

## Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard

May 10, 2017

Members of the public party present: Toni Pippy (Chair), Brian Johnson, John Freitag, Kate Siepmann

Other active participants: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk), Jon MacKinnon (Road Foreman)

Citizens: Sue Coburn, Dustin Ray, E.J. Thorp

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### 1. Citizens' Concerns

Dustin Ray described to the Board his project to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest marble run. The current record of 4,221-feet was set in 2013 by students at Swinburne University of Technology (Australia). Dus and his crew of Newton School students, teachers, and friends

hope to more than double that distance by running a marble through sapline tubing from near the top of Sharon Hill to the Newton School playground. After raising concerns about parking and the safety of people setting the line, the Board wished Dustin well and applauded the project.

### 2. Elizabeth Mine Solar Project Update

Work continues on laying the groundwork for the Elizabeth Mine Solar Project. Trucking schedules are posted at Coburns' and the Town Office and online each Monday. Brian and Toni will make a site visit on Friday.

### 3. Town Roads and Equipment Update

Jon MacKinnon reported that the Town equipment is in good repair. He said that the one remaining problem with mud is on Moody Hill and he expects that will be resolved before the weekend.

Jon reported that crack sealing would be done this summer on all paved roads in Strafford except older sections of the Brook Road where it would not be effective.

Brian moved, John seconded to proceed with the highway access application by Cabot Teachout. All were in favor, with Marx absent.

The Board resumed discussion of the parking issues in front of Coburns' Store. John moved, Brian seconded that "The Town begin discussions with Dr. Hug about widening the road by  $\pm 22$ -inches to create legal parking spaces. The widening would create minimal disturbance and mitigate safety concerns." The motion was agreed to by all present.

E.J. Thorp was awarded the sidewalk contract for the 2017–2018 season at the same price as last year.

John Freitag has resigned as co-liaison to the Highway Department.

### 4. Approve Minutes

The Minutes for the April 26 meeting were unanimously approved (Marx absent) with only minor word changes.

### 5. Town Plan

The Strafford Planning Commission (SPC) will submit its Town Plan to the Board on May 15. Kate presented the first in a proposed series of informal "digests" of the contents of the Town Plan. The Board felt that the "digests" will be useful in encouraging citizen interest in the Plan. Thoughtful feedback from townspeople is not only welcome, but necessary to determine the direction we want to take as a community over the course of the next 8 years and beyond. The Town Plan is available for viewing on the Town of

Stafford website. Please alert us to any areas of general concern and help us to give the Plan the depth of attention it deserves.

#### 6. Budget Review

The Board reviewed the 4-month budget and looks forward to a 6-month review in July.

Balances have been reviewed and validated by the accounting firm of Fothergill, Segale & Valley. The Board expressed its sincere appreciation to Lisa and Toni for being such tenacious and capable budget watchers.

#### 7. General

Stanley & Lord: The Board received a note from Attorney Paul Gillies suggesting that the solution to the disposition of the Stanley property would be a tax sale. Toni will follow up.

Jedi Training Camp: Toni moved, Brian seconded the following motion. "That the Town will choose not to sponsor a "Jedi Camp" after reviewing extensive legal advice with regard to liability issues, required background checks, and other legal encumbrances." Toni, Brian, Kate voted Aye. John, No.

The Town of Stafford has received the 2017 Tree Steward Award by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program for the restoration of the orchard at the Morrill Homestead. The Floyd and Kay Campbell Family were instrumental in the planting and maintenance of the orchard, work that has been carried on by the Friends of the Morrill Homestead. Michael Caduto and John Freitag represented Stafford at the awards ceremony.

There is an upcoming vacancy on the Development Review Board. Lisa will advertise.

Karl Johnston has resigned after ten years as the tender of the plantings at the Park & Ride. Kate will draft a letter of appreciation from the Board.

Danny Prescott will be honored for his 30 years of service to the Town Highway Department on May 19.

Brian moved, Toni seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:45. All present approved.

Faithfully submitted,

Kate Siepmann

Journeyman (*"a worker who is reliable but not outstanding"*) Recording Clerk