

Minutes of the Strafford Select Board  
June 13, 2018

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berknekamp

Other citizens present: Sue Coburn, Steve Marx, Lisa Bragg, John Hawkins, Jennifer Brown for the Herald of Randolph, Alan Donohue, Shawn Harlow, Mike Hebb, Steve Wilbanks, Paul Kifner

Meeting called to order at 6 pm

1. Citizens' Concerns: none

2. Town Highways and Equipment:

Roadside mowing going well. Equipment is up and running. New tractor specs are out to bid and bids are due June 27.

Driveway permit, Pat Kelly: no objections to the permit. Toni signed on behalf of the board.

Invitation to participate in municipal roads grants-in-aid program with Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission: Toni signed the invitation to participate on behalf of the board.

3. Approve Minutes of May 23: Board approved the minutes of May 23.

4. Correspondence

a. Letter and email from John Hawkins re: clean up on Miller Pond Road. Discussion as to how the board can accept donations for a clean up while ensuring the Town adheres to proper state statutes. John Hawkins will do further research.

b. Fuel agreement: The Town's current fuel provider has adjusted the pricing for fuel for the town trucks, reflecting a much better rate. The board discussed putting the contract out to bid in the future.

c. PTA lineup: problem has been solved. Jess Tidman will be in charge of organizing the parade lineup.

d. Email from Ed Hathaway: another public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. June 28 at Barrett Hall. Ed notified the Board that people have been trespassing on the mine site. Water has dropped significantly in the pit lake and it is very dangerous. Ed is willing to schedule a site visit for the board to review the situation. There is a person interested in buying the Lord property for historic preservation.

e. Letter from Vermont Emergency Management: they will conduct a full-scale exercise in October of 2019.

f. Email from Janet Cavanaugh re: chervil and roadside mowing. Road crew is mowing.

g. Letter from Miller & Candon re: vicious dog hearing. Alan Donohue, acting as town agent, discussed the contents of the letter with the board. The board will respond accordingly.

H. Emails from Kevin Sprague, Andrew Milne re: Furnace Flat/Whitcomb Hill. Board reviewed these and discussed. Kate Siepmann will respond.

5. Fundraiser for Coburn property on Miller Pond Road. This was discussed during Correspondence regarding email and letter from John Hawkins

6. Furnace Flat/Whitcomb Hill: Lengthy discussion ensued regarding improvements to the top of the Class 4 road to provide turnaround access. A motion was made and seconded to table any further work on the proposed turnaround at the top of the Furnace Flat Class 4 road until such time as there is a clear determination of the amount and extent of the impact of the size of the turnaround. An amendment was proposed to limit the turnaround to a 20 x 10-foot area on one side of the road and a sign added at the base of the Class 4 road that says, "Please Park Here." The first motion was withdrawn and a new motion proposed: to limit the turnaround at the top of the road to 20 x 10 feet on the right-hand side of the road to minimize the impact on the area, and a sign will be placed at the base of the Class 4 road that reads, "Please park here." Motion was seconded. The board voted to approve the motion, with four voting in favor and one selectboard member (Brian Johnson) voting no.

7. Historic Preservation Grant Agreement: The Town House received a \$20,000 grant. Toni signed for the grant.

8. Otterman Surveying and Septic Design for wastewater permit for Town office: Toni signed the permit application.

9. FEMA reimbursement update for 7/1/17 storm damage: One grant is complete and three more are in process.

10. General

a. Liaison update: none

b. Playground agreement: The Board voted to accept changes to the agreement with the elimination of the last sentence in paragraph 3 due to redundancy. The Board also voted to pay for a consumer guide to playground safety and maintenance.

c. Point to Point bike ride rest stop: Board agreed to allow the rest stop

d. Vermont Council on Rural Development Update, June 5 meeting: Kate gave a report.

e. Power on the Common: The board voted to approve installing power to the Common. It has received commitments from several organizations in town to cover \$1,500 of the estimated \$3,000 cost of installation plus the road work to connect to the power pole.

f. Governance Committee Recommendations: nothing new to report this week

g. Board of Civil Authority, VT League of Cities and Towns training, June 20: training will occur at 6 p.m. at Justin Morrill Education Center. Board members plan to attend.

h. Thank you gathering: This will be a community meal in the pocket park for volunteers. Planning is underway for a proposed mid-August event.

#### 11. Other

Audit: End of the year balances were verified. Two adjustments were made but did not affect the budget.

Delinquent Taxes: discussion regarding delinquent taxes. Lisa will check in with the delinquent tax collector regarding progress.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauri Berkenkamp  
Recording clerk