

Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Orca Media, Martha Slater, Joan Allen, Kristen LaPell, Nancy Woolley, Kinley Tener, Brad McKirryher, Emma Wade, and Julie Smith

Doon called the meeting at 6:03 pm.

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

Additions: Rob Gardner-Tax Map Correction.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the July 13, 2020 Selectboard minutes with one correction. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Additions: Rob noted to the selectboard an error in the new tax map with regards to his property lines vs. the previous tax map noting a discrepancy. Board suggested to reach out to the Planning Board for clarification. Board noted it is called a Lot Line Adjustment and the situation would be reviewed and correction made. Doon suggested Rob attend the next Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Joan Updates: Joan noted an item that needed the board's thoughts and approval. She reminded them of the work done on the Henry property during the Bethel Mountain Project with a great deal of slope and drainage work done leaving property exposed. She noted that the Henry's had asked a concession from the town that was agreed to plant some soft wood trees, such as hemlock to provide a little bit of buffering from the road noise. Joan noted that the Henry's reached out to ask if this was a good time to plant the tree as discussed. Joan noted it would be best to do in the fall if we purchased them and had them planted. Doon asked how many trees would be needed. Joan noted somewhere between 4-6. Doon agreed that it was initially discussed, and we will need to follow through. Joan noted she would gather all costs to be incurred and bring that information to the board for review.

Joan noted to the board of another issue on the upper end of the Henry property that also needed to be addressed. She noted stream bank erosion at the site was brought to her attention by Dubois. Joan noted after consulting with Cricket and VTrans to see how it could be addressed. VTrans noted because it did not have a direct impact on the stability of the road, they would not have any funding available. Cricket and Joan suggested to have the consultant from Sanborn, who happens to be working on the West Hill Bridge project come and look at the issue and make a recommendation. Cricket suggested to monitor the situation with stakes at locations to see if the slope is moving at all. Pat asked if they need to stabilize the area to use the same person to plant trees in both locations. Doon noted we will have to take a closer look and monitor this. He said he would like to take a walk in and take a look.

Highway Updates: Doon noted the completion of the reconstruction of the sand sifter.

New Business: Doon noted a second-class liquor license approval for Sandy's Books and Bakery. Doon noted because of COVID-19 the license looked different but basically states it is for the resale of liquor to go. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Frank noted the board needed to approve Becky setting up overtime in the Water/Sewer for employee's pay so she could pay overtime hours to Town employees who worked overtime in the Water/Sewer Dept. Doon asked if Becky or Julie could set up a document for the Board to sign authorizing the set-up of overtime hours in water/sewer.

Frank noted that we needed to address the Tax Bill issue with the current situation with the unvoted school budget and a delay in sending them out. The board discussed a three-payment installment instead of four. Doon noted to save the expense of having to reissue tax bills with a corrected education tax rate and mailing the new bills out at the towns expense, it would make sense to delay the August due date to Oct. Doon made a motion to extend the first installment due date to Oct and have a three installment on the taxes for this fiscal year only. The February and May due dates would stay the same. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Frank asked if the town could send out post cards to inform property owners an explanation.

Doon noted that the Governor made a statement for a mandate to wear masks as of August 1. Rob noted that they received signs to post in town for this mandate to make people aware of the Governors statement.

Emma asked to speak and follow up on the road improvement permit approved at the last meeting. She asked how she will be notified. Doon asked how she would like to be notified. Emma noted by email would be best from the town. Emma noted she needed clarity on the amount of time for notice of work to be done. Emma noted they reached out to a surveyor because they do not know where their property line is, and this surveyor wrote to the selectboard giving an analysis of the situation. She asked that the selectboard read this letter. Her concern with the 2-3-day notice is they don't know where specifically work will be performed, asking if there could be a walk through, or support from the town so they know what to expect. Discussion ensued. Doon concluded that he would read the letter from the surveyor and he noted it would make sense for the town to work Marty and Kristen and then communicate to the Wade's.

Doon moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith