

Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Rob & Char Gardner, Burma Cassidy, Vic Ribauda, Kristen LaPell, Nancy Woolley, Joan Allen, Amy Wildt, Nic Piccicuto, Kathryn Schenkman, Midge Scanlan, Deb Moore, Bruce Flewelling, Orca Media, Lolly Lindsey, Sandy Haas, Kevin McLoughlin,

Doon called the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Doon read the State statute guidelines for holding a proper meeting electronically and confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Additions to the agenda: Amy Wildt-Town portion of Senior Scholarships

Doon made motion for Pat and Frank to approve April 27, 2020 selectboard minutes. Pat approved. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted the Bethel Mountain Road reimbursements from the State were still in the works and expected some delays at the Federal level and hoped to see a partial payment this week, as the State shuts down their fiscal spending to prepare their books for the end of the fiscal year.

Joan noted currently on the West Hill Bridge Project, there will be a kick-off meeting for design engineers to get started. Joan noted collecting a bunch of documents for rights of way and property owners' documents. Joan noted this meeting will take place Friday at 11 am at the bridge site. All selectboard members will be attending.

Joan noted the Nason Bridge culvert replacement on Bethel Mt. will go out to bid on various state bid web-sites and in the upcoming Herald this week. Bids will be due June 3. She noted they will have to be totally transparent with any of the bidders awaiting confirmation of State funding. Joan noted there will not be an in-person site visit for this project. Bidders will be invited to visit the site on their own.

Joan noted the next project in the works is the Mount Cushman culvert. She noted that they are making good progress on getting all the proper state approvals such as the stream alteration permit and approval to work in the wetland. She noted before going to bid they will need to get the surrounding landowners on board.

Utilities Update: Doon noted that they had someone in mind to appoint as the assistant for the water/ sewer system. After an ensued discussion, Frank asked the board to wait to make the decision and table it until the next selectboard meeting to give more time for researching some further information.

Doon invited Vic to speak on behalf of the COVID-19 task force to update current situations and our town's preparedness. Vic noted the task force has been focusing on 5 categories of issues. The first is communicating timely and useful information through mailings and posting on the Rochester Bulletin Board and Front Porch Forum. The next area covers public health, where we

are fortunate to have Jan McCann, who as a public health nurse advises on several health issues, such as recently the Red Cross Blood Drive. He noted it was very successful. Another area is in family and social services, where they have set up assistance where people can call in to the Town Clerk's office and make known concerns, they have so they can get the help they need. Another area of concern is food insecurity. Vic spoke about setting up an emergency food distribution point in addition to the food shelf at the Federated Church. Vic noted that Lolly has been in touch with the food bank for setting up a distribution here in town. He noted it could be potentially at the Rochester Clinic operated by Gifford, or potentially at the school. Kathryn spoke about the grocery delivery service that launched March 30th as a partnership with the Emergency Management task force and Rebuild Rochester foundation. She noted its going well. Many are using and reusing.

Vic noted that the unemployment was reported last Friday at 14.7%. He noted with the statistics and where we stand, in the workforce many losing their jobs, and many will be affected. He noted the need for a contingency plan in place for dealing with this as a food access emergency. He noted that he is in touch with the two surrounding towns, and two co-principals on a weekly basis. Kathryn spoke about the application process for the Rebuild Rochester. Discussion ensued.

Doon invited Kevin McLoughlin to speak on behalf of the local food shelf. Kevin noted they have volunteers that have been with the food shelf for many years and know the process very well. He noted at the time, they do not need any more volunteers because of the limited space. He noted there were about 18 people who used the food shelf this past month, and made a delivery to a couple of people who were elderly and didn't want to come out, and noted 1 new person bringing the total to 23 people. He noted they receive donations from Rochester, Hancock and Granville. He noted the donations can be sent to the Federated Church in the name of the food shelf. He noted there isn't a situation that is out of control or that is has increased. He stated that anyone who needs to contact him can reach him at 767-3030.

Vic responded asking if they could campaign a well-known announcement that the food shelf service is available, would the food shelf ramp up more hours a month to service the need. Kevin noted that the food shelf is posted all month in the post office and that the word is pretty much known all around the three towns that the food shelf is available Kevin noted if they wanted to post, by all means to go ahead. He noted currently there is not a large need. Discussion further ensued. Doon reassured that there is back up for volunteers, and funds from other resources if the need arises. Selectboard members made some recommendations and Frank noted he didn't want to see duplication. He noted the current food shelf would serve the emergency need.

New Business: Doon noted Joe has set up bands for concerts on the park. He noted that it would need to be discussed in terms of the emergency committee. Martha noted that as the member of the park committee she wanted to check in on permission to use the park for the event. She noted that she was keeping an eye on what the Governor was allowing and asking what the board would decide. Doon noted that it would have to come down from the State. He personally thought the park was large enough and could have social distancing enforced. Pat noted she thought it was a very liquid situation and could change several times. She noted that she thought we could continue with the plan but listen to the guidelines as they unfold and see what happens. She noted to continue to monitor the situation and up until a decision if a cancelation had to

occur. Martha noted the first concert would be the first Sunday in July. Frank noted currently we couldn't have them right now because of the limit of 10 people and how would we police that. Sandy noted that a decision made today for an event in July is premature. She noted that if Joe could schedule the bands with the idea that they can be flexible would be best.

Martha asked about the fourth of July parade. The board thought that was a much denser event. Frank noted that Addison County Field Days and the Barton County Fair both cancelled for August. Doon noted he was in the mind to cancel. He noted to table it to the next selectboard meeting. Kathryn asked if Martha was the only one on the committee and wanted to get together to strategize how to get around it and have a town celebration with safety in mind. Lolly noted she would volunteer as well.

Nancy spoke of a more present concern to commemorate the Memorial Day Parade. She noted its highly unlikely given the directives from the governor that we are going to have a Memorial Day Parade. Frank noted he would reach out and find out about the status.

Doon noted an application for use of the Park for Green Up day. Nic spoke as the head of Green Up committee and felt confident the event could be held safely and responsibly and staying within the guidelines. He noted the date of the event is May 30th. Doon asked Nic to outline what the Green Up day would entail. Nic noted it was very simple, people would come to get the green up bags on the day of the event or could pick up earlier from the Town Clerk. He noted maps would be used to guide the direction of areas to clean up. He asked for the truck to be used for collections, parked on the street next to the side of the park. Martha noted if the truck could be parked on the little street between the park and Park House on the pavement would be best. Board agreed.

Doon noted the very low response to completing the census in Rochester with only 33% completion currently. He noted the importance of people filling out their census forms. Kathryn noted Joe will be a door to door census taker for our community. Doon noted for Martha to put it in the paper for awareness. Kathryn noted the funding for our area depends on the accuracy of these numbers.

Doon moved to appoint John White as the EC Fiber Representative. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Doon moved to also appoint a COVID-19 specific health officer. Doon spoke with John about that position and he agreed. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon moved to approve a first class and outside liquor license for Sandy's Bakery and Books. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon moved to approve the application for the park use for Green Up day. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon invited Amy to speak about the towns portion of the Scholarships. She noted that there are two scholarships that are given by the town. One is the Kirkpatrick Memorial Scholarship and the other is the Martin's Farm Appreciation Award. Amy asked if the selectboard wanted to school district to include those two scholarships in the application and communications they are sending out to seniors in the surrounding schools. Pat noted they did. Amy asked for the selectboard to review and revise the criteria to the programs. Doon asked what Amy had for

suggestions after she had researched all the information. She explained her thoughts, noting that the original criteria were established in 1990. It was discussed that she provides her criteria suggestions and the board would review so the board could decide to change officially and decide at the next selectboard meeting, May 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith