

**Selectboard Meeting
May 9, 2018**

Members present: Toni Pippy, Kate Siepmann, Brian Johnson, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp
Other citizens present: Road Foreman Jon MacKinnon, Constable Ed Eastman, Ed Hathaway, John Schmeltzer, Brett Kay, Chris Adams, Steve Dunbar, Randal LeCuyer, Jennifer Brown (reporter for the Herald of Randolph), Rocky Fuller

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Citizens Concerns:

There were no citizens' concerns

2. Town Highways and Equipment update:

A. The road crew is grading roads as fast as possible.

Truck #4 is at the shop for repair. Work is commencing on the Old City Falls bridge.

B. A citizen wants to add a curb at the corner of his property. The road foreman will meet with Alan and approve final design before the proposed curb installation to make sure it complies with rights of way.

C. Request for School Bus Parking: A citizen requested to use the town lot to park a bus from a private school bus company. The Board decided that a bus belonging to a private company shouldn't use Town property and will respond to the citizen accordingly.

D. Thetford working on Route 132: Started on May 7 and flaggers will be directing traffic for approximately 2 weeks.

3. Approve Minutes of April 25:

Board approved the draft minutes of April 25.

4. Elizabeth Mine Project:

Ed Hathaway from the EPA reports that work on the mine will commence soon. This work will be the last major phase of work on the Mine, on the south cut. The goal is to eliminate the pit lakes so they aren't a source of acid drainage to the tributaries of Lord Brook. The crew will treat the water first, then fill in the south mine pit and blast the far walls down to mitigate slide hazard, then replant vegetation. The EPA will haul in equipment for this. Most of the work will be conducted in June, July, and August. Blasting will begin in July and continue through August, with approximately 2 blasts a day. Trucking and flagging plans will be similar to past years. The pit lake will be filled in and conditions will be very dangerous—the crew wanted to get the word out to as many people as possible about the danger of swimming in the mines. The bridge has been inspected—and approved for hauling—and will be inspected again in the fall after the work is completed. Ed Hathaway will hold a public meeting on May 23 at 7 p.m. at Barrett Hall to address any citizens' concerns regarding the project.

5. Town House Advisory Group:

Rocky Fuller reported on the Town House Advisory Group (THAG)'s meeting. Fundraising for the spire restoration project has raised \$107,000 thus far, and the group anticipates at least \$5,000 more funds coming, including those raised by a benefit concert taking place on June 2. THAG anticipates beginning spire restoration in August. THAG is working to run power to the bell tower and is still determining costs.

6. Playground Draft Agreement Between Town and Creative Pre-school:

The Board made several changes to the proposed agreement with the Pre-school and will have the Town lawyer and insurance carrier review the draft.

7. Approve Recreation Manager Position reporting to Recreation Board:

The Board approved the job description for the recreation area manager.

8. Correspondence:

A. Email from Mike Hebb re: noise pollution from solar installation. The Board will provide the name of the company to Mike so that he can contact them regarding his concerns about the noise. The Board recommends that Mike also contact the Public Service Board.

B. Email from Barry North re: mail box damage. The Town has a policy to reimburse homeowners for damage done by town trucks. The Board will handle this incident consistent with the reimbursement policy on record.

C. Email from Jon Kaplan, Manager of the 2018 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant program: The Board received notice of this year's grant program.

D. Email from Byron Reese re: speed sign request. The Board will contact Constable Ed Eastman and request that he conduct a speed survey of the road.

E. Letter from the Devon Coleman, Vermont State Architectural Historian re: application for Strafford to be a certified local government. The application has been approved. The Board signed the certification. Next step is approval by the National Park Service, which could happen this summer.

F. Letter from the State of Vermont General Assembly re: House Resolution 20 HR 20, opposing the proposed New Vistas development. The House has adopted the resolution and encourages the Town to adopt zoning ordinances. The Board noted the resolution's passing.

9. General

A. Liaison updates:

Conservation committee has the bench for John Hemenway ready to install on the Common. They would prefer to install it where the old bench used to be. The Board agrees.

B. Dog Ordinance: Janet Hardy, dog officer, and Constable Ed Eastman will enforce Strafford's dog ordinance regarding keeping dogs leashed or under direct control. The ordinance is posted on the Town website under Ordinances and Policies at www.straffordvt.org. The Board received a complaint about a barking dog: the Town dog officer is following up on the issue.

C. Governance Committee Recommendations: The Board is working on another article that details particular aspects of our Town government and will post to public information channels.

D. Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) meeting. Steve Campbell will attend on behalf of the Planning Commission.

E. Board of Civil Authority Training re: property tax appeals. The Board will schedule a training session.

F. Delinquent Taxes. The delinquent tax collector provided an update on delinquent taxes and plans for collection.

10. Other

Lions Club Citizen of the Year dinner will honor Bill Burden on Monday, May 14. The Lions Club has invited a member of the Selectboard to speak. Toni Pippy will attend and speak on behalf of the Board.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 23 at 6 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk