

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2019

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Larry Straus, David Harvey, Tenner Kinley, Kevin Kelly, Nancy and Kenny Beattie, Susan Morse, Joan Allen, Eric Bowman, Walt Wells, John Champion, Nancy Woolley, Harland McKirryher, Tony Goupee, Bruce Flewelling, Irene Smead, Anni Mackay, Nick Piccicuto and Mason Wade for Orca Media

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the Agenda: Harland-missing book. Mason- Recognizing Veterans Day. Issues to bring up Process over the policy over the last 4 selectboard meetings and an update on E-voting.

Doon moved to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2019. Tom seconded. So, voted. Doon also moved to approve the minutes of the Special Selectboard meeting on November 4, 2019. Tom seconded. So, voted.

Doon noted to Harland that he hadn't found the missing book but did find a highway map from 1970 that clearly showed Pine Gap Road as a Class 4 Road of 1.6 miles or so. Doon noted that the Town of Hancock found the map and returned it to the Town. Tom also informed Harland that in the process of cleaning up the Constables office he was on alert of not just the missing book but anything that doesn't belong there. He noted only finding garbage at this time. Pat noted that she went through the Historical Society and went through what they had cataloged and didn't find anything for meeting minutes.

Doon noted to Mason that indeed e-voting is not an option in the state of Vermont. He said it is not a recognized form of voting in the state of Vermont. Mason said that he spoke with Christopher Winters the deputy of the Secretary of State noting that he found there are ways to evolve e-voting. One is that charter towns have a whole set of rules and we are a municipal town and it may be something our town may want to investigate. Mason also noted that the other one is in a process of an informal vote can be handled in an e-voting process. Doon noted that the places he has found that do allow e-voting from places from such of combat or areas of extreme direst where its not easy to get to the voter to get the mail in.

Doon asked Mason to go over the process. Mason noted that this evening they were looking to adopt a class 4 highway policy. He noted his meaning of policy and what it is to the selectboard. Mason suggested that there was a question of understanding the process of open meeting laws when it comes to this policy and how much public input has been involved in it and the time frame of which the adoption seems to be being pushed. He noted that was his issue about the process and wanted to look a lot harder at open meeting laws in reference to this policy. Larry asked if some specific process hadn't been followed and if it was, he wanted to hear it. Larry asked to not make some veiled reference and Mason couldn't specifically answer. Doon noted that the roll of the selectboard is conduct the town business and can take the public interest. He noted that they are here to conduct the Town business in an open meeting. Doon explained that the public has had 4 open meeting to bring forth their interest towards the adoption of this policy. Irene Smead read a letter from Lizzy Shackelford and Daniel Ward, discussing their concerns and reasonings of the writing in the policy. Doon noted that he appreciated

the reading of their letter and input. He noted what is unfortunate is this much emotion blowing up is much ado about nothing. Doon noted that there is about 6 miles of Class 4 roads give or take and we have currently received and will receive in the future a request to do some maintenance on the roads that is time sensitive to the weather because it is a timber harvest and that is what has prompted the movement towards adoption of this policy. Adopting this Class 4 Road Policy will not change anything that state laws currently allow us to do. Doon noted the only thing we were adopting this for was a step towards clarity and transparency and board decision making and help make rational and consistent decisions. This is all stuff we are operating under with state rules by default we have been following the state rules. This is just a step to have more clarity and this is a tool we will use to go forward with in decisions in standardized procedure. Nancy Beattie noted that she agreed that a policy needs to be in place, and she noted the concern of not being aware of this policy. Doon noted again that it didn't change the rules, not changing the laws and only to improve the processes in town. She noted that the only thing that bothered her was the requiring commercial insurance for the landowners to drop their plow. Doon noted and agreed that the wording does need to be changed. Discussion ensued. Doon previously noted that the Attorney they used to formulate this policy was an attorney with VLCT. The policy he created for us, he feels is a step above and improvement over that policy. Doon moved to adopt the Class 4 Highway Policy subject to the two edits, to relieve that burden of private landowners. Pat seconded. So, voted. Doon thanked all those with input and interest. The specific edits are in section 6 paragraph G and Section 7 Paragraph E, exempting adjacent landowners snowplowing and winter maintenance from the commercial insurance.

Joan updates: Cooter noted that they have been filling out several applications to the Better Roads Programs for funding. Doon noted that they would be upgrades to upsizing several cross drains on Jerusalem and Wing Farm that would not be covered by FEMA. Cooter noted that there will be a big job on Town Line road as well. Cooter noted that they have spread salt already. He noted that the FEMA site inspection for the following day was cancelled due to weather. He figured before the next Selectboard meeting they would have rescheduled.

Library meeting: Tony noted that there would be a trustee meeting on Wednesday, November 12th at 6 pm. He noted that Thursday the Vermont Poet Chad Niord would be at the Library at 7 pm to read poems.

Doon opened the sidewalk bid. It was submitted from Music Mountain Property Maintenance in the amount of \$13,500.00 per year for a 3-year period from November 1- May 1. This would include fire Hydrants with 6" snow amounts. He noted that he would need to purchase a piece of equipment if awarded. Pat moved to accept the bid and Doon seconded it. So, voted.

Doon thanked everyone for coming out and meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith