

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

6:00 pm Town Office and Zoom

Members present: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan

Others present and participating via Zoom: Lisa Bragg, Jon McKinnon, Jennifer Brown, Michael Sacca, Gus Speth, Judith Falk, John Hemenway, Brett Tofel, Aileen Lem, Eric Lopez, Phoebe Mix, Kate Root, Kevin Gish, John Echeverria

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm

Public Concerns- none

Emergency Management COVID 19--Executive Order extended to October 15, 2020

Town Highways and Equipment Update

- a. Tyson Bridge – EPA has confirmed they will replace the bridge deck and town is responsible for painting. Work will be done next year as it is too late this season
- b. Paving-Jon and Brent will work on an appropriate plan
- c. Groundwater Monitoring Report Former Strafford Town Garage, SMS#2006-3601

Correspondence

- Email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, re: **COVID 19**, Vermont Department of Health. We also receive emails from The Office of the Governor, TRORC and VLTC
- Letter, John Hawkins, Trustee of Public Funds, RE: Management of Town Funds
- Email, Judith Falk, RE: Ashley Community Forest outing
- Email, Ed Hathaway, RE: Copperas Road
- Email, Charles Denton and Sgt. Jean-Miguel R. Bariteau, RE: Moran Dogs Barking Again
- Email Charles Denton, Logging at bottom of driveway
- Email Rocky Fuller, RE: THAG Meeting Minutes 9/24/20 and Town House electrical upgrades
- Email Kevin Grady, RE: Opening on the Planning Commission
- Email, Jennifer, Hinerman, Consolidated Communications, RE: transfer of lines to new poles in South Strafford
- Letter from Kate Siepman, RE: Request for approval. Motion passed to approve the request by the Strafford Historical Society to use the Town shed at the Park and Ride to store their furnishings for one year, working with the Town Clerk to be sure there is a certificate of insurance.

- Brenda Green, RE: Green Mountain Power Distribution (GMP) Line Upgrade and Relocation, Motion to approve the request by GMP to upgrade lines and relocate lines in accordance with the correspondence.
- PTA letter notifying decision that trick-or-treating should not take place this year due to COVID-19
- Email from VLTC, RE: Australian Ballot Town Meeting Day, notification of Act 162, State authorization for use Australian ballot for Municipal Meetings for any votes during 2021.

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the September 23, regular meeting.

Draft review of Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy for the Town of Strafford.

Eric Lopez described the process taken to prepare the draft policy: the Strafford Diversity Working Group used the model document from the VLTC website and made changes to the proposed Strafford document, and changed the personal pronouns so that the document does not assume gender. Eric proposed that the Town have an opportunity to make comments, and after the comment period, the Select board should vote to accept the document and any changes. Noted that the VLCT model document includes the term “ethical conduct”.

Motion passed to accept the draft submitted by the Strafford Diversity Working Group and publish it for public comment for a one-month period.

Town clerk will post on Town website and other normal sites, the previous Town policy and the new proposed policy, noting the 30-day comment period.

Liaison updates

- Planning Commission Appointment. Motion passed to appoint Kevin Grady to the fill the vacant Planning Commission position.
- Boarding of dog materials to be moved. Liaison will coordinate with Janet Hardy to move the dog kennel materials to another site for use by the new Dog Officer.
- RE: Denton dog barking complaint, Liaison and Sgt Bariteau are managing the complaint
- Ed Eastman asked whether the parking area near the Elizabeth Mine information sign is on town property—there are multiple vehicles which are not moving.
- Junk Yard Inventory still underway, plan to finalize the list for next meeting.
- Motion passed to allow use of the Strafford Common on Oct 31 by Newton School PTA, from 9 am-10 pm to display pumpkins

Ashley Community Forest

Selectboard proposed new language for an article to be brought to the Town for vote. Extensive discussion regarding issues needing further clarification, including: timing of a vote; preference for the two Towns to each own and manage their parcels independently but in cooperation; whether the vote should be conducted prior to finalizing negotiations of the land transfer agreement, conservation easement and management plan; the conditions and requirements of the conservation easement; the potential requirement for a single easement

for AVC to receive a grant; potential challenges of co-management of the property by the two towns, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Reporting Clerk