

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Laurie Colgan and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Planning Commissioners Melissa Seifert, Aaron Ingham and Jonathan Williams; Kathleen Hayes (Plainfield Constable); Richard Phillips (Stranahan Stewardship Committee) for the Stranahan discussion only

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: dog complaint

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of February 5, 2019

Noise Ordinance: Jonathan Williams explained that the Planning Commission drafted the ordinance because law enforcement will not respond to noise complaints without one. Rich Baker noted that there is already a state statute about disturbing the peace. Jonathan gave the example that someone was firing a rifle within the Village for an hour and 15 minutes recently. Kathleen Hayes explained that the Plainfield ordinance has been very helpful in that situation, because it's easier to enforce a noise ordinance than a shooting ban. She explained that common sense has to be used when enforcing the ordinance, and the police are more likely to respond if there is an ordinance. She sees it as a useful tool. She noted that it helps resolve issues between neighbors. If there is no ordinance, neighbors have to resort to confronting one another. Rich noted that chainsaws may be considered a nuisance by some people but they are a necessary part of life for other people. He's concerned that the Town may be asked to enforce the ordinance when the enforcement official does not feel that action is warranted. Jonathan asked that the Selectboard ask for public opinion before deciding what to do about the draft. The people that he talked to are in favor of it. Kathleen feels that it has worked very well and been well received in Plainfield.

Planning Commission Vacancy: Melissa Seifert explained that she wants to resign but she would be willing to stay on until April 15th to help maintain a quorum. Kathleen Hayes and Robin Schunk have volunteered to be on the Commission. Chris moved to reduce the Planning Commission to a 5-member board, to appoint Kathleen Hayes to a 3-year term, Robin Schunk to a 2-year term, and accept Melissa Seifert's resignation. Laurie seconded – all in favor. The Board and Commission members discussed the need for a representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and also a member of CVRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee. Jonathan explained that the Town had a proposal before the TAC that did not get chosen, in part because we don't have a TAC member.

The Planning Commissioners left the meeting at this point.

Stranahan Town Forest: Rich Phillips explained what the Stranahan Committee is hoping to do in the coming year. He discussed a proposed budget. He asked if the Stranahan fund could be used

to pay Dan Tetreault to work on the Thompson Road, using the town equipment. The Board agreed, if Dan is willing to do it.

They would like to make a recreation/picnic area in the town forest, and fixing the Thompson Road will allow access for people who are not able to walk that far. They would like to have events at the site of an old foundation. The area has been cleared and they plan to purchase picnic tables.

Rich Phillips explained that they have been working on a recreation plan but now they need to finish the rest of the management plan. There will be a public meeting on March 26th to present the recreation plan.

East Montpelier Ambulance: The Board signed a contract with East Montpelier Ambulance Service for 3 years. The cost is \$41,200 for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, \$42,436 for the second year, and \$43,709 for the third year.

Radon Removal: Chris explained that he met with contractor Jim Breer to discuss what could be done to remove the radon from the Old Schoolhouse Common. He proposes drilling under the concrete slab, in four spots, and then pipes will be inserted and vented up through the attic. There will be an exhaust fan that will pull the radon out of the building. He will give us an estimate. Chris will also contact at least one more contractor. The work will be paid for out of the Old Schoolhouse Common Building Fund.

Old Schoolhouse Common Vacancy: There will be a space available in the Old Schoolhouse as of May 1st. Bobbi will advertise.

New Notary Law: Bobbi notified the Board that due to a change in notary laws, Town Clerks are no longer notaries as a function of their job. The change exposes the Town Clerk to personal liability, so most town clerks (including ours) will no longer be providing the service after June 30th. The legislature may pass a bill correcting this issue before July 1st.

First Responders (Correspondence): The Board was notified about a bill that has been proposed in the legislature to allow towns to exempt some property taxes for first responders. Rich Baker suggested that it would be better to pay people.

Dog Complaint: The Board received a complaint from Janet Sing that the Copeland dog has been back at her house. The Board will ask the Dog Officer to look into it. Chris will also speak to the Copelands.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

Executive Session: At 7:25 Chris moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Rich seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at 7:55.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the February 19, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
