

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Terry Severy, Tony Goupee, Orca, Kinley Tener, Marc Blaine, Sandy Haas, Mikayla & Chad Richardson, Jean & Don Murray, Tegan Murray, Johnathan.

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Joan Allen, Nancy Woolley, Troy LaPell, Rob Gardner, Vic Ribaud, Jeff Gephart, Nancy Vadnais, Michael Van Dusen, Jeannette Bair and Robert Franks

Doon called the meeting at 6:16 pm.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Public Comment: Doon limited the comments to five minutes for each comment.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the October 11, 2021, selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Appointment for Health Officer-term of office expires 11/30/2021: Doon spoke with John, and he is willing to continue on. Doon moved to approve John White as the Health Officer. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Park Use Application -Rochester Rec Committee for Halloween event on 10/29: Doon announced there will be a Jack-O-Lantern display. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Lawn Mowing/Sidewalk Snow removal Contract renewal for summer '22 and Winter '22, '23: Doon stated we will need to put that out for advertising in the paper and will table for now. The contract will be for a 3-year term.

Request to use Town Office basement for monthly free food distribution: Doon turned the floor over to Vic to speak to the board. Vic explained how a group of volunteers have been providing monthly food distribution for the past year behind Hancock Town Hall. He is asking the board if they can use the Town Office Basement to package and distribute the food once a month. He said the program serves Rochester, Hancock, and Granville and open to surrounding towns. They have been distributing 60-100 bags in the last Saturday of the month. The Feed the Valley Alliance Program would receive food in bulk and would need the space to break it down and put the individual bags together. The group is looking for a donation for a 3-5 cubic foot freezer. The board gave their support for the group to use the space in the basement.

Public Kickoff of High School repurposing feasibility study: Vic spoke to the board asking for a public kickoff to the repurposing feasibility study. They would like to invite people from all surrounding towns because if this program proves to be viable it will provide services for the whole valley. The working date for this public kickoff would be November 17. Location and

time to be announced. Doon shared the board was in favor of having the kickoff after hearing many comments to the upcoming event.

Consortium planning grant resolution: Sandy spoke to the board about documentation she shared with the board. She explained it was an application for a planning grant. She said there are 2 grants currently and explained that a small planning grant was sent out earlier in the week with a resolution for signatures to update the zoning to come into conformance with the newly re-adopted plan. The second was a seven-town consortium led by Two Rivers to look at housing issues in our region. This grant would be a study on the housing issues at no cost to the town. She is asking the board for their support and sign off for a municipal resolution to add our name to the grant application. Doon moved to adopt the planning grant to join the other towns. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Murray Farm Solar Project: The Murray family spoke on behalf of their plans to put in a Solar Array on their property. They explained their concern on the environment and reasons for the location. Martha asked if they needed approval from the board to install this solar array. Doon noted residential solar is exempt from local zoning laws. He said they are just providing information on the project. Johnathan spoke to the board asking for a letter of support from the board of selectman. He stated its very key to the project to have both the support from Two Rivers, the planning board, and the board of selectmen. He stated it's called Preferred Site Status. Discussion ensued and abutting neighbors spoke. Doon encouraged the Murray's to attend a planning and zoning meeting.

Reserve Accounts at WRCU: Doon explained the office recommends moving the reserve accounts currently at the WRCU to Mascoma Bank so they can get a better return. Doon moved to switch banks for the reserves. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted

Joan Updates: Joan sent a Cooperative agreement to Doon for the Federal Highway Administration and would like to have him sign and send along to Joan. Frank asked to meet with Joan to discuss the emergency generator grant. Joan said she would put together the bid package together for the emergency generator.

Library Updates: Tony asked the board if they had received their letter of suggestions for the upgrades to the library.

Highway Update: Sand is piled up and ready.

Energy Coordinator Update: Jeff discussed the Vermont Council on Rural Development is assisting the town on through the model communities' program. Jeff has put together a flyer for an upcoming event November 1. Second stage meeting at Pierce Hall at 6:30 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. The discussion will be going through the town building audit that was done. He said this will have discussion going further and how we react from the audit of the town buildings. Jeff noticed in the Herald recently the Preservation Vermont trust has a grant round going out with \$50,000-\$100,000 grant amounts with a deadline of December 15th. The awards are for the preservation and restoration of non-profit and municipal owned buildings. Jeff thought that sounded like a great opportunity for the library. Jeff asked if he could look at the mowing contract to see if there is a way to move some of the mowing to electronic means. Doon said we

should pay attention to this Preservation Trust. He asked Jeannette if she was interested in this grant and writing the grant. Jeannette said she is interested in the first-floor exterior wood cladding. She said either the nature of the wood or how its attached will not hold paint. She was not sure if the Preservation Trust allowed the replacement of the cladding. Jeannette would like the trustees and the selectboard to decide what to write the grant for. Jeannette is willing to write the grant once the areas are noted.

No public comments were made.

Doon moved to adjourn. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith