

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Terry Severy,

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Martha Slater, Troy LaPell, Troy LaPell, Nancy Vadnais, Bruce Flewelling, Jeff Gephart, Dave Harvey, Michael Trager, Larry Straus, Nick

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 January 10th selectboard meeting minutes with correction to a typo. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Doon moved to approve the January 11 special selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Doon moved to approve the January 19 special selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve First Class & Outside Consumption Liquor Licenses for Maple Soul, LLC: Doon moved to approve the liquor licenses for Maple Soul. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Town Meeting discussion: Town meeting was discussed. At the special selectboard meeting held on January 19, the board decided to move the Town Meeting date to March 28 and have a floor vote. They did not decide on location at that meeting. Board discussed and decided to have the Town Meeting in the high school auditorium on Monday, March 28th at 7pm.

Legal Trail discussion: The board had a lengthy discussion about legal trails and the question about utilizing such to access property and subdivided it. Doon added in the town plan, legal trails are mentioned to be used exclusively for recreational purposes and not intended to be used for vehicle access and not considered a highway. Doon shared that trail has been used to access logging operations recently. He researched our town policies and found a policy with an application for a user to improve class 4 roads but nothing speaking specifically to legal trails. He said the other option out there would be for the interested party to petition the town to change the classification of that road to a Class 3 or Class 4, which could satisfy the subdivision. He added it's a little complicated because there is road frontage to this property off Route 100. Doon asked if the interested party could share their interests in this lot. Michael Trager, who represents the family who owns the property spoke asking if the buyer could use legal trail 3 from South Hollow Road to access his property, which has been used by vehicles for a very long time. Doon agreed he could access that trail to his property but in terms of upgrading or subdividing, that is where it gets complicated. Bruce shared logging on a legal trail is a temporary use and creating a driveway is a permanent use. He felt if the town allows that on a legal trail it can leave the town open to a lawsuit, He felt the only legal way to grant the access is by upgrading that legal trail to a Class 3 or 4 road. He reiterated that a legal trail is for recreational use not a driveway. Doon noted we could reclassify a section of South Hollow Road and not the whole trail. The

improvements would have to be on the responsibility of the landowner. Pat asked if the potential buyer was aware of the specs to bring that up to a Class 3 or 4 road. She said it might be worth investigating the costs to make those improvements. Larry shared a culvert that was washed out during Irene was replaced on the trail with an oil tank with the two ends cut out by the snowmobile club. He said this particular culvert is not a road grade culvert and that would incur some engineering and additional costs. The discussion ensued with more research to do bringing the road up to a Class 3.

Joan Updates: Joan and Pat attended a meeting with USFS member and two engineers from the VHB to get the bid out for the replacement of the bridge on West Hill Bridge for early February. The engineering plans are almost completed to be included with the bid document. Site visits to bid on this project will not be mandatory. Bids will follow the VTrans process which includes putting bids out on a Wednesday and the bids will be opened on a Friday. Dates are not quite available. She believes contractors will be chosen by April at the latest.

She will need selectboard assistance with an easement request for one of the landowners for the West Hill Bridge. Frank agreed to help.

Joan noted the generator bid has gone out to bid through the Herald and on the state site. This is for the emergency generator at the Town Office. She shared that bid will be due on Monday, February 14th by 3 pm. The bids will be opened at the regular selectboard meeting that evening.

Joan asked Doon to sign a grant agreement with VTrans. She shared it is the reconfigured Mount Cushman replacement grant we received in 2018-2019. This is being repurposed for West Hill Bridge in the amount of \$175,000.00.

Joan brought up the Town Garage Stormwater Project that has been talked about several time. White River Partnership is putting it out to bid a little bit differently this time. The stormwater engineer has a list of contractors who have experience with this downstream defender structures and equipment to install one of these. They require large equipment to install. The bid will be posted on January 28 with a due date of March 7 for construction anytime between May and September working around Cooter to schedule a good time for the work at the garage. Terry asked who pays for the maintenance on that. Joan noted the town would take care of that. Joan said it would require monitoring the filter to be vacuumed periodically. Doon asked if what the costs would be. Joan will look back into that.

Energy Coordinator Updates: Jeff said he was asked by the Murray family to attend the Planning and Zoning meeting about their family solar system. The Planning and Zoning committee asked if the Valley Energy & Climate Action Committee would take up the Murray's project. At the last meeting they looked at the town plan and at the Public Utility Commission rules and will provide a letter to the Planning and Zoning for their decision.

Rochester Area Climate Initiative is moving on a meeting Wednesday with Vermont Council on Rural Development. They are transitioning as Jon Copans is leaving at the end of the month.

Jeff reminded the board for the offer for the electric vehicle charging and the next step is for our town to decide on location for use and identify some grants to get that project to move forward. Doon noted one of the spots that they were excited about was the old firehouse. Frank had

reservation to that spot. Frank felt with it being a building there are liabilities for using the building and currently its used for storage. He feels there are spots where the location should be and waiting for feedback from Green Mountain Power. Discussion about the Park and Ride and having a charge station there. Joan noted there are only 5 spaces there. Jeff stated that GMP was charging 4 spaces. Two would be used for fast charging (level 3) and two spaces for level 2 for overnight or longer duration. Jeff stated the fast chargers are lacking on Route 100. Joan shared maybe turning the park and ride into a charging station. She said it tight there. There are water and sewer running beneath to be aware of. Frank thought of even at the school on the bank there and the sidewalks would come up to the village. That would be an ideal open space but would have to go through the school.

Nancy made a public comment to ask that anyone still working on there reports to submit for the Town Report to get them over to her.

Doon moved to adjourn at 7:19 Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Doon moved to enter executive session at 7:19pm to talk about real estate issues. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith