

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, August 29, 2023, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Justin Campbell, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Assistant Town Clerk Alexandra Johnson; Visitors Richard Phillips, Phil and Susan LeClerc, Kim McAdams, Jan and Cary Smith, Ronald Gingras

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Baker

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Update to flood hazard area inspections, Pearson property, dishwasher at Old Schoolhouse Common

**Review and approval of minutes:** The Board approved the minutes of the August 22, 2023

**Emergency Watershed Program:** Justin explained that the program folks are working on it but we have not received the agreements yet. He explained that the program would pay for 75% but the property owner would be responsible for 25%. Phil LeClerc is looking for a timeline but we don't have a timeline yet. He needs to bring equipment in to do repairs but he can't do that until the bank is fixed. He needs to have it done before winter. Justin explained that he could get permission from the State to do the work but he won't get any reimbursement if it is done without the signed agreement. They could start getting quotes to help the process along.

**Road Repairs:** Scott explained Pigeon Pond Road and Folsom Hill Road are going to take the longest. The other roads are partially repaired but many still need staymat and seeding and mulching of the ditches. Justin explained that there is a landslide on Nasmith Brook Road that is right up to the edge of the road. VTrans is going to be looking at it tomorrow to see if we need to contact an engineer or if they can develop a scope of work. It is likely that we will need a contractor for that site.

**Class IV Road Policy:** Rich asked Scott for his comments on the amended policy. He indicated that it is much the current policy. Rich noted that he is trying to make sure the policy is consistent and well-defined. Justin stated that we are not changing the practice but we are putting it down on paper. Jan Smith stated that the Town replaced the culvert on the railroad bed so that people could get out. She asked if that would happen again if the road flooded again. Rich explained that the railroad bed is singled out in the policy because it serves more houses/camps than all of the other Class IV roads, and it serves other purposes such as a recreation corridor. Rich will modify it to combine two of the types of Class IV roads, and it will be on another agenda.

**Folsom Hill Rd:** Scott indicated that the Town can not move or delete the culvert because it would cause other drainage problems down the hill. Justin wondered if the water could be turned to go parallel with the road, if the driveway was moved. He will talk to VTrans to see if that would be acceptable.

**Railroad Bed:** Rich met with Forest Farmers, Greg Western of Cross VT Trail, and Anne

Winchester of Lords Hill Timber. There is a washout on the railroad bed near the intersection with Bailey Pond Road. The initial estimate for repairs is \$100,000. Rich noted that Forest Farmers would like a culvert near their driveway. The Town has said they don't have time this fall. Forest Farmers are bringing in equipment to fix the damage to their trails.

**FEMA update:** Bobbi and Justin updated Rich on the discussions with FEMA. The FEMA program delivery manager is going to write a project for the Railroad Bed as part of our parks and recreation infrastructure. Justin is going to develop an RFP so that we can get bids. He will use the Town's road and bridge standards to do the scope of work. He will ask for two prices, one to do the section from Bemis Farm Road to the washout, and the other to fix the washout.

**Cassady Road:** FEMA indicated that the work would be covered, but they do not think the town would be successful in getting reimbursed if there is only one bid. They suggested putting it out to bid again. Justin is going to work with the state to revise the scope of work.

**Zoning:** Lorraine explained that she has spoken with Chet Pearson. His property was significantly damaged in the flood hazard area. He is going to bring the building up to flood standards. He stated that no one is living there – he is often working there at night. Lorraine explained that for any repairs to other property, permits are required and she will track the cost of repairs over a five-year period, and if the costs of the repairs exceed 50% of the value of the property, they have to bring the property up to current standards. There are special permits required and the State reviews the applications also.

**Covered Bridge:** Rich Phillips commended the Selectboard for the work they are doing and the decisions they are making. Rich B. suggested that Justin deserves 90% of the credit. He discussed the work that needs to be done at the bridge. Bobbi is going to talk to the state debris person about what we can do with the silt and woody debris at the site. Rich P. would like to use some of the timbers to build a picnic shelter there. He reminded the Board that there are places that need riprap. Justin will talk to the State river engineer about the riprap.

**Buyouts:** Bobbi and Rich B. attended the buyout meeting today. The process takes about 6 months to get approved. If properties are in the flood hazard area, it is an easier process, through FEMA. The state also has a program for people in the river corridor. There are some properties that are not in the flood hazard area or in the river corridor, so it is not clear whether they will be able to get a buyout.

**FEMA Trailers:** Lorraine has been contacted by FEMA to discuss where they can put temporary housing trailers.

**Dishwasher:** Melissa Seifert has secured a grant for a dishwasher. She asked whether it could be installed by a volunteer. Rich is checking to see if it needs to be installed by a licensed plumber.

**Mold:** The test results showed a slightly elevated level of one type of mold in the gym, but no concerning numbers anywhere else. The Board voted to open the building but the gym will be off

limits until the incoming water issue can be resolved. Bobbi will contact a basement specialist. The Board agreed to reopen the building. A new dehumidifier has been purchased and is running in the gym.

Schedule: The Board will meet the 5<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the August 29, 2023 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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