this happened because not all of it was surveyed. She said they do have to resurvey in the fields and reset the stakes and figure out how to direct the water down hill so its not like a firehose. She noted that they are making adaptations because of the down slope movement causing more erosion. She noted also that there is more ledge in some places, there was concern of blasting but right now they are drilling the rock to break it off in pieces. She noted a major change order of what was called Site 2 or Upper Bethel Mountain Road. There's been a lot of discussion going back and forth between all the agencies and Dubois and King and the contractor about

how to deal with the work that is required above the current project site. She noted that the agreement between all the parties, is that an additional portion of the work will be incorporated into Tatro's contract with a change order. That will move Tatro's contract responsibility up to the T intersection of Bethel Mountain and Middle Hollow. She noted that this site will be named Site 1B. This additional work consists of Stone line ditching and some paving repair and shoulder work. She noted that Tatro feels confident they will still meet the mid-October deadline date for completion. Joan noted that the section of road from the T intersection out to the Bethel Town line, District 4 and the MAB will work to get that done also within the same time frame. She noted that in order to get it done in time, so the town can get the maximum reimbursement from the Feds and get it done before winter they will scale it back. She noted that this will consist of doing the cross culverts that are needed they will button it up for the winter by working strictly in the town right-of-way. She noted that another way of extending the length of time the project takes is to go beyond the town right-of-way onto private property. She noted all the surveys, easements and documents to sign will be left until next year. She noted that the work this year to button up before winter will be just the stone line ditching, paving and what ever shoulder work to make it safe for travel this winter. Joan noted that this October when the better roads grants come out or the Class 2 roads grant next April, they are encouraged to apply to complete the work for the cross culverts next year. She noted also that the other part of that is the process they follow is called an IDIQ, which stands for Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity. She explained that what it means is instead of doing a very detailed form of bid process where you break out all the materials and all the different steps involved, the State will just invite prequalified bidders to bid on it and they can provide a bid is just a lump sum amount. She noted that these are companies that have worked extensively on VTrans projects in the past. They are known quality in terms of what their qualifications are and their ability to get the job done and on time. She noted that we will hear more about that in the next coming weeks.

She noted that the water quality work at the Town Garage project is moving ahead. Someone from White River Partnership will come and give technical information at the next Selectboard Meeting, September 9th. The water shed consultant associates are doing some of the final designs that should be finalized in the coming week. The main thing that will happen there is something called a swirl separator. Its an in-ground piece of equipment that will take a lot of the stormwater runoff and will separate all the silts and sediments from going into the river. This equipment will let the water to flow through and infiltrate through the ground allowing clean water to flow to the river. It is called the Defender. Doon asked about how often it will need to be cleaned out. Joan noted about every three years. Joan noted that there will be specs on that and its essentially a vacuum system that the town will have to invest in. Joan noted that there may be a grant for that. Joan noted that there was a site visit at this location with White River Partnership with the consultants and Cooter as well. They spoke about other things that would be done at the surface to redirect the stormwater as well. There was a lot of discussion about what to do with the salt shed storage, which is not fully resolved yet. She noted that it may have to be a separate design exercise and separate project. She noted that Cooter had the option of his crew doing the work, it's about a two-week process. She noted that he decided to bid it out instead. She noted that White River Partnership will work with the town on that putting together the bid package for that. It should be in the Herald next week and hopefully will all be ready to do the project in mid-October.

Lastly, Joan mentioned the 23-24 FEMA projects have a small group is putting together various tasks associated with the project including information on how much work is done, what its costed us to date,

what percentage of completion it is on the projects, what projects need to be bid out over what period of time, what is the description of the work to be done. There will be a FEMA meeting coming up on Wednesday, with a FEMA rep to go through the spread sheet we are working on.

Library Updates: Tony announced that tomorrow Gayle Clausen will be doing a workshop on Hand lettering at 10:00 am and Thursday, Howard Coffin will talk about the summer of 1816 that wasn't a summer. Amy Braun will do a writing workshop on Saturday. Tony noted that the next Library Trustee's meeting will be earlier than usual on September 3, 2019. He noted that you can get all this information in the Herald and on the Bulletin boards. Doon asked what time the Howard Coffin talk is, and Tony noted at 7pm.

Doon noted that there wasn't any new business and asked if anyone wanted to say anything to add. Pat noted that for anyone concerned in town about the truck traffic, the project only has about 6 weeks left but the trucks are estimated to only need about 3-4 weeks of truck traffic.

Doon went on to the Old Business of the missing book. Harland asked if anyone was still looking. Julie noted that as she is cleaning out different areas, she is keeping an eye out on the missing book.

Dick White noted that the maple tree is gone and that it was worse of than he thought it was.

Rachel asked about an explanation on the recent article in the Herald about the potential of a 10% property tax increase because of the reduced number of children at school. Pat noted that it was discussed at the last meeting. Rachel asked if there was an update. Doon noted that we have not received any updates. He explained that basically there was the supervisory union modified the student count for unknown reasons, using their own formula. He noted that was what they communicated to the town to use for the tax rate. He noted that the rate was not what Rochester or Stockbridge voted on. Doon noted that he anticipates that they will revert.

Doon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Smith