

May 24, 2021

## Selectboard Meeting

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Julie Smith, Martha Slater, Nancy Woolley, Suzanne Ribaldo, Orca Media, Jeff Gephart, Bruce Flewelling, Joan Allen, Nancy Vadnais

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 to the Agenda:** Terry-Lawn mowing

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Doon moved to approve the April 26, 2021 selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Doon moved to approve the May 10, 2021. Pat noted Peter Jensen, Kinley Tener and Jeff Gephart were missing from the attendance. Doon moved to approve with the additions to the attendance. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Sue Ribaldo requested to use a portion of the Park for the Fourth of July to provide a booth for the Rochester High School Committee's subgroup known as the Arts and Learning committee. Sue is a part of that group and would like to have this booth to highlight all the Summer events happening this summer between Pierce Hall, the Library and The Players. Sue announced it would be a cumulative calendar and have a 10 x 10 tent during the Pierce Hall barbeque. She made a second request to have music played on the gazebo by Jake and his friends. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Martha requested to use the Park for the September 11, 2021 Harvest Fair. Frank asked if they could stay off the front of the park to help with the grass. She thought they would be set up more towards Huntington House. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon noted there was another Park Use application for celebrating the kids with the community for the High school graduation. Doon moved to approve. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan noted three items to talk about. The first being the last culvert on Bethel Mountain road known as Rogers Brook down towards Camp Brook. She said that back in December was a second attempt to apply for a grant to replace that culvert. She noted it was denied a second time. She spoke with Cricket about it and reminded of Hutchins doing the repair work in 2019 by dumping rock on the outlet side of the culvert, which was steep slope and overtime a sink hole was created because the culvert was perched high up. Cricket felt the culvert is undersized but felt the slope is stable for a long time. Joan proposed that the project be put on the back burner and when funding becomes available to revisit.

Secondly, she noted the bid process is about to start for the retaining wall which will be the final FEMA project from 2019. Cricket completed the plans and Joan submitted the bid advertisement to the Herald. She said there will be a pre-bid meeting June 2 and 10 am and then the bids will be due June 28 with the completion of the project this summer. She noted with the stream alteration

permit deadline of Oct. 21. She noted there will be a set of plans in the office and Cricket also them to posted them to the State procurement site.

Lastly, Joan noted the four hemlocks were planted on the Henry property on Brook St. She will let the Henry's know.

Joan updated the board with the final payment from the Bethel Mountain Road was in for final payment and that we should see the payment in the next week.

Terry noted the mowing has not been done. He said behind the school it was only done once, and the grass was a foot high. He noted there has not been any trimming done either. He is concerned with the mowing on the sewer sites, fire house and wanted the town to look neater and trimmed up. He said we had received compliments in the past of how nice the town looked. He wanted to know why he is getting paid if the contract reads once a week or as needed. The board will look into it and have a talk with the contractor.

**Utility Updates:** Doon asked about the rate changes for the utilities. Terry said he would like to meet in person because it is detailed to go over and explain. Frank asked if he could leave a copy in the office and look at it. Terry explained the last time there was a change in rates was November of 2006.

**Energy Coordinator Updates:** Jeff spoke about the first of the lecture series that the Energy Committee put on about the efficiency of heat pumps jointly with the Library and will continue monthly through October. Jeff announced the Mow Electric Commercial demonstration on Thursday. He said there will be 3 vendors of the only commercial grade zero radius turn mowers with big wide decks on May 27 between 11 am and 2 pm.

Jeff was contacted by Pittsfield board chair and would like to get the Tri-town municipal committee back together. He would love that providing the meetings were properly warned and in attendance. He spoke with Monica Collins to find out who Hancock would have to represent and waiting for a response.

Jeff said there was a meeting with Green Mountain Power to find a location for a generation field. They looked at the substation and pumphouse. He will be meeting with Frank to find out the clear definition of the boundaries of what would be within the resiliency zone.

Jeff said the ADHAWK energy committee renamed itself The Valley Energy and Climate Action Committee. He noted to open the group to the Valley and include Hancock, Granville, Stockbridge, or Pittsfield.

Jeff noted the CAPSTONE-Community action program agency that serves our region would like to come down and utilize the energy committee as a vehicle to talk to the rest of the towns about how the energy committee might work as eyes and ears for the Capstone weatherization program. He said hopefully then work with people who have problem with their homes, particularly low-income homeowners with the efficiency of their homes serve through the free weatherization services that CAPSTONE offers.

Jeff announced we did get awarded the participant in 2021 in Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate Economy Model Communities program. Kathryn Schenkman, Vic

Ribaudo and Jeff met with Jon Copans of VT Council of Rural Development and explained how the program works. They went through the meeting identifying potential core people for first meeting of this group. He said it was a restart of Envision Rochester. He said they want to look at what was done there and then look at how they move forward. He noted to look at what we need to do to be sustainable and resilient in the future with energy needs both municipally as well as citizenry in town.

Driveway Permit: Doon said Martin Watters submitted a permit and even without the sketch, he can tell where he would like to put it. The concern of putting in the driveway without filling in the swale and putting in a culvert with the swale did not work. He would like to approve with the condition that the existing swale be maintained. Frank asked that a completion of the sketch be submitted as well. Doon moved to approve with both conditions. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Frank updated the board about the signage for Bethel Mountain Road. He said they are going to install signs on Route 100 and Route 12 for the truck traffic. He said the state would like to gather information from residents noting time, location and direction the oversized trucks are traveling on Bethel Mountain Road. He said if we could pattern that for a month and jot down these findings. Pat said she would not like to have anyone confront a truck driver to stop a truck. She said to take a photo with your phone and document to bring back data to the town. Doon said once a pattern of activity is evident then enforcement can be directed.

Nancy wanted to shout out to Dick White and Thank him for the work he did on the bandstand this past week. She said also the flagpole and Frank has Zues coming to paint both. Frank said Zues is donating his time. Frank noted with the buildings it may be cancelled for this year. He is still looking for a contractor and so far he has not found one.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith