

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 5:30 p.m, via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Grace Vinson (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission); Shauna Clifford (VTrans); Scott Ciampi (Road Crew); Nick Seifert and Rich Phillips (Energy Committee)

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

Changes or additions to the agenda: Street sweeping, curb cut, personnel (road crew, OSC)

Public Comment: none

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting.

Energy Committee: Nick Seifert asked the Board for feedback on potential projects. He asked if the town has received any guidance about how the ARPA money can be used. Bobbi explained that we still don't have any answers, but when we do, we will have some time to plan.

One project the committee is looking at is adding another solar tracker to cover the rest of the town's energy usage. The three trackers at the Old Schoolhouse Common cover 2/3 to 3/4 of the town's energy usage. He asked for the process to add another one to the budget. Rich and Chris both feel that the regular budget is for essential services, and an additional tracker should be voted as a separate article at town meeting. They did not feel that it would be worth having a special town meeting. The committee will look at the financials of the current trackers.

Nick noted that the town has talked about weatherization efforts at the fire house. He asked how that could be funded. Rich and Chris explained that it would depend on the cost – it could be included in the fire department budget or paid from the fire station building fund. Rich Phillips stated that the original audit estimated about \$4,000 for the cost of insulating.

Nick discussed the idea of putting an EV Charger at the Old Schoolhouse Common. He asked if the Board would be interested in having one installed if the committee could find a donor or some other way to set money aside for the electricity cost. Rich B. asked why it couldn't be funded with a credit card system. Rich P. explained that in Plainfield, they use the honor system, and they are collecting more than the electricity is costing.

School Street Bridge: Shauna Clifford explained that she has looked at the bridge, and the t-beams have deteriorated since she last looked at it. That means that a rehab would be much more expensive than she thought and would only last around 15 years, but replacing the entire deck would last much longer and be more cost-effective. The substructure is in good shape and could support a new deck. Replacing the deck would mean replacing the concrete rail with a metal rail. Chris feels that it makes more sense to replace the deck. Shauna explained that the bridge was built in 1930 and it was a common enough design that Historic Preservation would probably not have a

problem with replacing it. Chris noted that Cabot replaced a bridge recently and the metal guardrail looks nice. Rich agreed that it doesn't make sense to put so much money into something that is going to be a short-term fix. Replacing the deck will actually be cheaper than rehabbing the existing deck because of the condition of the t-beams. With either project, the abutments would stay the same. Shauna will change the scope of work for the current grant, and Bobbi will apply for a separate grant for the engineering.

Curb Cut: David Mangan from Red Door Bakery applied for a curb cut permit to widen the existing curb cuts at the former Catholic Church building on Beaver Meadow Road. Scott explained that he is not making the curb cuts any closer to Route 2; he is going to make them wider towards each other. The Board approved the permit and authorized Bobbi to sign it.

Personnel: One of the Road Crew members is out with an injury (not work-related) and he will be out for some time. It is not known at this point how long he will need to be out. Dan Tetreault will be able to fill in occasionally but not full time. The Board approved of using Dan to fill in as needed.

Street Sweeping: The Board received a request to sweep School Street. The Board does not feel that it is necessary and the Town does not have the equipment or personnel to do it, and if they did School Street, they would have to do other paved streets. Scott noted that they could use water but that would send the dirt onto lawns.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Grace Vinson and the Selectboard worked on mitigation strategies to be included in the plan. She will have a draft of the plan to present at the next Selectboard meeting.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Rich Phillips would like to build a picnic shelter at the Old Schoolhouse Common. He feels like this would be a good time to get people back together after the pandemic. He envisions a post and beam structure with a gravel floor, to be built by volunteers with donations and possibly a small grant. He asked whether the Board would like him to pursue this a bit further. Michele noted that the Youth Conservation Corps has built some picnic shelters in state parks and they may be able to help out. Rich B. suggested talking to the Recreation Committee to see if they have any concerns. His main concern is finding the best location. Chris suggested exploring whether solar panels could be put on the roof.

Community Day: Rich P. feels that we should have a day to celebrate Marshfield. He was trying to coordinate it with Susan Green and the fall foliage festival. That celebration is not happening this year. He would like each town committee to develop something that they could do or show on that day. He would like to do this in conjunction with the Library. Rich B. thinks this will be a lot of work and will take a lot of volunteers. He doesn't think there should be walks or field trips on that day, if the goal is to get everyone together. He suggested adding food and music, and possibly combining it with one of the Library concerts. Rich P. is going to try to get a committee together to explore this further.

COVID-19: The Board removed the requirement to wear a mask in the Old Schoolhouse Common

for vaccinated people. There will still be a sign recommending masks for unvaccinated people. Committees can now meet in person if they wish to, following the Governor's guidelines. The next meeting will still be via Zoom.

Local Emergency Management Plan: Chris moved to adopt the plan. Rich seconded – all in favor.

CTCL Grant: The Board brainstormed what else we could use the money for. Bobbi will research technology to allow for townspeople to watch vote tabulating remotely.

Solar Trackers: The Board has received an offer of a service contract for the trackers. We currently do not have a contract. The Board did not make a decision.

Tax Sale: The Board discussed whether or not to bid on the two properties that are being advertised for sale. The Board will look at the properties and decide at the next meeting.

Town Email Addresses: The Board authorized Bobbi to set up more town email addresses at a cost of an additional \$10 per month. There will be town email addresses for the Health Officer and some other town officials.

Cross Vermont Trail: Greg Western talked to Rich Baker about applying for grants to upgrade the trail in Marshfield, on the section that the Town owns, and to put signage on the Forest Farmers property.

Speed Study: Bobbi will ask CVRPC for more information.

Library Porch: Nathan Phillips doesn't have time to look at this. The Board discussed whether it would be less expensive to have an architect or an engineer look at it. Chris, Rich and Bobbi will each get a quote from someone to review/approve the plans.

Old Schoolhouse Maintenance: Dan Tetreault has informed the Selectboard that he is moving and will no longer be able to continue in this position. The Board received an application but they haven't yet advertised the position. Chris will talk to Dan to find out what his timeframe is.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll and authorized Rich to sign them.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
