

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
July 11, 2018

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp, Toni Pippy
Other attendees: Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk; Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman; Kevin Plunkett, Mike Perrigo (HP Fairfield Tractor Company); Sherm Wilson and David Harris for the Cemetery Commission; Jennifer Brown for the Herald of Randolph; Rocky Fuller for the Town House Advisory Group; Kerry Bushway; Mike Covey; Michael Sacca from the Alliance for Vermont Communities

Meeting began at 6 pm.

1. Citizens' concerns:

There were no citizens' concerns

2. Town Highway and Equipment Update:

Jon MacKinnon presented tractor bids—final bid from HP Fairfield was 139,133, taking into account the trade in value of the old tractor at \$25,000. The budget allocated \$105,000. John Freitag moved to table the discussion of the purchase until the next meeting when more information about leasing options was available. Board voted unanimously to table this discussion.

Road crew finished the ditching grant, finished the culvert on Dodge Road, all guardrails are completed, and the crew still are working on the culvert at the end of Kendall Road. They need to fix the header on Alger Brook due to collapsing roadway. The team is also mowing and cold patching areas throughout town.

Highway access on Miller Pond—Jon is still trying to determine who owns the property. Brian will contact the property owner to let the owner know they need a driveway permit.

New road crew position: board will discuss the job description and where the position will be advertised.

3. Approve Minutes of June 27:

Kate moved to approve the minutes. Brian seconded. Board unanimously approved the minutes of June 27 with no changes.

4. Correspondence—15 minutes

Email from Tori Lloyd re: mowed-down roses. The board acknowledged receipt of the email and will respond with an apology.

Email from Robert McAllister re: Maple Hill Road. Brian addressed this with him.

Email from Paul Gillies response to authority of Trustees of Public Funds and Selectboard:

Discussion regarding how the town could accept a donation for a particular project on private land. According to the town attorney, the town accepts funds from donors and gives them to the Trustees of Public Funds for dispersal. The town would then provide a receipt acknowledging the tax-deductible donation. This resolved confusion among board members regarding acceptance of donations.

5. Sherm Wilson: Long-term plan for cemetery maintenance

Sherm Wilson presented an estimate from Green Valley Memorials for materials to repair approximately 80 damaged gravestones in the Evergreen Cemetery.

6. Rocky Fuller: Town House Advisory Group Update

Rocky presented the minutes of the THAG.

7. Mike Covey re: New Vista's land and idea:

Presented an idea to create a Wildlife Management Area in the current New Vista land. He is talking to all towns with New Vista land in them and is gauging interest in the idea. The board wants to discuss this idea before making any decisions regarding interest or participation. Mike Sacca—presented the Ashley Farm conservation proposal. The Alliance of Vermont Communities has applied for grants from the Vermont Housing Authority and Vermont Conservation Board (VHCB). Michael asked if the town would be interested in owning the property as a wildlife/recreation area. They requested a letter of support from the selectboard as part of the grant application. The board wants to discuss this idea before making any decisions regarding interest or participation.

8. Budget Review:

No current budget concerns

9. Whitcomb Hill town property maintenance and survey pin:

Shawn Ward will work on the top of the Whitcomb Hill property using a tractor and backhoe to make it safer for mowing. The missing survey pin will be discussed in the July 25 meeting.

10. General:

- a) Liaison updates: none
- b) Pocket Park event liquor license: Board discussed one-time fundraiser at Pocket Park. No liquor will be served without a license.
- c) Governance Committee recommendations: John will write a new article soon.
- d) Thank you gathering. Tabled until the next meeting.
- e) Other:
 - Town has the permit and will get quotes for replacing the septic tank and lines
 - Citizen request to tear out sidewalk and replace it with pea stone. Brian will check with road foreman; if he has no objections or advice, Board approves.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording clerk