

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

December 14, 2015

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen, Joan Allen

Guests: Dan Gendron, Nancy Woolley, Brian Austin, Marvin & Barbara Harvey, Susan Banas, Chris Mattrick, Juli Reiderer, Amy Wright, Diane Hanscom and Evelyn Pruiksmā

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm. Doon asked to add the following to the agenda: discussion with the USFS about the Bingo Road agreement for 2016 and an inquiry about leasing the old Firehouse. Robert asked to add general discussion of West Hill Rd issues. Joan noted that Dubois & King would like to have a combined public hearing for both the Sidewalk Scoping Project and the New Park sometime in early 2016. The hearing was tentatively scheduled for February 8, 2016.

Robert made motion to approve minutes from the November 23rd meeting, so voted. Robert made motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2015 Special meeting, seconded by Doon. So voted.

Guests: Brian Austin, engineer for the USFS noted that the annual cooperative agreement for grading and maintaining West Hill Rd and Bingo Rd has expired. The amount has been approximately \$2300 (based on mileage) over the past few years. There will be more funds for long term culvert work coming up that could span several years, and Brian feels that a new agreement should be created. A new agreement would be prepared and to the board in early 2016. Short discussion ensued, and Robert mentioned the problems with West Hill Rd that we are currently dealing with. The agreement will have an expanded list of roads and culverts to include those on Wing Brook. Possibly some other areas may be included as well that may fall into future projects. The agreement modification recently sent by Dan McKinley will end up being cancelled out by the new agreement. There will be a meeting on Wednesday at 10:00 am of interested parties regarding the West Hill Rd washout. Robert noted he has been in contact with the lawyer and has sent additional information to the residents. West Hill will need appropriate signage to comply with weight restrictions etc. An easement was secured from Richard and Hilda Welch so the Town can cut 10 feet into his property to skirt the worst area of the slide.

Juli Reiderer gave the board an update of what is happening with the Park House Grant. Most of the work has been completed for this phase, and they would like to request a public hearing on January 25, 2016 and also to close out the planning grant and to apply for the implementation grant. Short discussion ensued regarding compliance with the Department of Labor standards. Juli noted that the reasoning behind the grant projects is that they are trying to get Park House up to code as if it was a new building. The implementation grant needs to be submitted by February 8, 2016. Robert made motion to approve the Park House publishing notice of public hearing on January 25th, seconded by Doon. So voted.

Susan Banas spoke on behalf of her mother Erna Brousseau who lives at the bottom of Bethel Mtn Rd. They are concerned about the increase in tractor trailer traffic on the road even though it is posted for a certain weight. She noted there are 3-4 per day coming down the mountain. There is also a slope failure on the road, and that causes safety and liability issues for the public. She feels it should be posted, and has talked with the road commissioner in Bethel who would welcome discussing this with the Rochester Selectboard. She mentioned that GPS sites are recommending this route regularly, and should be discouraged from doing this. She would also like to know what the current plan is for the slope failure if it does break down, and Robert noted that we have applied for grants for engineering, and will continue applying for grants until we receive them. Discussion ensued. Susan will email Robert info regarding the Bethel Selectboard, and is hoping this may help solve the problem. Short discussion ensued. Marv asked about the canister on the sidewalk at Brousseau's house-it's in the right of way and will be hit by plow trucks. Dan noted it will be moved. Marv noted that the town right of way is 25 feet from the center of the road, and the town has the right to remove anything in that right of way. He also told the board that he believes the road shoulders should be "pulled" and the material removed from the site.

Marvin also noted that he has designated himself to represent the Historical Society about the possibility of creating a permanent military service monument on the Park. He asked the board if they would oppose such a monument. Short discussion ensued.

Water Meters: Terry has started replacing meters. He is getting help from a couple of Harvey's employees in replacing the meters. Robert asked Dan to contact Terry and let him know that Teddy is available to help with this.

New Business: The board received a request for the Green Mtn Relay Race on June 11, 2016. It was noted that this is graduation day also. Robert made motion to approve the request, so voted.

The Fire Department Treasurer (Mike Harvey) has been given a form to fill out and return to the office with a monthly bank statement for their "personal" account so the treasurer can reconcile. This will remove the finding from our annual audit. Jim will remind Mike at fire meetings.

Robert noted that there are a lot of items that come up regarding town building maintenance and we tend to deal with them as they happen. He would like to get some help to review buildings and plan what needs to be done and when, and documenting all the towns assets. Short discussion ensued.

The Library has requested grant writing time from Joan Allen, the Selectboard Assistant. The board agreed that they need Joan's time to be focused on town business. Nancy noted that the job description for the librarian included grant writing.

Street Light survey: Joan noted that she has not had time to try and figure out all the details of the information she was sent. She has been waiting to hear from Efficiency VT to see where the savings would be. The Sidewalk scoping study is also holding this up since we don't know exactly what is going to come of that project. She would like to see a small group of volunteers to "study" the street lights as they currently are. Short discussion ensued. Joan will come back to this project in January, but will contact Larry Curtis as a possible volunteer soon.

Doon noted that Don Hartman, business owner from Waitsfield would like to look into leasing the old Firehouse with the intent of opening a pizza establishment. Short discussion ensued, and it was noted

that the building is not in good condition. Even so, the board would prefer to lease the building instead of sell it, and Doon will show him the building and see if it is something he might interested in.

Joan asked the board to try and set a date for the Dubois & King public hearings. The tentative date for both hearings will be February 8, 2016 prior to the Selectboard meeting.

Bills were reviewed and warrants signed.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell