

## **Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda February 12, 2020 Town Office**

Members present: Toni Pippy, Kate Siepmann, Pat Kelly, Brian Johnson, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present: Jean Miguel Barieteau, Ed Eastman, Gil Robertson, Bill Burden, Lisa Bragg, Janet Hardy, Jennifer Brown; Mike Hebb, Charles Denton, John Echeverria, Michael Sacca

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Citizens' Concerns** Bill Burden is concerned about a tree arched over Old City Falls Road and is worried that it if it breaks it will block the road and cause damage or injury.

**Highway Report** Brian has not spoken to Jon MacKinnon this week, although the report from the road crew is that everything is going well. Equipment is in good shape by all accounts.

**Correspondence** The board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- a) Email from Stu Johnson, Branch Manager, Vermont Local Roads, RE: Proposed legislation intended to clarify the Tree Warden related statutes. Lisa will forward to our tree warden.
- b) U. S. Census Bureau's 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) feedback closeout. This is complete.
- c) Laura Ann Nicolai, MPH, Deputy State Epidemiologist, State of Vermont Department of Health, RE: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) information to VT health care providers. No action is needed at this time.
- d) Emails Mike Hebb, January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, RE: dog barking. Please see agenda item below.
- e) Bob Linck, Central Vermont Director, Vermont Land Trust, RE: Ashley Community Forest draft conservation easement. Board received a draft of the conservation easement. Please see agenda item below.
- f) Email from Ben Guaraldi re: towed car. Sheriff's office towed a car that had been in the park and ride for an extended period of time. The board will post a sign in the lot with rules about the park and ride—and wants to remind all townspeople that the park and ride is not meant for overnight parking. If it is an emergency or special circumstance, please call Constable Ed Eastman or the town office.
- g) Email from VLCT re: unemployment benefits. Lisa will investigate and board will discuss at a future meeting.

### **Approve Minutes of January 22 and January 29**

Board moved, seconded, and voted to approve minutes of January 22 and January 29.

### **Dog ordinance understanding, violations, process for enforcement and changes**

Sergeant Bariteau from Orange County Sheriff's office, Constable Ed Eastman, and Animal Control Officer Janet Hardy were all present to discuss the town's dog ordinance. Janet Hardy reported that most of the complaints have to do with barking and dogs off leash. Janet says if there is going to be an ordinance, the fines must be much higher as a deterrent. That said, some people who have been fined refused to pay or adhere to the ordinance. What is the recourse for the town? Janet will be given ticket books so that she can issue fines on the spot. These fines carry the same weight as a traffic ticket, which has specific time limits for response. Sergeant Bariteau said that the sheriff's office can pursue remedies if the ordinances are not being followed. He offered to help the board to review other towns' dog ordinances to compare Strafford's with others and potentially make them more effective and enforceable. Several townspeople came to the meeting to discuss problems with dogs

barking, running loose, and bothering them. The board is working on changes to the ordinance and will review at the next meeting.

**Ashley Community Forest Project.** Updates from town attorney. Michael Sacca reported that the proposed easement is the controlling document over time for the project; it is not changeable. The interlocal agreement is how the towns interact in a legal way. The management plan has only to do with the conservation easement rather than the interlocal agreement. The management plan is flexible over time and should change as conditions change over time. The management plan must be approved by the Vermont Land Trust. There is an interim management plan currently in place, created by the Alliance by Vermont Communities; this would be redone under the new ownership. This new plan would be written by the Ashley Forest board in combination with Vermont League of Cities and Towns. This would also be a public process. The selectboard's primary concerns were with the concept of two-town ownership and costs in the future. The board will review the information provided by the town attorney; Toni will discuss with the chair of the Sharon selectboard; and all interested parties will get together to determine next steps.

**Pre town Meeting** Board agreed not to have a special pre-town meeting. In lieu of pre-town meeting, citizens are invited to the regular board meeting on February 26 and encouraged to ask questions.

**Other** No other new business was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp  
Recording Clerk