

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2022

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Terry Severy, Kristen LaPell, Lois Bond, Ray Harvey, Kathryn Schenkman, Henry Garzia, Alzina Desantis, Deb Scherrer, Lawrence and Lynda Creech, Larry Straus,

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Martha Slater, Troy LaPell, Walter Pruiksmas, Nick d'Arbleoff, Ethan

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the Emergency November 29, selectboard minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved. Pat moved to approve the November 14, 2022, selectboard minutes. Frank seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Review Treasurer's Report: The board read the report. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Letter of Support for Park Grant: Park committee is submitting a grant to the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program. The grant will address the need to maintain, protect and preserve the trees on the park. The grant also addresses the need to prepare for potential infestation of the Emerald Ash Tree Borer. This grant is a 1 to 1 grant. The town is requesting the maximum amount allowable in the amount of \$10,000 with a \$5,000 match which volunteer hours will be used in kind. The committee is asking the board for a letter of support to submit with the grant. Doon moved to approve the letter. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Request for Winter Event-Night Before the Night Before Christmas request: Deb Scherrer spoke on behalf of Sue Ribaud. She is asking the board for permission to close off Kirby Drive December 23 for the event. The event will take place on the porch of the Café. She shared a map of the blocked off area. They would clear the area if there were an emergency. She is asking for the closure to happen between 4:30pm-6:30 pm. The event is from 5pm-7pm. She has also requested a couple of safety cones and sawhorses. Frank will help with those items. Doon moved to approve. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Clarification of Rebuild Rochester Fund: Kathryn Schenkman made a formal clarification of what the Rebuild Rochester fund is. She explained the Rebuild Rochester fund committee was established in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. She said it was relief committee formed to help flood victims. There were donations made and the committee distributed to applicants. The Federated Church offered their 501c 3 that offered their umbrella to received tax exempt donations. Peggy McKinley's brother who is an attorney, helped to establish the nonprofit, Rebuild Rochester. In 2014, the mission changed to go beyond the flood relief. Their mission statement is to assist in the revitalization and sustainability of the Rochester area community for individuals, businesses, and organizations. The largest part of their work is to receive

applications from people in monetary crisis. This is a one-time help. There are two social workers on the board so that when an application comes in other funding can be applied for if needed. They have also collaborated with other community efforts. The first was on the fifth anniversary of Irene. They sponsored in partnership with other local businesses, a daylong event. Then in 2020 when the pandemic rolled along, they were receiving donations to help stand up a grocery delivery service. This was to help those in isolation and quarantine. Volunteers helped to fulfill these grocery deliveries. In 2020, they agreed to work with CV Oil and Maple Soul to establish a Warm and Heat fund for CV Oil customers who need assistance. This fund is still in the works. In 2021, they received a tax-exempt donation towards the required matching funds of the Vermont Community Development Board Planning Grant that funded the feasibility study and continues to support the work by the Rochester High School Repurposing Committee. This is on behalf of the school board and the selectboard exploring options of repurposing the building. They are now raising funds to heat the building through the winter. This was not something they anticipated but is a necessity to keep the building viable. Kathryn said the Rebuild Rochester committee is not part of the Repurposing of the high school building. There was confusion about that. They do accept tax-exempt donations which has been helpful and especially useful to the community.

Roger's Peak land access discussion: Nick d'Arbeloff spoke to the board and requested to have a preference to his 700-acre property from South Hollow Lane. He shared the pros and cons of each of the access points to that property. He shared how he would like to bring in power underground and using the access from South Hollow beneficial. He would like to physically walk the referred access from Jerusalem Road, explained at a past selectboard meeting from Doon. He stated the Jerusalem Hill location would not allow underground power. He shared from that previous meeting; he would need to improve the road off South Hollow Lane to a Class 4 standard. He said he would meet the requirements to meet that standard if that were a possibility. Doon said that with conversations it would be a Class 3 and not Class 4. He said a higher level would be desirable. Doon would like Nick to explore the access from Jerusalem, it seems like a significant log road is there that would bring him to his desired building spot. Nick is concerned about the access on Jerusalem. Frank shared his thoughts about South Hollow access. He felt it is a trail and set a different precedence to our community than what has been set before. Frank stated he is not in favor of South Hollow access off the legal trail. He explained how if the town allowed a trail to be identified as a class road, the other several miles of trail would be looked at in the same way. Having these trails is an asset to the town. He is in favor of the access from Jerusalem Hill Road. Discussion ensued. Board asked for Nick to explore more and look at Jerusalem as an access possibility or to pursue a petition from the town and get their feedback. Ethan spoke from South Hollow bringing up the point of the wildlife corridor out through that area and protecting it.

Granville First Response FY24 discussion: Daniel was not present. Tabled discussion.

Sherman Family Trust Property update: Reuben Sherman sent a letter of request to the selectboard. Frank spoke with Bruce Flewelling about the area and trails. Frank said the Sherman family lot is off Jones Mountain Road. Bruce indicated it is a town road after he had done research on this area. He said the town threw up the lower half that goes down into Bingo. The upper part of Jones Mountain Road is classified as a Class 4. In the past, the selectboard did not

approved to put a gate to the access point of the Sherman Family property making it a “pent road.” The gate cannot be locked, in order to allow the family to access that property. Frank will respond to Reuben and do further research. There should be a public right of way through that property to access the Sherman family property.

Highway Update: Frank shared that he and John will be attending a required zoom meeting on CDL and drug/alcohol testing. He said they will be meeting with Greg Russ from the White River Partnership, and they have funds available to use on the River Brook Culvert to replace 100% coverage. Doon shared there will be an informational meeting about the West Hill Bridge replacement at the January 23 selectboard meeting with Brian Austin and Chris Mattrick.

Fire Department Update: Terry updated the board with the status of the new fire truck. The truck may be ready by the end of the year.

Energy Coordinator Update: Jeff updated the board with work he has been putting together the towns electrical and fuel usage with help from Kristen. He had a conversation with Zac Cassey from Green Mountain Power. He said they changed their minds and will be going with 2 DC fast charger and 2 Level 2 chargers. He indicated the back ordered parts will be coming in by March. He would like to wait until late May early June to schedule an event with electric vehicle demonstration day. Jeff shared he did a takeoff on the library and what it will need behind the wall cavity. Doon shared the resiliency zone is moving forward up in Severy’s Pit. He has the 45-day notice and said it is moving forward to put in a resiliency zone with a solar array with battery backup for the center of town. Frank indicated this saved energy can would allow the town to use the banked power any time there is a spike to power up the center of town. Frank indicated this really fits with our town plan.

Grants Update: Kristen shared with the board updates to the grants. She said we received the second reimbursement from the CBDG grant on the 8th of December in the amount of \$21,852.00. For the Howe Brook Design, Kristen submitted and received the first reimbursement in the amount of \$ 7,537.50. She continued to explain the town received the bid proposal packet for West Hill Bridge replacement and the board will need to review. The Forest Service has confirmed they have a temporary replacement bridge for that project. The project will go out to bid sometime in January. Kristen said there is a document that requires Doon’s signature for FY24 for the Better Roads Grant for Roger’s Brook. She said that Rita from Two Rivers and Cricket have both been working to get that grant application submitted by December 16th. Kristen submitted her first requisition for Grants and Aid for Fiske Road in the amount of \$15,305.00 with the help from Ashley. She also completed the portal work for the Grants in Aid project on Fiske Road and should receive a reimbursement soon.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Smith