

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Justin Campbell and Christopher Whalen; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors Danielle Ward, Tyler Billingsley (East Engineering); Stranahan Stewardship Committee members Nancy Everhart, Ellen Cooke, Mia Roethlein, Patrick Pfeiffer, and Doug Glover

At 5:31 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Justin Campbell

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** none

**Review and approval of minutes:** tabled

**Maple Hill Rd:** Danielle Ward addressed the Board about the ditching that was done on her property. She understands the purpose of the ditching but she feels that the slope of the ditch will increase stormwater runoff from her property. She has concerns about the way the ditching was done around a utility pole. Chris mentioned that Green Mountain Power is sometimes willing to move power poles if they are a danger. Justin stated that he has spoken with the Road Crew and they do plan to hydroseed the ditch. Danielle doesn't like that it is exposed soil on a steep slope. Rocks have been falling off into the ditch. She moved to the property three years ago and there was no ditch. Justin explained that hydroseeding is different than just grass seed. It is applied under pressure and contains material that adheres to the bank. It is designed to stay put and does a good job – it is an engineered process for addressing the concerns. He asked her to give it some time and continue to monitor the situation but he defers to the Road Crew's expertise. The Road Crew is aware of her concerns and will keep an eye on it. Chris explained that the Road Crew has done ditching near his house and it reduced erosion. The board emphasized that they are happy to hear from residents and they encouraged her to keep in touch and come back with any further concerns.

**Bridges:** Tyler Billingsley attended the meeting to see if the Board has any questions. He discussed the design projects and his experience with FEMA. He indicated that there is some economy of scale using the same engineer for all of the projects (the four replacement bridges and the Creamery Street evaluation). The Town received a second bid for Creamery Street. Tyler's price for Creamery St was \$50,000 vs. \$46,900 from New England Consulting Engineers. The Board felt that the difference in price was small enough that it would be offset by the efficiency of only having one company to deal with. Justin moved to contract with East Engineering for all five of the bridges; Creamery St for a price not to exceed \$50,000, and the four bridges not to exceed the FEMA schedule of acceptable engineering costs. Chris seconded – all in favor. Chris moved to authorize Justin to sign the contracts on behalf of the Town. Justin seconded – all in favor.

**Henry Harris:** Henry has filed a motion to ask the judge to overturn the decision. Justin moved to have the town attorney file the response. Chris seconded – all in favor. Justin feels that it is wildly offensive that the town has to spend more money when Henry has stated that he was willing to pay the fines.

**Sign Policy:** tabled

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** The Board received a request to allow the steam engine association to stay onsite on the night before the fall foliage festival, to secure their equipment. Justin moved to allow it. Chris seconded – all in favor.

**Stranahan Town Forest:** The Stranahan Committee prepared an RFP for repairs and improvements to the Thompson Road. Justin moved to have Nancy Everhart make the discussed edits and Bobbi will advertise. Chris seconded – all in favor. The Board and Committee members discussed the FEMA inspection and how the reimbursement project might work.

**Covered Bridge:** Bobbi asked if there is an RFP yet for the work that needs to be done. Rich Phillips and the Conservation Commission are working on it.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the August 6, 2024 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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