

February 8, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Guests: Martha Slater, Orca Media, Julie Smith, Rob Gardner, Nancy Woolley, Kristen & Troy LaPell, Joan Allen, Bruce Flewelling, Tony Goupee, Vic Ribaud, Kimberly Gilbert, Angus McCusker, Tom Pierce, RJ Thompson, (802) 234-9670- Kirk White, Robert Franks

Doon called the Final Public Hearing for the Rochester Velomont Trail Grant at 6:01 pm.

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

Kimberly introduced herself as the Regional Planner at Two Rivers Regional Commission and noted she did the grant administration for the Velomont Trail TBDG Grant. Kim noted that Rochester received \$60,000 from the State of Vermont under the Vermont Community Development Program. Kimberly noted that this program assists communities on a competitive basis providing financial and technical assistance to identify local needs. She noted they do that in the areas of housing, economic development, public facilities, public services and handicap accessibilities modification. She noted all town except Burlington are allowed to apply for. She noted it's a coordinated effort between municipalities, community groups, local or state non-profit groups and organizations. Kimberly noted Angus McCusker from R.A.S.T.A and RJ Thompson from VT Huts were involved in this project, as well as SE Group, forest service staff and lots of volunteers. She noted with this funding they were able to identify location path of the Vermont Trail and Hut locations, create trail plans and cost estimates for the trail and hut infrastructure and conduct an economic impact study to prove the projects feasibility in relevance to the surrounding communities. She noted you can access and read about the study online with the results to the study.

Doon asked if anyone had any questions or comments for the public meeting hearing. Doon noted they did a great job. Pat asked when we would see any physical trail work taking place. Angus noted that this planning grant does not administer any grant funds for trail building construction. He noted it did allow to plan and approval for trail construction through a separate grant to actually implement the trails with match funds raised. He noted they hoped to start this Spring/Summer.

Doon thanked them for attending and moved to end the public hearing at 6:10 pm

Doon called the Selectboard Meeting at 6:10 pm

Additions to Agenda: Martha- comment. Martha noted she would like to compliment Nancy Wooley on the beautiful Town Report she put together and how nice all the photos were on the covers and thanked for all the hard work. Nancy noted if it had not been for Norm Christiansen, all that beauty would not have been there. Pat noted there was a lot of adjustments that had to be made to make this town report unique from all the other years.

Vic- Possible grant for the Town office building. Robert Frank-Zoom platform, BCA meetings, people being responsible for comments & discrepancy with open meeting laws. Julie- announcement about the ballots

Doon-Logistics about clearing the sidewalks.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the selectboard minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting. Pat seconded. All in favor, so voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted she read the very nicely written article in the paper about the Park House and the efforts made to the wonderful work done there. She noted she is working with Cooter to prepare for the Spring FEMA projects. She noted they will be putting about 6 projects out to bid, including the retaining wall for the beginning of April. She noted there is a little bit of activity for the West Hill Bridge design. She noted the designs will be delivered Mid-February and noted the work will not take place until 2022. She noted she is still compiling documents for submission to FEMA. She noted the Town Garage Stormwater project is expected to go out to bid sometime this month. She noted it is being processed by White River Partnership. She noted she lined up the planting project on the Henry property for the Bethel Mountain Rd.

Library Updates: Tony noted the Library is continuing their porch pickup. He noted that on Tuesday evening there will be a trustees' meeting at 5:45 pm.

Certificate of Highway Milage: Julie noted this is due for review and signatures when the selectboard can come in to sign.

Request from the Local Girl Scouts: Doon noted the local group of Girl Scouts has a request to have a heart scavenger hunt in town. Frank noted they need to follow Covid guidelines. Pat read the letter of request from the Girl Scouts. Pat noted they are working on their service badge and wanted to hang and hide hearts around the green and store fronts, provided owners give their permission. Doon moved to approve their request. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Vic noted he responded to a state survey last November to Emergency Management Directors, looking for potential grant project ideas. He noted he submitted a request for consideration for a generator for the Emergency Operations Center, which is the Town Office building. Vic noted he received a response it would more then qualify. He noted it is a FEMA program that flows through the state and on to municipalities. Vic noted he would like to work with Joan on this project. He noted 3 bids would need to be submitted for the work to be done on the installation. The proposals are due on March 5. He noted he would be happy to work on this with Joan and reach out to Tom Schnabel for some help with the specifics to the job. Joan noted she would be happy to work on that.

Doon noted a request from John Gorton asking for electrical hook up at the old firehouse for his tractor and John would pay for any expenses incurred. Doon noted an evaluation would need to be done prior to turning on the power. Frank noted he thought there would be a need for an inspection done prior. Frank noted he will look into it.

Robert made comments on his concerns.

Julie noted the absentee ballots are ready for both the school and Town Meeting vote if people would like to request them. She noted they can call the town office.

Doon moved to exit the selectboard meeting at 6:47 pm to move into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith

Doon noted the executive session exited at 7:30 pm. Doon noted the board is drafting a response to the Schoolboard with the help of the Town Attorney.