

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 6:00 pm
Strafford Town Office

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

Other participating: Lisa Bragg, John Echeverria, John Freitag, Rod Maclay, Trey Piepmeier, Ann, Robert McAllister, Tyler and Rachel Cohen, Greg Colling, Susan Cloke

1. Public Concerns. John Echeverria reported that he, Susan Cloke and Bob Johnson met with VTrans regarding a historical design for the Brook Road Bridge. Board clarified that we have applied for an emergency grant for repair of the bridge and ensuring safety is a priority.
2. Town Road Crew, Highways and Equipment Update
 - a. Staffing discussion. Discussion re staffing needs based on anticipated workload, including significant repair work due to mud season road damage. Chair confirms there is adequate funding in the budget for four road crew members. Job description needs to be reviewed. Motion passed to advertise for a fourth member of the Road Crew.
 - b. Bridges on Brook Road and Justin Morrill. Discussion re Justin Morrill bridge repair estimates, which exceed current resources, and possible alternatives. Jeff will discuss with TRORC about options. The posted tender will not be awarded at this time, and bidders will be notified. Discussion re safety consideration and cost of repairs for Brook Road bridge. Jeff will continue his investigations.
 - c. Recently paved Rte. 132 concerns. Paving job on 132 was conducted late in the season, was done poorly and is already starting to crack, the significant drop-offs are still unresolved. Jeff has reached out to Chris Bump; PD has contacted the contractor, Blacktop. No responses yet.
 - d. Jersey Barrier in South Strafford Village – Crosswalk Safety. Barrier is currently in front of the crosswalk to prevent cars from parking and obscuring view of persons trying to cross. Discussion re options for ensuring safety without eliminating parking. Motion passed to have the Road Crew place a No Parking sign and hire a contractor to paint the crosswalk and to prevent parking next to the crosswalk.
 - e. Order is being placed for the blower.
 - f. Coffin inquiry re: culvert in their driveway. Selectboard will respond.
3. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the April 13th Selectboard meeting amended to remove the anonymous complaint in the public concerns section. Motion passed to accept the April 20th Special Meeting minutes.
4. The Ranger Event, June 12, 2022. Rachel and Tyler Cohen introduced themselves as the new owners of the Ranger event. This year they expect app. 500 bike riders. They have already discussed the logistics of the race with Hilary Linehan, Rec Board member. Last year there was a safety concern related to the turn at Carpenter Hill due to poor visibility, Chair requested that measures be put in place to mitigate these safety issues; the Cohens confirmed

that they have made plans for this. This year they will be working with Willing Hands to support food shelves. Motion passed to allow The Ranger event to pass through Strafford on June 12, 2022.

5. Town Constable. The Selectboard strongly supports Ed Eastman's continued role as Town Constable. Chair reported a conversation with Ed to confirm that his efforts are highly valued by the Selectboard. Discussion about how to rectify and strengthen lines of communication. Proposed that regular, possibly bi-monthly attendance at SB meetings by the Constable would be useful and informative to the board. Ed has worked tirelessly for the last 35 years as Town Constable and we thank him very much.
6. Town Office
 - a. Current Office Repairs. Discussion re crowding and lack of workspace and contract labor required to deal with urgent needs: desks need to be assembled; files need to be moved to the upstairs of the Town Office; all materials need to be removed from the area near the electrical panel. New voting machine is too heavy to move up and down the stairs easily, and will be required in August and November 2022, so it must stay downstairs at this time.
 - b. May 7, 2022, 1:00 pm, at Barrett Hall Public Meeting preparation. Discussion re: meeting logistics and agenda. Meeting will be held in person, without a zoom option.
7. General Correspondence received
 - a. Major Breese, RE: RoW
 - b. Rebecca Bailey, RE: 2022 Green Up Day
 - c. Jason Schumacher, RE: LHMP Update for Tonight's Meeting. 2 bids were received responding to the RFP to support preparation of the LHMP. TRORC: \$7,612 and SEAM Solutions: \$6,600 + additional costs for travel and storage and security (TBD). Chair observed that the additional costs proposed by SEAM result in an equivalent price estimate, and that TRORC satisfactorily conducted the activity last time. Motion passed to accept the fixed cost of \$7,612 bid of TRORC.
8. Liaison Updates
 - a. Vacancy on Conservation Commission
 - b. Vacancies on Planning Commission
 - c. Green Up Day 5/7/22. Becky Bailey prefers not to lead the event this year. Chair has investigated alternatives, though it is late for this year. Posters design was provided, Green Up bags have been delivered to the Town Office. Road Crew will provide a truck for trash bag drop off. Town Clerk will make sure delivery of Green Up materials takes place and print posters; Chair will manage notifications.
 - d. Completion of the town Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), every five years the Town is required to prepare the LHMP, and this requires a special committee's effort. Jason Schumacher proposed the committee make-up for proper representation of the town's organizations, committees, commissions, and boards.
 - e. Planning Commission update. The PC feels that they have made good progress in on the draft Town Plan and expect to complete it in the coming weeks. They are in a holding pattern, waiting for guidance on affordable housing considerations from the regional

board before it can be finalized. PC will be providing to the Selectboard a draft that clearly highlights proposed changes, including some efficiencies that streamline some existing processes. PC noted an existing requirement for certification of compliance (confirming that inspection of a completed project has complied with zoning regulations). PC thinks this may be an important consideration in future real estate transactions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk