

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

Present: Doon Hinderyckx (absent), Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Terry Severy, Nancy Woolley, Orca Media, Norm Christiansen, John Lambert

Guests Present on Zoom: Orca, Martha Slater, Troy LaPell, Kathryn Schenkman, Bryan Kovalick

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

Frank confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Town baseball field use request-Tri-Town Baseball (Wendy Stender): Norm Christiansen asked the board's permission to allow the Tri-Town sports teams to use the fields near the tennis courts. The board agreed to allow them use of the town's fields. Tri-Town holds Cal Ripton insurance for the kids.

MTAP Capital Budget and Program agreement with Two Rivers-Bryan Kovalick: Bryan shared a contract funded through the MTAP (Municipal Technical Assistance Program) in the amount of \$12,000. This contract will run till the end of September. In the scope of work they will assist the town in creating a 10-year capital program, which will be an update to the Capital Plan that Two Rivers worked on in 2015 for the town. The work in scope is very similar to the work that was done to create that capital budget. It will require speaking with the different town departments about potential capital project ideas with costs and then looking into potential funding sources. An overview of the scope of the work and the contract itself ultimately taking all the information, complying it into a budget and a report to elaborate on each of the projects in more detail. The contract can be amended if need be. Frank explained this is important to seek grants for future projects. Frank moved to approve the agreement. Pat seconded. All in favor, so approved.

Appointments: Tabled until all board members present

Formally adopting the Declaration of Inclusion: Frank explained this is a formal adoption that was an amended and approved warned item at Town Meeting. Frank moved to approve the Declaration of Inclusion policy. Pat seconded. All in favor, so approved.

Thraikill walking Path/Park Pet Waste discussion: Julie explained the walking path down by the school over to the tennis courts and down by the river are getting really bad and remembered there was discussion about putting up the pet waste stations. She said Mr. Thraikill has come in to ask what we can do. He and his wife have put up additional signs but perhaps we should add some down by the river. They don't want to have to close the paths to the public but would like

to see improvements from the pet owners. We will lose the walking path if there isn't an improvement. They own all the way to the river.

Tri-Town Baseball Account discussion: Kristen explained there has been a small amount at the WRCU titled Tri-Town Baseball. This account began years ago by Norm Pratt and people lost contact with this account and it was brought up again with Tim Pratt, his son. The account hasn't had much activity. Kristen asked the board if she could move this account over to Mascoma with the other Reserve accounts keeping it as Tri-Town Baseball. The group is actively receiving money now in scholarships and donations. This account doesn't have to be a reserve, it could be set up as an account however the town wants to set it up. She wants to set up the account with the use of checks. The Town owns the account so long as it is used for Tri-town baseball. The signatories would only be Julie and Kristen. Kristen said it would be listed in the Town Report. This was always called the Pratt fund and Kristen will set it up as so. The board gave Kristen permission to move the account over to Mascoma Bank.

Outdoor Consumption Permit for Huntington House Inn: Frank moved to approve with the curfew time of 10pm. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

John Lambert attended the meeting to thank Frank for his help with the dog issue. John asked for a correction to the minutes in the paper. He updated the board with the status of the situation. He said on Easter day another child was chased and another child was knocked down and nipped by this dog. He said this is still ongoing. He brought up several issues. He wanted to know why we have a budget for Health and Safety person, constables 1 and 2, and an animal control humane officer. He said if these various people have no training but there is a budgeted amount how does that work. Frank explained it's a long-term event. He shared the rules and laws have changed. Frank said in the past there was no training involved in these various positions. He said in the past the town appointed person would approach a pet owner whose animal was disorderly, and the pet owner would respectfully address the issue. Today the rules are so different, and the officers would need to have training to enforce them. Nancy shared the health Officer is required by the State of Vermont Department of Health. Constables are required by statutes and require no weight unless they have training. Julie added if the appointed positions have not had the proper training they cannot act because of town insurance. John asked why these positions are paid salaries. Pat said the appointed positions do various things throughout the year and use their own vehicles in doing so.

Town Updates: Crew got through the storm. The Ford 550 broke down again. Frank said there is a tentative date for the closure of Bethel Mountain Road on April 22. We are trying to coincide with work for our side as well. J.A. McDonnell will be replacing a culvert on the Bethel side, and we will do our project at the same time replacing a culvert on Rogers Brook. This closure should only take a few days. We will be responsible for signage on our side and Bethel will be responsible for our side. We have a grant for the work to be performed at Rogers Brook.

Utilities Update: Work on the Town office septic. Start work on Monday.

Grant Updates: Kristen shared we have received both FEMA CAT C reimbursements for a total of \$8,766.53. She still has out there a CAT A for North Hollow. She is working with FEMA on

that project. She is also working on the CAT Z which is for the administrative time in the next couple of weeks.

Frank shared we are working on a grant for Bethel Mountain Road and will have that ready to submit for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith