

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Terry Severy, Tony Goupee, Larry Straus

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Joan Allen, Nancy Woolley, Martha Slater, Lolly Lindsey, Rob Gardner, Vic Ribauda, Kathryn Schenkman, Troy

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Doon moved to approve the August 9, 2021, SB Meeting minutes with one correction. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

**Armed Forces Monument:** Bruce was unable to attend the selectboard meeting. Bruce sent a letter asking the board for approval for the concept to continue planning for cost estimates for the armed forces monument beside the bench of Woodlawn Cemetery. Doon gave his approval for the continued planning.

**Asking Town of Rochester for their support for Towns of Randolph and Braintree's application for VOREC Grant for Velomont Connectivity:** Larry Straus spoke to the board asking on behalf of the Town of Rochester in conjunction with the Towns of Braintree and Randolph for a letter of intent with a consortium application for a VOREC grant to the State of Vermont. VOREC stands for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative. Larry noted this is the second time the state has funded these grants. Larry said the state has 5.1 million dollars to fund 25 different projects. The first step in the process towards applying for these grants is a letter of intent. Ridgeline Outdoor Collective is part of the process as a non-profit outdoor recreation organization that will partner with this consortium of towns in working on furthering the development of the Velomont trail, connecting the three towns. He said part of the vision of this submission will include a hut in downtown Randolph. He stated that the Rochester portion primarily is continuing the trail from the top of Randolph Gap down into Little Hollow. He is asking support from the board to submit the LOI on behalf of the three towns. Kathryn asked about location of the Hut. The proposed location is behind the GEAR house bike shop in downtown Randolph. He noted that no municipal funds are involved here. He said there are no match funds from towns, it's a 100% grant funded. Larry explained the state will review the letters of intent they receive and then there will be a final application for those selected. Frank noted it was a good thing to move forward. Pat asked about the Velomont trail having feeder trails down to every town along the way. Larry said the intent of the Velomont trail is to go from town to town. Larry said this is continuing the trail system on northward. Doon recused himself, as owner of the bike shop. Pat moved that the Town of Rochester place their support for the new application for VOREC grant program for the Velomont connectivity including a hut in Randolph. Frank seconded the motion. All in favor. So, approved.

**Review and Select consultant to perform a feasibility study for the former Rochester High School building:** Vic shared back in April the selectboard applied for a planning grant with the

Vermont Community Development Program to assess a feasibility of a program of function in the building and how that might be paid for. The grant was awarded, making \$50,000.00 available. He said Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission was selected to be the grant administrator. He noted the administrator costs are paid for out of the grant proceeds. He shared a request for proposal was issued to several consulting firms to provide feasibility analysis and conclusions and facility planning services. In August, responses were received. One firm gave a complete proposal. The other firms were either busy or no response made. Several gathered from the group to interview this company and spoke of references and were happy with what they learned. The five tasks to be performed, in terms of the work plan include feasibility, master space plan, master facility and capital improvement plan, prepare a budget and profit and loss statement and the fifth is high level of assessment for potential funding sources. Fairweather Consulting Company based out of New Paltz, NY with the architectural firm out of Montpelier will work together and has done number of projects of this type, repurposing school buildings and other of this sort in Vermont and rural New York. The repurpose group spoke with Peter Fairweather and felt he had a realistic approach of both the challenge and opportunity of this project. The group encouraged his ideas for programs and concepts that would draw revenue outside the valley. Vic felt most importantly his methodology both the data analysis and the other forms of data and gathering community input. He said he will work well in conducting community-based meetings and explore the depth of interest in these programs and encourage input from the community. Their costs for their proposal are within the budget, however in the discussion of the timing bringing to the Town Meeting the information, Peter has gone back to revise his work plan with adjustment to the fee, within the limits of the grant to bring forward the proposal that will bring the information to the Town Meeting in March. Vic noted with the engagement of the community in discussions between now and the Town Meeting it should not come as a surprise as an agenda at the Town Meeting. The submitted costs were \$39,233.00 which are within the budget of the grant. The Repurpose committee is asking the budget to not exceed \$47,000. The Grant is for \$50,000.00 and there is also a community match of 10% which is \$5,000.00. Vic noted they are not asking the selectboard to provide those funds. They have started to collect community-based donations. He said we have received pledges of \$2,000.00. In kind services are eligible so professionals such as Kathryn and Dick Robson can count towards the in-kind services. Vic recommends going forward with Fairweather Consulting with a cost not to exceed \$47,000.00. Ensued discussion continued. Doon moved to approve the proposal from Fairweather Consulting with the committee's recommendation using grant money. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

**Joan Updates:** Joan updated the status of the Nason Brook project. She said the culvert is fully installed as of last week and the paving was scheduled for today, but the rain delay caused the reschedule of work to tomorrow. Doon shared the paving will be done on Thursday. She said the guardrails will also be installed on Thursday with a sub-contractor. Doon stated the road would formally be opened this weekend if all goes according to plan.

She updated the record on the West Hill Bridge. She said they were short on the funding for the design work. She said the grant from the Forest Service was for \$60,000.00 and the contract is for \$63,553.00. She said the Forest Service was able to come up with additional funds to fully cover the contract amount. In addition, she corrected her statement from the last meeting that

there was no set time for construction. She said it turns out the Forest Service does have money for construction and their plans are full speed ahead to install the new bridge next summer. Frank asked if Joan had put word out to the folks on West Hill and she noted she would be in touch.

**Library Updates:** Tony noted the cookbooks are ready and on sale at the Library, Bakery, Bookery and the Café for \$15 each. Tony announced the library is opened at regular hours with a strong mask recommendation. Tony said to keep track in the Herald because you get the best and most information about the library. Tony inquired about finding a contractor for the library roof repair. Frank said he was checking in with contractors. Tony asked about the painting for any of the town buildings. Frank said there is not anyone available and is still working on that.

**Utility Updates:** Terry noted there is no updates.

**Request for Towns Permission for Household Hazardous Waste Day September 18, 2021:** Doon noted this a great time to drop off old buckets of used paints, and other chemicals from your basements. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted. Doon noted the time is focused in the morning.

**Driveway Permit for Dave Kennett:** Doon shared after conversations with Cooter they moved it to where they were comfortable for the install. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith