

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Terry Severy, Walt Wells, Rachel Cunningham, Dick and Diane White, John Champion, Harland McKirryher, Tony Goupee, Asia Kennett, Beth Frock, Kinley Tenner, Mason Wade for Orca Media

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

Additions: Mason Wade-Special Meeting mid-November. Rachel Cunningham-update for Skate space

Doon moved to approve the selectboard meeting minutes from September 09, 2019. Pat seconded. So, voted.

Beth Frock introduced herself and Asia Kennett as the co-managers of the Farmers Market. She noted that the grass on that side of the park is in pretty bad shape. Beth asked the board if both Her and Asia could volunteer to re-seed in the fall. Doon accepted and asked if they could rotate next year around the Bethel Mountain roadsides using ribbons. Beth noted that she didn't think the issue of the grass was because of the farmer's market. She personally felt it was caused from an end of the summer storm the previous year and a storm drain was blocked which caused the water to overflow and wash away the topsoil in that area. She noted that the places in the sun the grass would grow. Asia noted that Peter did seed it in the spring and noted that even the areas they don't touch with the farmers market, the grass did not grow and felt that it would need a specific shade tolerant seed mix. The board shared their concern that it may not take effect with the late fall planting of the seed but to give it a try, since the seed is so inexpensive. Doon appreciated that they had come in to address the issue and fix at their own expense.

Mason Wade requested to be added to the next selectboard agenda. He noted that the topic of that meeting would be Climate Emergency Declaration from our town. Doon asked if he wanted a special town meeting or a regular meeting. Mason asked for a meeting in mid-November. Doon asked if he would like to have it warned for the beginning of the next selectboard meeting and have a special meeting then and not have another meeting on top of a scheduled meeting. Mason noted that he was looking at Open Meeting law process'. Pat noted in order to have a special meeting you still have the three days, or a special meeting would need to be warned in 24 hours. She noted that it could piggy-back on to a selectboard meeting as Doon noted. Mason noted he would like to space it out, so the voters have an opportunity to understand the potentials of it because of voter issues. Patty asked if the time could be piggy backed on the next selectboard meeting. Mason clarified that by putting the issue on the next selectboard meeting it could then be hashed out. He noted that it would give them an opportunity to google what other communities are doing on this subject. Pat noted that we could also ask Rachel. Rachel spoke and noted that there is a core group in the VCRD that focus on climate. She noted that she could reach out to someone to come and answer questions. Mason noted that with the 800 plus voters of the community that this is their subject. He noted that the community didn't need an education piece but more of where they want to go with this. Mason noted that it could all be discussed at the next selectboard meeting.

Rachel spoke about the updates to Skate Space. She noted that over the weekend a total of six volunteers; Dean Mendell, Norm Christiansen, Dan and Peg Mckinley, herself and her partner Rich Kitchner all laid stone foundations, shifted back the rec shed, put primer on the walls. She noted that hopefully with some more volunteers they would be replacing the roof. She noted that they are looking to work with some folks that they could move one of the base balls dug outs over to the second new foundation. She noted that the stone came from Cheryl and Ray Harvey. She noted that materials had come from Bethel Mills in Hancock. She didn't know who owned the dug outs. Doon noted that he thought they were a senior project from a student all owned by the school. Rachel noted a new conduit would need to be installed and Martha noted that Louis Donnet was doing that work.

Doon noted that Joan was not present to give her updates, but she provided notes and asked Pat to read them. Pat noted that there was a meeting every Monday about the Bethel Mountain Lower Site 1 Project. Pat noted that as of that Monday morning all slope work including out falls and head walls are completed. All the concrete head walls are poured they are ready to go. Box cutting has started. They are finishing up the lower 800' of ditching at the bottom of the hill, continuing this week with more box cutting. She noted that they are lining of the ditches primarily on the upper side of the hill. Whitcome Pavers will be coming in to do the paving. She noted that they start with re-claiming on Thursday. She noted that the paving will start next Thursday. The project is still on schedule and the last contractor to come in is the contractor that paints the lines on the road. Pat noted that Cooter had some concerns about the trees on the upper part of the hill. She noted there was discussion about who would take down some of those trees, are they or are they not in the right of way. She noted for the time being you could have a conversation with Cody about a few that looked to be necessary but for the most part there's no place to begin or stop so there are a few that are obvious to work with Cody to take down. Martha asked if this was on the upper part and Pat noted they are on the up-hill side. Pat continued that the Easements for the homeowners would all be back in as soon as possible. Pat noted that on to Site 2 work which is a different company. J. Hutchins started the work today on site 2. She noted that their work will also be slated to be done by October 11. Flaggers will be up there, so travel will be delayed. She noted that 3 culverts have been recommended to be replaced. She noted that they will not be completed this year. She noted that there is funding available. She noted that one of the culverts will need to be increased from a 36" to a 48' culvert. She noted that hopefully there won't be an issue with ledge, or a design will need to be done. She noted that Cricket would need the board's approval to come in to look at the design for one of the culverts. Pat noted that there is still a \$45,000.00 Class 2 Roadway Grant, that initially was going to be used to do a study for the problem with Bethel Mountain road and VTrans has allowed us to use that money elsewhere. She noted that if the Selectboard approves, it may be used on the upper Bethel Mountain Road to pay for one of the three culvert replacements. Pat noted that with the FEMA projects going on Joan, Cooter and Julie with some involvement of Becky are working their way through all the extensive data for FEMA. They have been meeting every other week with the FEMA rep. There will be a site visit from other FEMA staff to verify costs and work completed. Bids for completing other sites by outside contractors is gradually getting done. Dick asked if Brook Street will be getting repaired. Pat noted that she didn't think it would get repair with the Emergency money. Doon noted that he didn't have any problems with going ahead and asking for VTrans to repurpose the \$45,000.00 grant to attack the culvert. John noted that it would be for the two smaller culverts and apply for a Structure Grant next year to replace the larger culvert. John noted that Hutchins will give a price for replacing the two smaller cross culverts.

Highway Updates: John noted that they are working up in Bingo to work on ditching with the Ditching Grant. He noted that when they get to the area where they are waiting for the forest Service approval, they may not be as extensive to make it wide enough to plow it and be safe this winter. He noted that Joan would be in touch with the Forest Service to push the issue of a decision. John noted that his rental of the equipment be ending shortly. John noted that they did receive their leaf blower but that they hadn't tried it out yet. Mason asked if the Ditching Grant included conservation of winter rye and straw to be put down on the soils. John noted that they are seeded as they go.

Utilities Updates: Terry noted that he fixed the leak down on Kennedy Drive. He noted that last week he had problems with the little injector pump and hoped to have the parts by the next day to repair it. Tom asked if it were the injector pump at the Pump station and how is he putting soda ash into the system. Terry noted not very good. Tom asked if he was continuing to check the ph and Terry noted that it was reading 6.8-7. He noted that in the system it was reading 7.4-7.6. Rachel asked about an update for the fire hydrant down by the pond. Terry noted that they were going up that next night to figure out what was going on. He noted that they would take the truck up and see.

Library Updates: Tony noted that on Thursday, Tom Perera would speak about Survival in the Antarctic. Diane noted that tomorrow from 2-4 would be a program on Medicare.

Doon noted on the old business was a vestigial missing book that pops up on the agenda. He noted that he is prepared to call it a moot issue. He noted that it doesn't need to be on the agenda. Harland asked if he was ready to call the books lost and can't be found. Doon noted that they don't seem to have been found and it's not that they won't let him know if they show up. Harland spoke and asked if the town is afraid of jeopardizing the \$50,000.00 they have invested in the lawsuit and that there may be information in the books that could settle the issue one way or another. He noted he would like to find out the facts himself. Tom asked how the town is jeopardizing it and didn't understand what he meant by that. Harland noted by not looking for the books. Tom noted he didn't understand because we have been looking for the books for months. Discussion ensued. Harland noted that Bruce searched in the vault and 30 years is gone. He noted that Bruce said that it could be down in the basement. Tom said they have not been found. Harland noted so we are not going to look for them anymore and the board noted that is not what they said. Harland noted that Bruce noted in the letter that 30 years are missing, and the book could be in the vault or possibly mislabeled in a book in the vault. Doon noted that was what he also thought. Doon asked what else he wanted them to do. Harland noted it would be nice for someone to go downstairs. Doon noted that Harland is retired and that he could come in and search. Doon noted as things progress and people dig and look it's out there to find a book. Rachel suggested helping to come in and look with Harland. Mason read from the minutes that had passed, discussion continued about the missing books and nothing more to report on that. Mason noted that at the last meeting if your tire of looking for the books and we have a responsibility to the voters that if we are done we should have a conclusion and that conclusion could be real or perceive, not knowing where they are and that you should let Michael, the Windsor Sherriff understand the situation and let others take care of the problem. Mason felt that with the blank out from the last minutes, he presented it in a comfortable way as a voter, referring to our liabilities of the voter's conclusion of missing records should be understood. He noted that if the town has a fire and the building burns down, at the next selectboard meeting would make a record stating our records have been burned to the ground and we have conclusion. Mason asked that we have a conclusion, turn it over to Michael. He noted to do something and not leave it in limbo. Doon noted that he didn't think that was a logical place to go with this issue.

He said it's a waste of their time. He noted we are not the only town with missing minutes in the records. Pat noted that they will not give up on the missing book or books. She noted where were the meetings held back then. Pat noted that the meeting minutes were kept in a kitchen cabinet somewhere. Rachel asked if they spoke to the Historical Society and Pat noted that she had. Rachel asked if she could come in and help. Doon noted that it was ludicrous to keep having this conversation at every meeting. Pat noted that the moot point is that its on the agenda and that they will keep looking for the book. Mason added that he wondered what year the vault was installed. Dick thought back in the 80's. Discussion ensued about prior selectboard locations and meetings in the past years and the moving of books.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith