

Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests: Janice and Ken Yelland, Doreen Jones, Martha Slater, Bruce Flewelling, Vic Ribaldo, Susan Morse, Nancy Woolley, Kristen LaPell, Burma Cassidy, Lizzy Shackelford, Daniel Ward, Orca Media, Rob and Char Gardner, Lolly Lindsey, Ann and Mike VanDusen.

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Susan-Dog Catcher; Burma-community distancing

Doon opened the meeting noting that it would be the first Virtual Selectboard meeting. Doon noted that because of the Pandemic and the importance and need for social distancing, this meeting would be held as an experiment, even though legislature was within days of allowing open meeting laws to be held without a physical spot. Doon felt it was important enough to hold a meeting while waiting for the proposal to be finalized. He noted that to protect the community, this meeting would be held and if we need to have another special meeting to ratify any decisions made at this meeting to make them binding then we will do so.

Doon moved to approve the minutes from the Pre-Town meeting on February 24. Pat seconded. Doon approved. Pat said I and Doon said I. Both approved. So, voted

Doon moved to approve the minutes from the Selectboard meeting on February 24. Pat seconded. Doon approved and said I and Pat said I. Both approved. So, voted.

Doon moved to approve the minutes from the selectboard meeting on March 09. Frank seconded. Doon approved and said I, Frank said I. Both approved. So, voted.

Doon moved to discuss the adoption of the 2020 Local Hazzard Mitigation Plan. He invited Vic Ribaldo to speak on behalf of the Committee. Vic introduced the plan that has been in the town in the past and noted has a life of five years and would need to be renewed, at that time for eligibility from FEMA reimbursements. He noted there are specifications for the plan document that will need to satisfy FEMA requirements. He noted we received a grant last year to have professional planning assistance help our Emergency Management Committee put together a new plan. Two Rivers provided staff to the committee composed of himself as Chair, John Champion, Terry Severy, Jan McCann, Rob Gardner, and Pat Harvey. He noted they met several times over the course of the year and reviewed the prior plans used. He noted they considered various criteria and how they would update through the plan. He noted the overall idea was to help identify all the hazards faced in the town and rank them. He noted they identified strengths to reduce risk from known priority hazards like flash floods, severe weather, cold, snow, extreme heat and things of that nature. He noted that within the process they had generated several drafts and sent it to the state Emergency Management office for review. It was returned with suggestions for improvement to be more aligned with FEMA requirements. He noted after the last round of editing they received an approval sometime in December. He noted that the next step in the process would be to present it to the selectboard to receive their approval and then it would be sent off to the state and from there it would be forwarded to FEMA and from that point we would be eligible for

FEMA reimbursement if there were ever another disaster. He noted it does not speak specifically to the Coronavirus or any other pandemic, this was not an issue that was on the radar when putting this together. He noted perhaps putting in an amendment at some point or a future addition to the plan would be recommended. He noted that the document is about 55 pages long, and that Martha sat in at least during one of the meetings. He noted that all the meetings were properly warned appropriately and there was plenty of opportunity to review it.

Doon thanked Vic for that synopsis. Doon noted as earlier stated it is questionable to what extent we can take binding action at this meeting. Doon proposed to adopt the plan and we can come back and reaffirm the adoption in the future, once legislature would act to legally conform to this format. Doon moved to adopt the plan. Pat seconded. All in favor. Pat said I and Frank said I. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon talked about the social distancing in town and noted that there is a second notice in a series of town mailers, that will be mailed out. He noted this notice will provide updated information about towns response to COVID-19. He noted with the rapidly changing situation and that it is becoming increasingly urgent that people adhere to safety guidelines of social distancing and by staying home and ceasing non-essential outings. He noted that Dr. Erwin Lang of Gifford Medical center has met with the Task force comprised of himself, Rob Gardner, Vic Ribaudo and Kathryn Schenkman. Doon invited Vic to speak about the structures of the different rolls each preforms. Vic noted that part of the scope responsibility of the Emergency Management Committee is to address unforeseen incidents, such as the pandemic. He noted a task force and structure to go along with it. The overall mission is to organize the efforts to lessen the suffering to the residents of Rochester. He noted the collaboration with local, state and federal organizations. He noted his role in the group as Incident Commander, which defines himself to convene and keep everything on task. He noted that Rob Gardner is working as communications chief, where he is creating and executing communications plans where he is putting good information on the web. He noted he is helping to drive the mailer that Doon referenced. He is taking questions from the public and organizing them to answer folks as questions come up. He noted Doon is coordinating our town services, so they remain functioning. Without knowing how long this will last, Doon will need to provide critical services to town residents. Vic noted that Kathryn Schenkman is putting together a team including Paula Dougherty, Peggy McKinley, Jan McCann looking at the elderly and family services that might arise. He noted that Sue Ribaudo is focused on Food security. She created a volunteer service where people who are isolated either by self-isolation or a vulnerable person who should not be out, by shopping for groceries. He noted that Sue created a system to shop for and deliver groceries for those that are unable to for themselves. He noted this is ready to launch next Monday. Vic noted these groups are trying to anticipate what the urgent needs are and what is coming. He noted there are a lot of unknowns to this pandemic. Vic noted as Burma identified that Social Distancing is seriously important. Vic noted that a doctor at Gifford told him, if its not a pain in the rear end, you are not doing it right. You really need to be diligent about it and it is difficult, but the alternative is much worse. Burma made a comment based on Vic's response and she was concerned with the people who had been tested and the wait time to get the tests returned, she was afraid that those tested before results come in , are out socially not knowing if they are tested positive. She wondered how to address this. Vic noted the best action we have is through communication. Rob spoke about how they are not policing the situation and only communicating through social medias such as Front Porch Forum, the Town website and Facebook. He noted through the mailers and people sharing the information helps. He noted that the safety of social distancing, for not just the compromised but also the severity of the hospitals and their capacity to treat. Burma asked if something could be included in this next notice to the effect of those who are

tested and waiting for their test results to come back, the importance of staying in quarantine, so others are not exposed. Rob explained that this second notice has been posted to various sites. Doon noted that this second notice is focused on symptoms, testing and reducing the hospital surge and tips for caregivers caring for someone with the virus and cleaning and preventing the spread. He noted simple prevention tips. He noted as well included is the volunteer group for shopping and delivering the groceries for those who are quarantined, or self-isolation. Doon noted it was a great topic and can be folded into future notices. Lizzy spoke about how she and Dan recently returned from Italy and were tested, and results were negative. She noted she would be willing to share a short personal write-up of their experience through the testing process. She noted she could share her story on Front Porch Forum. Martha thanked Rob for her appreciation for posting information to the Rochester Community Bulletin Board on Facebook. Frank asked about more information circulating through the mail. Doon noted it would continue as needed. Frank asked what precautions are for those who are volunteering to shop and deliver food to keep them safe. Vic noted there are instructions for the volunteers to help stay safe, and not have real direct contact with those receiving the goods. He noted there are gloves and masks for the volunteers.

Doon noted to Susan that we don't have a designated dog catcher at this time. He asked if she had a situation with a dog. Susan asked that we consider not having the dog licensing fee's while we are without a dog catcher. Doon noted that the license is for verifying that the dogs are properly vaccinated. He noted that the dog tag helps identify where the dogs are and if lost can be found. Susan wanted to know where the licensing fees go if they are not for the dog catcher. Doon noted the costs are not for the offset of the officer, its for the state requirements for towns and a fee for the processing and filed.

Doon noted that the meeting went very successfully. He noted that you don't have to join only by video you may also call in to participate. He noted until further ado, meetings will be held by Zoom. Burma suggested that reminder information for the ID code and password be posted a half hour before meeting, for people to access.

Frank asked if there was a time constraint on submitting the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Doon noted that the selectboard will review and from there it will go to Two Rivers Regional Committee.

Lizzy asked if she could share the screen of all the images from those who joined the meeting to put up on the web and show others what a virtual selectboard meeting looked like.

Doon thanked Orca media for working with us to post on the website.

Doon moved to adjourn the virtual meeting at 6:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith