

Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx (absent), Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Dan McKinley, Sandy Haas, Vic Ribauda, Bud Venturini, Orca Media, Martha Slater, Nancy Woolley, Bruce Flewelling, Joan Allen, Deb Moore, Rob Gardner, Lolly Lindsey, Lois Bond and Kinley Taner.

Pat called the meeting at 6:00 pm

Pat read the State statute guidelines for holding a proper meeting electronically.

Pat moved to begin the meeting by opening discussion on the Town Plan. Deb Moore asked if the latest draft of the Town Plan was the December 3, 2019 revised copy found on the town website. Dan confirmed the correct document. Deb noted the revision of that plan did not include her goals that she had been promised to be included from the Planning meeting that she earlier attended. Dan noted that revised copy in fact didn't include Deb's goals. Sandy noted she found Tory's copy from Two Rivers, which includes Deb's requests can be found on an updated February 2020 revised copy. Julie asked Dan if he could forward the February 2020 revision to upload on the town website. Sandy noted she would provide the document in an email to the town. Discussion concluded for the Town Plan open discussion. Pat moved to accept the town plan in its final version of February 2020. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Pat thanked the planning committee for all their hard work.

Pat noted that ends the Open meeting discussion for the Planning Board Special Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm

Pat opened the Selectboard meeting at 6:14pm

Pat asked if the disclaimer for the state statute guidelines needed to be read again. Pat noted that the open meeting laws were in conformity.

Pat moved to approve the April 13, 2020 selectboard meeting minutes. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Pat moved to approve the April 22, 2020 special selectboard meeting minutes. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted previous discussion about the Community gardens, concerns to provide a permit when it comes to adding topsoil and such materials. Joan spoke with State Flood Plain Manager on the matter. Joan suggested those who are interested, could form a committee and plan out a location so she could correspond with State Flood Plain Manager with the GPS coordinates. She noted it would take some planning to discuss and find out what permits are needed.

Library Updates: Frank noted the State has opened parameters around the Library and there are some work safe editions for them to adhere to, along with Farmers markets. Frank noted that all town employees will need to comply with State training to meet VOSHA requirements. Vic

noted the Town will need a safety officer to oversee the employees. Pat noted that it is an easy read document consisting of 47 pages of guidelines.

Pat noted Jeff Brown's interest in the Animal Control position. Pat moved to appoint Jeff Brown as our Animal Control Officer to fill the vacant term until that term expires. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Martha asked when that term expires. Pat noted his term would end at the next Town meeting.

Pat asked if anyone had anything to discuss further. Vic noted he would like to make a request on behalf of the pandemic task force of the emergency management committee. He stated as the Emergency management director and incident commander, he is leading a task force devoted to taking action to protect the community as best as they can from the worst impact of the pandemic. He noted part of the job is looking ahead for things that could become major problems due to the pandemic. Vic noted he is asking permission to use what was the constable's office space in the Town office building to use as a new emergency food distribution center serving Rochester, Hancock and Granville. Vic noted that the new distribution center would work in parallel with the community food shelf, not to duplicate it but to supplement their work to rapidly respond unmet needs in the tri-town area. Vic's response clearly indicated a rapid and massive unemployment locally and nationally happening, the likes of which has not been seen since the Great Depression. Vic read recently the White House economic advisors stated they expect the depression era unemployment this year. He noted two weeks ago the Vermont Labor Commissioner said that unemployment in Vermont reached 20%, which is an increase from 2.4% a month ago and could rise to 30%. Vic noted with things being so uncertain and not knowing how long it will last. H noted there are already indications of large-scale food insecurity in Vermont related to the Coronavirus pandemic. He noted he had been in touch with the Vermont Food Bank and he was told that they are gearing up for major increases in demand for an unknown length of time. He noted he was on the State of Emergency operations center conference call on Friday, they were briefed on the emergency distribution of MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) and they gave out 43,000 in Newport on Wednesday and 112,000 meals in Rutland on Friday. Vic noted they were told some food shelves are running low and conducting additional food drives to stock up. Vic stated they would like to do the planning and preparation work now so they can implement by June. H stated it would mean to clear out the space, clean it up, create an operational plan, recruit volunteers, figure out how to raise money, how best to get word out to potential clients, and many other tasks. Vic noted he hoped the selectboard will support this request and would be happy to take any questions. Julie asked if this would be a temporary or permanent food shelter. Vic noted it was hard to know how long the pandemic and food security would last. He noted depending on the need, if it needed to be scaled back, decommissioned or moved, it could be considered. He noted it would be something commissioned quickly and see what the demand is by summer. Frank note the space was partially promised to the Town Clerk for record storage. He asked what amount of storage Town records would need. Nancy asked about the space available for Historical Society records and room for storage and organization of these documents. The selectboard indicated it's a worthy cause and worth looking into. They would like to evaluate the situation and get back to Vic in a couple weeks with a decision. Positive discussion ensued and a decision made to meet and

review the available space to suit the needs of all interested in, was scheduled for Wednesday at 1 pm. Vic thanked the Board for their consideration.

Frank noted a group was established to look for a venue for the voting for upcoming elections in August and November. He noted the group is comprised of six individuals, who would brainstorm through a zoom meeting. He noted he would bring the ideas forward to the board in the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith