

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda draft
Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 6:00 pm
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, Mary Linehan, David Paganelli

Other participants in person: PD Hardy, Lisa Bragg, Carlton Phelps, John Echeverria, Janet Hardy, David Harris

Via zoom: Rodney Sloat, Stephen Willbanks, Greg Collings, Kevin Lynch, Curt Albee, Rett Emerson

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. Janet Hardy reported her concerns about the mistreatment of dogs at the Claffey residence. Lisa reported that her concerns and another similar report have been referred to VT Fish and Wildlife, via the Orange County Sherriff. Roz Finn called in by phone to request additional traffic signs to address speeding at the corner by Coburn's store. Carlton Phelps stated that he is happy with the work the Road Crew is doing, but would like to see the Town use less salt and chloride on the roads. PD Hardy responded that the State discourages sand use on paved roads due to drainage into rivers, and the beet juice alternative is expensive. John Echeverria gave an update on the Bridge 30 group's progress in searching for funds.
2. Highway.
 - a. Roads and equipment. PD Hardy reported a problem with one truck which is currently being repaired, and may not be covered by warranty. Waiting to see how much it will cost. Currently the Road Crew is getting ready for winter. Salt shed has been filled in anticipation of possible rail strike. A big clean up is planned at the garage, so a 20-yd dumpster to get rid of old materials has been ordered. Old Evergreen Cemetery fencing is in the garage and needs to be removed.
 - b. Additional Radar Speed Limit signs – update. Jeff spoke with Chris Bump who may have access to inexpensive signs. Speeding around the corner at Coburns is recognized as a serious problem. Discussion re options, including flashing signs, including a stop sign to calm traffic before the bridge. Jeff will speak with Chris Bump about options. Chair mad a motion to purchase, for up to \$3000, two solar-powered flashing crosswalk signs and the android application to control them, for the crosswalk at the gym. Jeff seconded. Discussion re cost. Estimated at \$1000/sign. Toni, Brian, Jeff, Mary in favor; David opposed.
 - c. Brook Road Bridge, Bridge 30, Preparation for Winter. Jersey barriers have been placed.
 - d. Vacant position. Position is still vacant and is still posted. Shawn Ward has agreed to assist on weekends during the winter.
 - e. Trees in the river follow-up. Jeff was not able to find any additional contractors willing to do the job. Brian will talk to Eli Mintz tomorrow. The State has already declined to assist in removal. Lisa clarified that working in the river after October 1st requires permission from Patrick Ross from State Water Resources. Brian will contact Patrick Ross.
 - f. Dow Road. Jeff went up to look at Dow Road, a class 4 road, in response to a request to maintain the road. Jeff confirmed there is a single private drive on Dow Road, and clarified that the Town maintains the Dow Road bridge and the section of road from Taylor Valley

- up to the bridge, but is not responsible for the entire road. Recommends that the Town decline to maintain the road past the bridge and clarified that White Road, another class 4 road off Taylor Valley Road, is also not maintained by the Town. A response will be sent to the Dow Road resident.
- g. Park & ride Pakvan and skateboard barriers. Historical Society proposes to leave its container in the Park and Ride until the spring. Jeff clarified that parking is a problem especially during mud season, and it should not be left there another year. Steve Willbanks confirmed that cars can be parked in the Strafford Historical Society parking area. PD Hardy confirmed that the skateboard barriers can be placed behind the container to store over the winter, as long as they do not restrict access to the garage.
 - h. Construcion bids opened for ditching and culvert replacements on Coburn Road--MRGP Grant for 2023. Daniels Construction: \$57,161; Isaacs Excavating: \$63,722; Blue Mountain: \$39,924. MRGP grant amount awarded is \$39,500, with 20% share from the Town. Jeff made a motion to accept the Blue Mountain bid for \$39,924. Mary seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - i. VLCT- FREE Reasonable suspicion training, December 13 @9:30am – who will attend. Not discussed
 - j. Radio repeater for the Town trucks has been returned to the Town Garage, and can be hooked up when Orange County Sherriff hooks up their repeater.
 - k. Jeff proposed that several roads in Town that serve as private driveways (Sweeney, Angiers, Finn, Titus, Preston and Race Roads) be converted to trails or class 4 roads to reduce Highway maintenance burden. To be placed on agenda for next SB meeting.
 - l. Jeff proposed that we put electical power back into the old Town Garage so that it can be used to store equipment. PD will get a quote for turning the power back on.
 - m. Approve the minutes of the 11/9/22 regular meeting. Mary made a motion to accept the 11/9/22 minutes with the following modification: "...the Carrie Sanborn Trust, which has approximately \$500,000 that they would like to disburse" changed to " the Carrie Sanborn Trust has approximately \$500,000 and is seeking to increase its disbursements." Jeff seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Town Office Committee update. Curt Albee provided an update on progress. Committee recognizes that storm water management under the Town Office building and at the proposed building site is a big issues. Committee does not want to raise up the building due to excessive cost, but the crawlspace under the building is a big challenge. Bachman is incorporating comments into new drawings and will potentially provide a cost estimate in a few weeks.
 4. Cemetery Budgets future years. David Harris reported that the budget was \$8,000 last year, of which \$6,400 was for mowing. Sherm Wilson and David Harris removed downed tree limbs at Evergreen Cemetery at no cost to the Town. Cost to remove what remains of the dying tree from Evergreen Cemetery is estimated at \$4,500. Stonework repair at Robinson Cemetery on Brook Road is estimated at \$4,500. David confirmed that the remaining pieces of Evergreen Cemetery fence in town garage are not useable for the Cemetery and recommends they should be sold. Cemetery Commission is willing to put a notice on local listservs to sell the fencing.
 5. Acknowledgement of Correspondence.
 - a. Gus Speth, RE: proposal for new road sign
 - b. Rocky Fuller, RE: Town House Advisory Group Minutes 11/3/22 meeting
 - c. Dow Road, RE: Dow Road

- d. Steve Wilbanks, Pres, Strafford Historical Society, RE: Park & Ride Pakvan
- e. Vermont Superior Court, RE: In re: Bill Bohnyak – Recount, Order
- f. Michael Sacca, President, Alliance for Vermont Communities disbursement
- g. Governor Phil Scott and the Office of Racial Equity Promote IDEAL Vermont
- h. STATE ANNOUNCES HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE 2022-2023 SEASON--Additional Federal and State Dollars Being Used to Mitigate Impact of Higher Fuel Costs
- i. Sydney Steinly, Planner at TRORC, confirmed that our local Emergency Management Plan has been excepted

6. Liaison Updates

- a. Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan selectboard review
- b. Sanborn Fund update. Mary provided an update on discussions with the Trustees for Public Funds and the Carrie Sanborn Committee to increase awareness of the Trust and how to apply for funds, as well as the roles of Trustees, Selectboard and Committee.
- c. Planning Commission is finalizing the Unified Bylaws and intends to present it formally in January. Selectboard requests that a date be selected that allows all board members to attend.
- d. DEA survey completed by Mary Linehan.

7. Other

- Stanley Property. Jeff proposes to help coordinate a clean up of the site, and will contact John Schmeltzer, who has previously suggested possible funding sources to assist with clean up.
- Discussion re Bridge 30, including appreciation for the efforts of the Bridge 30 Group, the conflicting information about the maintenance costs of trussel bridge, lack of clarity about sources of funding, the need to repair the bridge sides in a timely manner, and concerns about prioritizing investment in this bridge project over the other bridges in Town that have already identified as in urgent need of repair. Chair clarified that the Selectboard is not ready to vote on the project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Secretary