

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
June 28, 21017

Members of the Selectboard present: Toni Pippy (Chair), Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, John Freitag, Kate Siepmann
Other active participants: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk), Jon MacKinnon (Road Foreman), Roz Finn, Stephen Campbell and John Danner of the Solar Project

Toni called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Citizens' Concerns —

Roz came in to express her regret about the mix-up in communications about the start of construction on the bridge in front of her house (Bridge #29). She had high praise for the State workers with whom she had communicated.

2. Town Highways —

Regarding the same bridge, Jon reported that there will be pre-closure meeting on 10 July. Jacquie Dagesse, liaison for the State, will post weekly updates to the Board, and Brent Cadwell will post to the ListServe for the Town. Concerns were raised about the traffic on Tyson Road during the detour while construction is underway. Miller Construction will stockpile concrete blocks by the Recycling Center and at the Town Garage.

Questions were also raised about the placement of yield signs at the Common and Brook Road. Because Justin Morrill Highway is the primary road, and Brook Road is secondary, it was decided to move the yield sign to the back to the bottom of Brook Road to slow vehicles on that road coming into town.

Jon reported that the work on crack sealing and the school crosswalk is complete. Still pending are rip-rap for Old City Falls bridge, Carpenter Hill upgrade, and Kendall Bridge #19. The State will repaint yellow lines and fog lines through the town.

The Board confirmed its participation in the Municipal Roads Grant-in-Aid project.

3. Correspondence —

The Board reviewed correspondence from Dr. Eugen Hug about widening the road by 24-inches in front of his house to allow for safe and legal parking across from Coburns' Store. Dr. Hug outlined a series of conditions, many of which seemed reasonable to the Board, with clarification. It was agreed to continue negotiations with Dr. Hug or his representative.

4. Approve minutes—

The Minutes for the June 14 meeting were approved with minor corrections. Brian moved and Steve seconded. Minutes on the Town Plan hearing on June 21 were approved. Toni moved, Steve seconded.

6. Discussion of the Town Plan was tabled until the Board could get together for several hours of uninterrupted focus on the Plan. At that time members will consolidate their edits, ranging from simple correction of spelling and punctuation to text changes. All changes will be made in such a way that it is clear what parts of the Draft Plan have been affected. The July 19 hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in Barrett Hall.

7. General —

- a) Liaison updates: As liaison to the Rec Board, John reported that the grand opening of the new tennis courts will be on Saturday, July 8 at 10:00 a.m.
- b) Concern was expressed about removal of the utility poles. The Selectboard is extremely disappointed to learn that there is no plan for prompt action on the part of the utilities using the poles.

Apparently Green Mountain Power, ECFiber, and Fairpoint have up to three years to transfer their lines to the new poles. The Board will do whatever it can to facilitate earlier removal.

- c) The batteries on the “traffic calming sign” last little more than four hours. The Board collectively agreed to purchase a new battery as the sign is on unlimited loan.
- d) No new news to report on the disposition of the delinquent Stanley and Lord properties. The Town’s attorney, Paul Gillies is opposed to tax abatements. If anyone were to buy either property, all back taxes would need to be paid, making the sale highly unlikely. Lisa will consult further with Attorney Gillies.
- e) Town Office repairs. Jim Evans will begin work on July 6 removing the carpet and refinishing the floors. Note to All: The Town Office will be CLOSED FROM JULY 10 to JULY 16 for renovations.
- f) Vermont 251State advertising campaign: John has written and, with Lisa’s help, collected photographs for the publication.
- g) The Harpoon Point-to-Point cycling race for the benefit of the Vermont Food Bank requested and received permission to use Town roads and facilities for the event on August 12.
- h) Calvin Benjamin was unanimously approved as the Town Forest Fire Warden.
- i) We received the grant for erosion control at Old City Bridge. All approved a motion by Toni, second by Brian to sign the agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The Board will hold a Special Meeting on July 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Education Room at the Morrill Homestead. The regular meeting will begin at 6:00, same location.

Faithfully submitted,
Kate Siepmann
Recording Clerk