

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Terry Severy, Walt Wells, Bruce Flewelling, Bruce & Doreen Jones, Nancy Woolley, Richard Veilleux, Daniel Ward, Lizzy Shackelford, Dave Harvey, Marvin & Barb Harvey, Kevin Kelly, Dick & Diane White, John Champion, Harland McKirryher, Tony Goupee, Kinley Tenner, Mason Wade for Orca Media

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

I

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

Additions: Harland-30 years of missing selectboard minutes

Doon moved to approve the selectboard meeting minutes from September 23, 2019. Tom seconded. So, voted.

Marvin commented on the piece of telephone pole left behind across from the Skip Mart and said he would pick it up and move it. He spoke about the Marsh Brook Rd and the roadside mowing. He spoke about the contractor was given a handout of areas that would not be mowed. He noted that he went to Mike about mowing more in an area up by his house.

Mason spoke about discussing our town moving forward on a climate emergency declaration. He noted that other communities have done this. He thought that VLCT could advise the selectboard on different formats on what this could look like. He noted that this could give us forward directions on how we as a community move forward and look at our infrastructures. He noted that it could relate to potential grants. Mason noted how he spoke about having a special meeting in mid-November although he thought it would make sense to wait till mid-December giving us time to think about how we ought to include all the voters to be able to have a voice in this. He noted even with Australian Ballot. He noted it could include an email vote for some people. He said it would give a better opportunity to those who are working like 3 jobs. He noted that the Rochester Civil Authority could come to the next selectboard meeting and talk about that issue. He noted that how could we make it possible for more participation on a vote like this inclusive with email. He noted that the selectboard may have some feeling and done some homework and can share their feelings about this. Doon noted that this would be a good ball for Mason to pick up and run with this since Mason is inspired to do it. Tenner spoke up and noted that he did some homework on this and announced what he had found. Tenner noted that there is a group called VECAN-Vermont Energy Climate Action Network. They have a google site with nice insight to community energy and action committee. He noted it's a great resource and place to start. He noted that if volunteers wanted to start up a group and perhaps work with Envision Rochester perhaps, they would help organize meeting times and places.

Doon noted that VLCT is also a great resource. He noted that next July there is an issue that solid waste will not take anymore food scraps. He noted that this legislature will make this happen and we will have to comply. Martha noted that Able Waste does provide special food waste bags now to start.

Pat asked if this is something Mason is feeling immediately and wanted to know if he wanted to address at the Town Meeting in March? Mason noted it was a possibility but wanted to continue the talk at the

next selectboard meeting. Discussion ensued. Doon clarified that the topic he brought up was Climate Emergency but the topic he is talking about is email voting. Mason clarified the participation about the Climate Emergency Declaration and that the community really thinks about it and shares a healthy vote on it. He noted that something of this nature has a way of helping to have guidance in which directions we move in the future. Tom asked what we would be voting on and Mason concluded that it was what we are talking about now. Doon asked if he had information to share about that. Tenner noted that there is a model Town meeting day resolution, that is a one page available as a resource, and we could vote to adopt the resolution. Tenner noted that there is a boiler plate available to adopt a resolution. Tenner asked if Mason is looking for more community involvement and if a vote is important or is it just a simple way to adopt a resolution. Mason noted that they go hand in hand. Tenner noted that we could vote the resolution and if its important enough we can decide to form a committee. Tenner noted that a committee of a half dozen or less can investigate what to do and with a model in place. Doon asked if a town meeting type non-binding resolution that the town can choose to vote for or adopt. Doon noted that the question is there voting to adopt a resolution whereas then we can check it off that we are done or there is ongoing conversation. Doon noted it seemed to make sense of an ongoing conversation with more going to happen coming out in conversation that way. He noted that yes, voting for a resolution if the town is educated and stands behind that as symbolic to allow for grants and such. Tenner noted that there are grants available. Doon noted back to the original request of Mason asking to have a special town meeting with this as the topic, correct. Mason agreed but added to have a vote associated to that special town meeting. Mason added prior to that is ongoing discussion to get there. Which would be the adoption of whatever plan the selectboard felt was appropriate to put forth for a vote. Pat suggested that he propose the Library get involved in any of that discussion. Mason was open to any direction as long as we figure it out in the meetings ahead and be able to communicate with our official newspaper or anywhere else to inform the votes and at the same time offering them an opportunity to vote which could be new and exciting for our voters. Pat noted that the participation on a lot of subject matters we have had at the library has been very successful with a great turnout. Doon noted that it sounded to him like a vote on something like this is most appropriate at the Town meeting where there is the largest turnout of voters whether it is physically or through Orca media and the discussion leading up to that. He noted that a vote before that would seem premature. He noted that if the real goal here is to educate and to generate discussion and awareness that perhaps Mason could give a little presentation each meeting coming up and if you want to propose a special town meeting to discuss it, we could do it. He noted that it seemed to him to be more then an agenda on the selectboard meetings and the real special meeting is the town meeting, where the town takes a stand on bigger things like that. He noted he could petition to have a special town meeting if Mason cared to do so. Mason noted that the process of the town selectboard involved in the declaration is an important factor. Mason noted that the next selectboard meeting it would be good to continue the subject because there is going to be like 6 selectboard meetings before the annual meeting. Mason noted it would be great to have it on the agenda for the next selectboard meeting and possibly by then, not only yourselves having a little more idea of what's going on with this and a few people get together and look at this more. Doon asked if he was volunteering to bring some information to the table.

Joan's update: Doon asked Pat to present Joan's notes to the meeting since Joan wasn't present. Doon noted that the completion of the Bethel mountain job happened six months to the day, miraculously. Doon shouted out a big thank you to Tatro Construction, Joan and everyone else in the town office, the road crew and their support, and the towns people that put up the inconvenience. He noted it was hard work from Tatro and was astounding that they made that deadline.

Pat noted that Tatro Construction completed the project by the end of the day, October 11. She noted it was a great accomplishment on many people. Tatro project manager, Cody Marsh and his crew and the VTrans staff from the Municipal Assistance Bureau, and District 4, Engineering firm DuBois and King along with many of us from Rochester, thanks goes out to all of them. Thank you to all the four landowners that had to sell easements for their properties so that the town was able to put in the drainage system they needed to. She noted to thank everyone that had dump trucks going by from 73 to the Quarry for all the noise and the dust. Thank you for your cooperation. We achieved what our wish was, 100% funded by the federal highway department. Pat noted from Joan's notes that Site 2 work done by Hutchins completed the work contracted through VTrans. Pat noted they were also done by the end of the day Friday, October 11. Culverts mentioned in the last selectboard meeting were completed. Pat thanked Cooter for all the request, assistance and comments to that project.

Pat noted we are applying for a Better Roads Grant that will be used to replace and upsize a Rogers Brook Culvert. Pat noted that the FEMA project continue along with the paperwork. She noted that the Town Garage Project is influx, as it has been difficult to find a contractor to do the work. She noted there is a possibility that the project can be extended with other sources of funding, rather than breaking the project into 2 phases. The second phase of work to be done would be to contain the winter sand. Pat noted with the West Hill Bridge Design; it would need to get the RFP out by this fall with the help of VTrans Bridge engineer.

Highway Update: Cooter noted they were still working in Bingo. Cooter noted that Winter sand was going to start arriving Monday. Doon noted that they delivered components for the Town Garage Project. Diane White made a request of coming down the right-hand side of Brook Street there are four or five spots that need to be patched. She noted that you cautiously drive on the other side of the road. Cooter noted that he has a plan to get that patched, hopefully weather pending on Friday.

Doon introduced Richard to talk about improvements that will need to be done on the class 4 road for the Swans Mill logging project. Richard noted that they are possibly going up on Swans Mill at the end of Wing Farm Road this winter. He noted that it is a class 4 road and that there are some rough spots that will need some material. He thought that there wasn't a need for any culverts. He noted that the water runs from the top to the bottom near now. He noted that there is ledge in the road so material will need to fill in those areas that are steep. He noted that there will be some brush that will need to be cut back. He noted that the road will need to be maintained throughout the winter by plow. Doon noted that we will work up a road work agreement so we will have clarity of what will be done for a class 4 road. Doon asked when the work would begin. Richard noted sooner than later. Pat asked if it were a 1-year project. Tom noted that it would be many years. Pat asked if it were part of the Robinson Project and Richard noted it was not and that it was a government project, different sale. Doon thanked Richard for coming to talk about it.

Utility Updates: Terry said he was doing a routine maintenance with a septic truck down behind the school. Tom asked how the latest testing for the PFOA's. Terry noted we passed. He noted we were one of 45 towns that passed. He noted that 600 towns still had to do the testing. He noted that we won't have to retest for another 3 years, maybe longer. Tom thanked Terry.

Library Updates: Tony noted that the Trustee's meeting will be Tuesday night at 6 pm. He noted that there will be programs in between. He noted that Thursday, October at 7 pm, there will be a discussion

from Wendell Barry's book. He noted it certainly has things to do with climate change and town improvements. He noted it should be a good discussion also. Doon thanked Tony.

Harland wanted to update his search on the missing book. He noted that he spent several hours in the basement looking, but no success in finding it. He did note that he found a bunch of AOT maps dating from 1940-2003, showing road in question as a primitive untraveled road. He noted that they were stashed in a broken map file. Doon thanked Harland for taking the time to dig into that.

Doon noted that Tom wanted to talk about the sale of the constable's truck. Tom noted that he wanted to make public the dispositioning of the old constable's assets. He noted that one of the assets was the vehicle. He noted that the Orange county Sherriff made an offer to buy the truck. Harland asked how its working out financially with the County Sherriff. Tom noted they are staying within the budget that was set. Dick White asked if we get more coverage with our own constable. He noted that the Sherriff is only here 2 days a week. Discussion ensued about the part time coverage of the Sherriff.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith