

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 2, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Justin Campbell, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Conservation Commissioners Nick Seifert, Bob Popp, and J. Bradley Materick; Visitors: Henry Harris, Anne Allen, Patricia ____, Tamara McKee, Tim Maclay

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Baker

Changes or additions to the agenda: complaint about the kitchen

Minutes: approved the minutes of the April 18, 20232 Selectboard meeting

Public Comment: Henry Harris asked when he would be having a meeting to discuss an out of court settlement. Rich Baker was under the impression that the attorneys had agreed to wait until after the DRB hearing. Henry thinks they agreed to hold off on the court date until after a settlement meeting. Rich suggested that Henry's attorney should talk to the Town attorney, because some items in the settlement could be irrelevant after the DRB process. Henry asked about the need for a conditional use permit vs. a site plan. Rich explained that it is up to the DRB. Henry requested that the Selectboard should ask the town attorney for a settlement meeting. Rich reiterated that the DRB meeting has to happen because the settlement will depend on the DRB decision. Henry stated that the Zoning Administrator has not notified him about what is required for his hearing. Rich explained that the Zoning Administrator does not decide that; it is up to the DRB.

Speed Enforcement: Anne Allen requested radar speed signs on School Street. Rich explained that this has been discussed at town meeting and according to VTrans, the signs are not effective long-term. Justin explained that we have appropriated more money for enforcement. The Board will ask the Road Crew to put up additional speed limit signs.

Marshfield Dam: Nick Seifert explained that he hasn't been able to get a response from Green Mountain Power regarding a tour of the dam. Jason Lisai from Green Mountain Power is scheduled to come to the next Selectboard meeting to update the Board on the progress that has been made at the dam. They will discuss the tour at that time.

Upper Depot Bridge: The Board signed a contract with Austin Construction to make repairs to the bridge beams; the cost of the work will not exceed \$29,260, to be paid with a Vtrans structures grant, and ARPA funds will be used for our match.

Covered Bridge: Bob Popp, Bradley Materick, and Justin met at the covered bridge to discuss the mowing/brush hogging. Bob explained that there was never a permanent management plan prepared for the property. The plan is a requirement of the easement. There was an agreement with Tim Maclay to hay the property but the agreement has expired. Bob explained that the area to be hayed was marked a long time ago but the flags are no longer there. He explained that there is a

rare sedge on the property. The Conservation Commission is asking for a one-year delay on haying. He explained that the bobolink nesting season is from May 15 through July 15, and haying should only be allowed before and after that date range. He explained that there is a bobolink program that pays people to delay haying. Tim explained that if he delays the haying too long, the hay won't be usable because of the reed canary grass. If he hays too early, the good grass has not had a chance to set seed so eventually there will be less grass. He waits until the seed heads are out; this is usually around June 1st. Brad explained that according to VT Audubon, mowing in mid-May is best, and then the field shouldn't be mowed again until after the young bobolink have fledged. They recommend no cutting during a 65 day window. Brad explained that the Conservation Commission has just started their planning process. They would like the plan to recommend which areas should be hayed and which areas should be brush hogged. He doesn't think the commission wants to see trees take over the property. The Board discussed that there are two separate issues. The bobolinks are one issue, and the rare sedge is another issue. The sedge can not be identified until later in the year, and only if it isn't hayed. Tim offered to walk the property with Bob and Brad, they can mark anything that might be the rare sedge, and Tim will mow around it. Tim will do his best to mow before June 1st and not again until after August 15th, and the management plan will be developed before next year.

Health and Safety complaint: tabled until the Board hears from the Health Officer.

Zoning violation: tabled until the Board hears from the Zoning Administrator.

Railroad Bed: Rich suggested reclassifying to a legal trail a section of the railroad bed that the town owns, to prevent damage to the railroad bed, and because it is primarily used by walkers and bikers. This section is from the area near the intersection of Upper and Lower Depot Roads, to the boundary of the old depot. If it was a legal trail, it could be blocked to motorized traffic. He noted that the town owns the land on either side of the railroad bed, and the owners of the one camp on the road could access it from Bailey Pond Road. Another option is to block off the Class IV road during mud season. Michele noted that as a Class IV road, we don't get any financial assistance, but as a legal trail we could apply for grants for recreation.

National Park Service: the Town is receiving technical assistance for mapping recreation opportunities within and near Marshfield.

Cemetery: Joe Mangan sent an estimate for labor and materials for the wall in the Dwinell cemetery, and an estimate for a survey of the new green burial site. Bobbi explained that the operating fund has \$24,000 in it but we need to keep in mind that the operating fund usually does not get much income other than the small amount that we make on burials; the appropriation usually just covers the mowing but this year the appropriation is \$15,000 and the mowing will cost \$11,000. Rich moved to spend the \$7,100 for the survey and the wall repair. Justin seconded – all in favor. The board will consider increasing the appropriation into the fund again next year.

Park & Ride: Justin reviewed the specs for the solar lights. The precast bases that he looked at will not work because the bases of the lights are too large. He wondered if solar lights are the

correct way to go because of the cost involved and the lifespan of the batteries.

Emergency Shelter Arrangements: Rich talked to the Red Cross about setting up an emergency shelter. They did not have us on their list. The will contact Rich to set up a walkthrough of our emergency shelters.

Kitchen Rental: The kitchen was rented for the weekend and the renters submitted a complaint that when they came to use it, they found that the kitchen was so dirty that they had to clean it before they could use it. They asked to have the fee refunded. Michele suggested having people take a picture before and after they use it. Justin moved to refund half of the rental fee and apologize to the renters, and let them know that we are working on new procedures. Michele seconded – all in favor.

Executive Session: At 8:20, Rich moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Justin seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at 8:25

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the May 2, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
