

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
March 8, 2017

Members of the public body present: Toni Pippy, Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, John Freitag

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Jon MacKinnon, Jennifer Brown, Kate Owen, Arthur Hanchett

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

Election of officers: Kate nominated Toni as Chair, Brian seconded all approved. Brian nominated Stephen as Vice-Chair, John seconded, all approved. John offered to serve as acting recording clerk.

Adoption of Policy of Procedures - John moved and Stephen seconded adopting a policy of procedures for the current year. All approved and signed

Adoption of Conflict of Interest Policy – Brian moved and Stephen seconded adopting a Conflict of Interest Policy. All approved and signed.

Citizen Concerns - Kate Owen came in to discuss with the Board the problem of flooding of her basement at her home next to the Town Park and Ride. She felt that snow that had been plowed off the Park and Ride in the area between the fence and the town shed helped divert water into her basement during a heavy rain storm and thaw near the end of Feb. A Town official had examined the situation when they were notified some five days later, and found water was flowing beneath the snow pile properly. The snow pile over the drainage ditch was removed before there was any more heavy rain or melting. Kate will forward repair bills to the Town Office. Lisa Kendall will contact our insurance carrier regarding the situation.

Correspondence – emails were received from Keith Fifield regarding care of Maple Hill Road, Bob McAllister regarding his feeling of no need for a mirror on the sharp bend on Maple Hill Road, and one regarding a bike event from Tunbridge on June 18 whose route will include Kibbling Hill and Brook Road.

Approve the Minutes of February 22, 2017. The minutes were reviewed, Stephen moved and Brian seconded to approve the minutes without changes. All approved.

Town Highways

Jon MacKinnon reported that there have been a series of breakdowns of town trucks. All are now running except for the ton-truck which is now in the garage after breaking down today. Crew is dealing as best they can with ongoing changes in temperatures and conditions and how they affect the roads.

A Better Roads Grant for work around the Old City Bridge has been submitted. Bridge and paving grants will be sent in before the due date of April 15.

General

Art Hanchett from the Governance Committee presented to the Board work he is doing to help put in a usable program research collected on who does what and who is responsible for what in town government. A draft Committee Charge form will be used to help the newly appointed members of the Community Building award committee understand what is expected of them. Toni and Lisa will get the form out to the committee.

Liaisons - the Board agreed to handle liaison duties with other boards, committees and town employees in the following manner:

Toni - Town Office, auditors, and budget

Brian – Development Review Board, Emergency Management, and Highway Department

Stephen - School, Recycling Committee, Planning Commission

Kate- Conservation Commission, Town House Advisory Group, Town Office, Delinquent Tax Collector

John – Recreation Board, Law Enforcement, Listers, Highway Department

Appointments - The Board approved appointing those whose terms ran out with the exception of David Brown who requested not to be a fence viewer again, Gary Kendall was appointed in his place and Alan Donohue as an alternate on the Development Review Board. It was noted that there is another alternative vacancy of the DRB due to Fred Wolfe moving, and two vacancies on the Conservation Commission due to the resignation of Amy Metz and the passing of John Hemenway. There is also a vacancy of Recycling Coordinator due to Dori Wolfe's move to Texas. Stephen will consult with Recycling Committee on how they want to have this filled.

The Board approved paying \$35 per the current mailbox replacement policy to Laura Corcoran. John will follow up with a letter.

The Board approved a walkway request letter drafted by John to raise funds for a way to view the interior attic timber frame of the Town House. Money for the project will be collected as a memorial for Ed Levin, a founder of the Timber Framers Guild, who volunteered his services as a consultant on the Town House.

Other - Stephen expressed his desire to see Strafford be a plastic bag free community similar to what was recently voted on at town meeting in Brattleboro. Toni informed the Board of the a Town Plan Hearing by the Planning Commission on April 13 at 7 pm at Barrett Hall and two hearings on the Regional Planning Commissions plan on April 12 at 6:30 pm at the Bethel Town Hall and on April 13 at 6:30 pm at the Thetford Town hall. Copies of both plans are at the Town Office.

Brian moved and Stephen seconded to adjourn at 8:27pm and all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, acting recording clerk