

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Patrik Kelly, Rett Emerson, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Dorian Yates, Jennifer Brown, John Freitag, Geoff Martin, Doc Bagley, Susan Tiholiz

Meeting called to order 6:01 pm

1. Public Concerns

- Jeff Solsaa reported a complaint received about speeding and overtaking of vehicles on Sharon Hill near the town garage and a request to cut back foliage around stop signs. Liaison noted that the Sherriff was in the area yesterday and today. The community is reminded that there is no passing on that part of the road, and there is signage restricting passing.

2. Emergency Management COVID 19

Governor Scott extended the State of Emergency for the State of Vermont through Thursday, April 15, 2021. Governor Scott updates gathering and restaurant table seating guidance. To learn more about vaccines, to set up an account, or to register when eligible, visit healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine.

3. Town Highways and Equipment Update

Road Foreman reported everything is fine and equipment is running well.

Highway Correspondence

- Paving grant project. There may be additional grant funds for paving for this year. Unfortunately the paving grant cannot be used for Brook Road, which is in bad shape. Foreman has gathered information on paving estimates from various contractors to ensure we get the best price. Once we get the grant a tender will be posted. Grant application is due April 15.
- Energy audit of town garage did take place, but liaison and foreman were not able to attend due to last minute change in the date and time of the audit. Results are expected in a few weeks. Geoff Martin was present for the audit.
- Annual financial plan for town highways needs to be submitted to District 4. Information is used as a basis for the grants. Motion passed for selectboard to sign the financial plan for town highways.

4. General Correspondence

- Email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, re: COVID 19, Vermont Department of Health, The Office of the Governor, TRORC and VLTC
- Chief Nathan E. Pero of the Koasek Abenaki, RE: Racism. Pat Kelly invited Chief Nathan to meet with the Selectboard and has not yet received a response.

- Governor Phil Scott, ***Gubernatorial Flag Directive and Proclamation***, Order flags to fly at half-staff and requests bells be rung at 7 pm on March 19 to honor the first COVID death in VT.
- Sharon Selectboard, RE: Sharon Selectboard Meeting March 15, 2021, RE: Ashley Forest Planning.
- Michael Sacca, RE: Ashley Talks
- VLCT Advocacy Team, RE: Municipal Budget Survey request

5. Approve minutes to the March 10 regular meeting.

Motion passed to approve March 10 meeting minutes.

6. IREC check in

Geoff Martin presented proposed priorities for the next 3 months. Geoff has limited hours left for Strafford. Priorities include town garage audit and improvements, community solar project with Doc Bagley and completing the greenhouse gas emissions inventory at community scale. Additional opportunities include working with Newton School to address energy considerations and facilitating adoption of new regulation for new construction to increase compliance with State's energy code. Dorian Yates noted that the greenhouse gas inventory is essential as a basis for code and regulation development, and that enforcement and education will be complex and challenging. Chair requested that the greenhouse gas inventory be a high priority. Doc Bagley announced that Dorian Yates will step up as chair of the Energy Commission, and Doc will focus on the WindowDressing program and will be pursuing more funding for window inserts for low-income households.

7. 2021 Budget

Discussion re: current expenditures

8. Ashley Forest discussion team

Pat Kelly will reach out to the Sharon representatives to discuss the way forward. Strafford's representatives, Pat Kelly and J.T. Horn, will need to work toward what is best for the town; selectboard anticipates pulling in advisors as needed, including legal advice. Discussion re: working arrangements with Sharon, how to allocate resources and revenue, and the need for clarity.

9. Appointments for Planning Commission-Jason Schumacher and Thomas Scull.

Motion passed to appoint Jason Schumacher for the one-year position and Thomas Scull for a 4-year appointment.

10. Town House Events – do we, or don't we?

Selectboard will wait another month to decide if events can be held at the Town House, based on CDC and Gov't Scott's guidelines.

11. Town Office

Discussion of the findings from recent investigation of town office renovations in other towns (Moretown, Waitsfield), grant opportunities, the need for identifying and articulating options, conducting a feasibility study, establishing a committee to manage and oversee the processes.

Board members will gather more information for the next selectboard meeting. Jeff Solsaa will work with Lisa to identify immediate needs for the current office.

12. Liaison updates

- Lisa will attend meeting next week for Lebanon dumping agreement
- Junkyard update—Chair has received additional guidance from Paul Gillies, all respondents have plans for clean up in the spring. May need to follow up in the coming weeks to see how they are progressing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk