

Selectboard Meeting September 25, 2019

Board members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present:

Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk; Jennifer Brown for *The Herald of Randolph*; Gil Robertson; Suzanna Liepmann; Barbara Smith; Wally Smith; Phyllis Harmon; Susan Hodges

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Citizen Concerns

No citizens' concerns

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update

Highway Department Projects update

Toni spoke with Jon, who could not make the meeting. Projects on the summer road projects list are complete. Paving will be done on Monday: Justin Morrill Highway from the blacktop at Binzens towards Tunbridge for one mile (roughly to Spaneas's); Downer Forest Road where it comes down to South Strafford; and the triangle by the town office. Discussion ensued regarding paving Hatch Road (road in front of Town House)—it is within the budget and would cost approximately \$8,000. However, some people in town are interested in discussing throwing up that road. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to pave Hatch Road.

Jon has destination signs and will put them up. Road crew will also put up a more visible sign near Carpenter Hill Road.

3. Correspondence

David Paganelli—board acknowledge receipt of correspondence. He wrote and concluded that the town should not have a timber sale in the Cobb Forest.

Jesse Jacobs at Richards Group re: 2020 health insurance rates. Plans are increasing significantly per month.

Rita Seto on speed study: please see below

Phyllis Harmon and Rob Campbell re: Pennock Road. Board acknowledged receipt of emails.

Brian pointed out that the project was done to the mandated state standards. Phyllis requested that the road crew place posts or stakes above the check dams when there is a lot of snow so that people will know where the deepest part of the culverts lie. Brian will talk with Jon M.

Ed Hathaway EPA re: Elizabeth Mine Superfund site cleanup monthly update. Ed has offered to give the board a tour of the site. Suzanne said that the EPA promised work would not start before 7 am; this is not the case, and she will talk with Ed about it.

Sean Lewis—he will step down from the Planning Commission because he joined the DRB Paul Williams, contracts and grants re: Ed Eastman's contract for security to the Morrill Homestead extended for another year. Toni signed the contract on behalf of the board.

4. Approve minutes of September 11 regular meeting

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the meeting minutes of September 11.

5. Strafford and Climate change, Strafford Climate Strike Planning Group Petition for Town Meeting

Climate Strike Planning Group came back to the board with a new letter signed by 125 people that is simpler and clearer about its goals; they are asking the board to support the resolution, stipulated by the bullet points in their letter. Toni said that because people signed the letter, the board can't make any changes to the current letter at all. The board had expected to see a petition that would be presented to be put on a warrant for Town Meeting. Much discussion ensued regarding process and implications/obligations of endorsing the bullet points. A motion, seconded, and passed to support the intent and spirit of the letter and the four bullet points contained within. The letter will be at the town office and is also attached to these minutes. The committee will prepare a full resolution to present to the town.

6. Review Vermont 132 Speed and Traffic Study Analysis

Average daily traffic from the Red Barn toward Thetford and from Coburns and 132 is a total of 2668 cars. Over the weekend it is about the same as during the week.

From Coburns Store the speed limit is 25, and people going from the store to Thetford are driving at a max of 31 miles per hour. Coming in from Thetford the highest rate is 38 mph. Conclusion of the study: 85 percent of vehicles are going at or just above the speed limit (within 5 mph). Higher rate of speed coming into village (38 mph). Overall, no real indication of excessive speeding in the village with a posted speed limit of 25 mph. Results of the study are available at the town office.

7. Correct errors from 9-11-19 Board meeting for Planning Commission and DRB appointment

Board appointed Alan Donohue to the planning commission and Sean Lewis to the DRB—Alan is fine staying on the planning commission, so no real errors were made. However, there is still an open place on the planning commission now that Sean has left to join the DRB.

8. Budget

In the general fund, everything is on target. Toni carefully reviewed the highway budget and projected that there is approximately \$8,000 left for unallocated supplies and materials left for the year.

11. Town Office Repairs—work on Q&A

Board compiled a list of questions regarding the project that were solicited from residents and are currently researching answers from the architect, committee members, and others. Kate and Lauri will compile all answers received and will distribute to the board for review. Board will review before the next meeting and come prepared to approve.

12. Other

Liaison updates

Concerns were brought to the board regarding a camper and the board will investigate further.

Toni said congratulations to Regina and Lisa—Lisa is now a certified Vermont Treasurer and Clerk Level One; Regina is now a certified Vermont Clerk Level One.

Unlicensed dogs with expired rabies certifications. Five dogs in town no longer have current rabies vaccinations. These belong to the following:

Kasandra Landon	unlicensed and unvaccinated	1 dog
Nathan Thibodeau	unvaccinated and unlicensed	3 dogs (2 unvaccinated)
Thomas Worth	unvaccinated and unlicensed	1 dog (licensed but expired rabies vaccine; 1 unlicensed)

The board is concerned that this has become a public health issue.

Pocket Park: Barbara and Wally Smith are interested in knowing how to support the Pocket Park in the future. Toni will talk with the trustees of public funds about tapping into the Newton Fund to support park maintenance and programs. Wally and Barbara will come up with an estimate of what the annual expenses might be.

Asset Management of Paved Roads

No news to report on this item

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp

Recording Clerk