

Strafford Selectboard Hearing and Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2019

Members attending the site visit in South Strafford were: Todd Robinson, Eugen Hug – Property Owner, Paul Gillies – Attorney representing the Town of Strafford, Caleb Hawlen – Royalton GMP, John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Toni Pippy – Selectboard, Ed Eastman – Constable, Charles Taylor – Mascoma Bank, Melvin Coburn – Coburns General Store, Sherry Duveneck, Peter Duveneck, Roz Finn, Lisa Bragg – Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Toni opened the hearing at 5:24 pm and turned the meeting over to Paul Gillies.

Paul reviewed how the hearing would be run, and members giving evidence were sworn in.

Brian Johnson explained the widening of the road, which would be to remove the 4x6 post and widen the road approximately two feet to where the new pole is located now so cars can pull off the road. This would not be paved. Brian indicated the trees already need to be cut back and there's no guarantee they will not die.

Eugene Hug indicated he has not seen a plan and is it parking spaces or not? Todd Robinson pointed out the slope as you move back will be higher so this has to be addressed. Eugene Hug would like to know what the motivation is. What is the rationale here?

John Freitag asked how many businesses are across the street. Brian indicated that currently there are seven businesses in this section using the currently parking.

After further discussion Paul Gillies moved on to compensation and indicated the land owner has the right to make a pitch for compensation.

Eugen Hug said he could possibly agree to a phase one if nothing down the road was planned to extend it further. John Freitag asked if we could have an agreement, and Paul said that one Selectboard could not control the other. The best you could do was to acknowledge there are no future plans. You could write an agreement in hopes that future board would respect what this board put in place.

Eugen Hug said if there was something in writing it would go a long way moving forward.

Hug would be willing to think about the Town taking down the trees to the stump as compensation and Hug will plant the new ones.

One other suggestion was to keep the parking back away from his driveway and place a no parking here to driveway sign.

With no further question the Hearing was adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Selectboard meeting started at 6:05

1. Citizens concerns- Peter Duveneck mentioned the bridge on Kerri Claffey's sides has a lot of the stones caving in and the bank collapsing.
2. Highway and equipment – Brian reported no problems with equipment.
 - a. Northern boarders commission grant – John, Toni and Lisa will meet to put the grant together. The project will rebuild the road and drainage system of approximately .6 miles in Strafford Village as well as improve and upgrade the infrastructure of the common. RSG engineering that did our highway construction will help put together the costs for free.

- b. Paving JMH grant and replace Old Tunbridge Road Bridge structures grant are approved to send in.
- 3. Minutes, John proposed to amend the minutes for the cost of Justin Morrill Highway. Toni would like to table this until Lauri is here to adjust the minutes.
- 4. Contiguous Properties- Tim Denny is here to talk for the Listers. Tim gave an update on their progress and indicated they have been working on this since last September. To make a change now will not give property owners time to access their options and plan properly to institute it this year. The Lister's will write another letter stating the policy will not go into effect until April 1, 2020. The letter will show how they were accessed and the change of assessment and the possible alternative for owners to consider. Toni requested that the Selectboard see the draft letter for review. Tim would like to consult with some legal services, and asked if he could contact the town lawyer. It was suggested that he contact Rob Manby to consult with and this would be an additional expense to the budget. Listers goal is to be fair and equitable.
- 5. Paul Kifner made a request to buy power cords. Brian made a motion, seconded by John, all approved.
- 6. VCRD – new meeting April 25th, Meeting in Tunbridge.
- 7. Budget review, no issues, fire truck sale revenue goes into the reserve at the end of the year.
- 8. Other – Energy committee wants to meet with the selectboard and Toni has invited them to the May 8th meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:27 PM