

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Carter Martin; Will Schwarz (Fire Chief); Heather Bent and Alana Vallaincourt (Animal Control); Nick Seifert (Energy Committee)

At 5:32 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Conservation Commission donation, rail bed and trails at the covered bridge property, DRB hearing for library porch

Public Comment: none

Minutes: approved the minutes of the May 17 and May 26 Selectboard meetings

Railroad Bed: Carter Martin asked permission for the snowmobile club to put fill in the railroad bed on the covered bridge property, to make it better for snowmobile travel. The Board approved. He expressed that the club is also interested in putting a trail on part of the covered bridge property to avoid traveling on John Fowler Rd. Bobbi will check the easements on the property to see if that would be allowed.

Communications: Will Schwarz updated the Board on the radio system that is being sought by the towns that are part of Capital West. The State Police are moving away from dispatching for local services, so other towns may be included. The City of Montpelier will be the fiduciary for the project. As a condition of the appropriation, the towns have to be setting aside the amount of money needed to replace the system in 10 years. They are working on a financial plan to determine how much money needs to be included in the town budget each year.

Solar: Nick Seifert reported that the town attorney did not see any issues with the off-taking agreement. GMP only has a system for dealing with membership in one net-metering group, so the town accounts would have to be separated into two groups. We would have to discuss with the off-taker to see if credits can be rolled over; otherwise we risk losing credits that we are generating with the existing panels. Nick will look further at the calculations.

Park & Ride: The Town has a park & ride grant to install lighting at the Old Schoolhouse Common parking lot. The Board decided to have lights that will be on for a couple of hours and then switch to motion activation. Bobbi will submit the lights for historic review.

Animal Complaint: George Africa has complained again about a dog belonging to Bonnie Cooper. Alana reported that she has spoken with another neighbor and the situation had been better for a while but lately the dog has been out again. George has not been able to catch it. The dog officers will ask George to take pictures for proof. Bobbi will send a letter to the owner, letting her know there is an ordinance and fines could be levied if the dog continues to be a problem.

Lister Cards: Bobbi will ask the reappraisal company for a demonstration of what the online lister cards would look like.

OSC: Rich reported that the Building Committee met to look at the building. There is a lot of deferred maintenance. The outside of the building has a lot of needed maintenance, and it was suggested to include the outdoor work with the library porch, to get a better price. They suggested creating a capital plan, and focusing on required maintenance before other renovations are considered. The Committee discussed the gym and what the objective should be, whether it should continue as a gym or be converted to a different type of space. The Committee will do a survey to see what the community would like to see happening with the building.

ARPA: The Board discussed the amount of ARPA funds to use for the highway department expenses, and how much to spend out of the Town's designated funds. They decided to pay for repaving Gilman St, Onion River Rd, John Fowler Rd, Eaton Cemetery Rd Intersection, Hollister Hill Road, and Nasmith Brook Rd out of paving funds. They approved purchase of some highway equipment, including a special grader blade, a plasma cutter, a sand screen, and a storage container. The Board will hold the remaining funds until the OSC Building Committee makes recommendations.

Conservation Commission request: The Commission wants to donate \$100 to Bee the Change, an organization that installs pollinator gardens. The Board approved, as long as the funds come from the Conservation Fund and not the operations budget.

Library Porch: Rich will attend the Development Review Board meeting on behalf of the Town.

Resignations: Robin Schunk resigned from the Planning Commission and as the Development Review Board clerk. Asher Barnum has agreed to be the clerk for the DRB. The Board agreed to pay him what they were paying Robin.

Kate Hayes has notified the Board that due to time constraints, she can't continue to be Zoning Administrator, Health Officer, and Lister. She has agreed to stay on one of the jobs but the Board needs to talk to her to decide what job would be best to keep.

Safety concerns at the playground: Signs have been posted, warning the public about the balls that could fly over the fence of the ballfield.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a liquor license application for Outer Spice Café.

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 June 7, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
