

Virtual Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy

Guests: Guests: Martha Slater, Orca Media, Julie Smith, Nancy Woolley, Kristen & Troy LaPell, Joan Allen, Tony Goupee, Nancy Vadnais, Terry Severy, and Kirk White.

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.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the minutes from May 24, 2021 Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Utility Rates: Terry requested that the board meet with him in a special meeting to discuss the details to the report Terry prepared. Doon noted to warn a meeting to discuss in person at the Town office. Board decided on Tuesday, June 22 at 8 am. to hold that meeting.

Joan Updates: Joan is working on the five ditching jobs under contract and coordinate with Cooter's work schedule when they can begin work.

The two structures grants Joan applied for have been approved by VTrans. One is the replacement of the culvert by Nason Brook. Joan explained the other is for the design work for the failing culvert on Town Line Rd. which hopefully will be a project for next year.

Joan noted she is working with Frank and several parties to prepare to start the Nason Brook project. The contractor has some work to do. The traffic on Bethel Mountain Road will be worked out. The timeline for the start of this project will be after July 1 with VTrans, once a grant agreement is signed in the new fiscal year with completion in this year.

The retaining wall project had an onsite meeting with prospective bidders. They expect the costs to be twice what FEMA has provided for funds to pay for the project. Joan is looking for additional funding sources. She noted FEMA has some restriction on using federal funds to match their funds and she will do more research to find out what the guidelines allow. It may be just how the funding is labeled that may help to allow for additional funding.

Joan is preparing for the next Grant in Aid project. She said this will not happen until 2022. The current Grant in Aid project is for ditching work on North Hollow Rd. She explained that the project would need to follow the state guidelines with hydrologically connected road to be part of the project. They are looking at two cross drains on Bethel Mountain Rd that will need to be replaced close in proximity to the Rogers Brook culvert.

Doon added that looking at the traffic control for the Nason Brook culvert replacement, it would be best to close traffic on Bethel Mountain Road to get that project done. Joan noted that will be the big topic of discussion at the upcoming meeting with VTrans, contractor and homeowner. Frank noted not being able to control the large truck traffic and the choice to use a detour would

not be feasible, so closing would be best. Frank noted after speaking with Therese from Bethel, they will get their projects done on the Bethel side while the road is closed.

Library updates: Tony noted the first meeting in the library will take place in the Vermont room at 6:00 pm. Tony thought they would discuss when they would be opening to the public. They would be talking with the State Libraries. Nancy asked when the Historical Society would be able to come in and access the building. She would like to be advised to when they can get in if Tony could ask at the Trustees meeting.

Utility Updates: Terry noted the inspection was completed last week.

Kirk White noted the sessions are now done until January with a couple exceptions. He said they are coming back the middle of the month to veto/override session. He published about the discussions and the various bills that took place in legislation this year. He is available to answer any questions the public may have.

Selectboard's certification for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Doon moved to secure the certification of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money available to the town. Pat thought a formal resolution for the acceptance the ARPA money from the state. Doon seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Selectboard appoint authorized representative for Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds/ARPA: Doon made a motion to appoint Larry Straus to be the authorized representative to oversee the ARPA money. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon thanked Larry for his role as the ARPA coordinator. Larry will be attending webinars from the state on the rules around the spending of the funds. Doon noted there will be a three-year deadline with spending the money. He explained the funds will be available for various Corona Virus options. Larry will help with his guidance. Doon thought using the funds toward the challenges the town has faced would be beneficial for all. Doon noted more conversations will follow.

Roadside Mowing: Roadside mowing will be performed September 20 through October 15 by the road crew. Pat noted there will be a list for those who want to be on the "No mow" list. The board will continue to communicate through the summer.

Approve and sign the Windsor County Sheriff's Department Contract: Nancy noted on Front Porch Forum there was a lot of discussion about speeding in the hollows and on Maple Hill. Board thought the presence of the sheriff in those areas would help. Doon moved to approve the new contact. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Approve and sign the ABLE Waste contact: Doon noted this is to include the modification of their new weekly services at the Town office, which is now opened up to the towns of Hancock and Granville from 8am -11am, every Saturday. Doon moved to approve the contract. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Park Use Application for Suzuki: Doon moved to approve the Suzuki camp on Thursday, July 15 from 5-7pm. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Park Use Application for the Library: Doon moved to approve for a June book club on the gazebo for June 23. Pat thought since the restrictions were lifted, perhaps they may want to have it inside and Tony could present that information at the next library trustee meeting. Tony said it would be a possibility. He would like to have the ability for outside just in case. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Frank updated the board with Mike's progress with the chimney repair on the Town Office building. Frank thought he was about done and just needed to put a cap on the building, and he could start to disassemble the scaffolding. He added Terry is looking for a galvanized boot to replace on the sewer pipe. Frank added that Mike is going to tar the part under the chimney for leaks while he is up there. Frank is looking for someone to get the roof painted to add another 10-15 years to the life of the roof. He is unable to find a painter to paint the building because they are booked this summer. He spoke with Vermont Roofing Company to get a quote to fix the leaks at the library and town office, as well. He said the company will need to rent a 60' lift to reach the approach at the library. Frank said they will estimate what it would cost for the day with two men and the lift rental.

Frank said he will meet with Jeff and go through the town owned properties and look at what the cost are for upgrading to energy efficiency. He spoke with Lois Bond about initiating help with any grants available. He thought that both Jeff and Lois could work together.

Pat had a conversation with Jon Copans, who is the program director from Vermont Council on Rural Development with the Vermont Economies Model, who is looking at Rochester to see how they can work with us. She invited him to talk with people in town to see what they have to offer the town for efficiency.

Nancy asked if we have any information on the planning grant. Pat said she did not think so at this time. She noted Vic or Kathryn may have. She noted the formal announcement comes in early July.

Pat noted we should discuss the format for the next selectboard meeting. Doon noted we should move to in person meetings but would like to find a way to also have a zoom component for it. The board would like to research what it would involve and how to set and town meetings up for both.

Frank asked if we had a line item in the budget for election. He noted the state has moved to mail out ballots and we need to consider what the cost would be and include as a budgeted line item. He said it would be for the federal and state. Julie noted this would also include town and school votes as well.

Pat noted for the next selectboard meeting if we could go back to meeting at 6:15 pm. The new agenda will be updated.

Doon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith