

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Draft Minutes 10-10-18

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

Others present: Bill Burden, Jennifer Brown for the *Herald of Randolph*, Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Gil Robertson, Rocky Fuller for the Town House Advisory Group, Steve Dycus, Tori Lloyd

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Citizens' Concerns: Bill Burden reported that things are looking good on Old City Falls and thinks the road crew is doing a good job.

Gil asked if there is a committee being formed on how parking is done in the Upper Village. Currently there is a parking map for the town that clearly designates approved areas for parking in the Upper Village.

2. Town Highways:

Working on catching up with the grading, new road repairs. Town trailer is in disrepair and is no longer usable. PD Hardy has offered to purchase the trailer. The selectboard agreed to sell it to him for \$20.

Three applications for the position. Jon has interviewed the candidates and made a recommendation to the board regarding the candidate he recommends. The board will hold a special meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 6 pm to interview the recommended candidate.

Some culverts have been installed on Old City Falls Road; this will likely end the work on the road this year.

Tyson Bridge inspection: Ed Hathaway has not yet responded to Toni's request for an update on this. Toni will reconnect with him.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of September 26 were moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

4. Correspondence

a) Email from Byron Breese, re: speed check. Email was acknowledged as received.

b) Financial management questionnaire: Lisa has answered the annual questionnaire; it was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

c) BCBS health insurance rates 2019: board will discuss at the next meeting

d) culverts at mine: Ed Hathaway will replace the final culvert on the Mine Road. There have been approximately 970 truck loads brought to the Site to date and the expected total trucking for 2018 will be about 1,465 loads. About 315 truck loads will be needed next summer (2019) to complete the work at the site. There have been no reports of any accidents involving trucks.

5. Budget review letter: Toni proposes to send out the letter to all town committees, departments—anyone who uses town funds—on October 31, with a November 30 deadline for response.

6. Town House Advisory Group report: Rocky gave a summary of the minutes from the September 27 meeting.

7. Right of way process: The selectboard discussed the state law regarding rights of way and the best way to inform townspeople about the law and process. State law prohibits any construction or objects in the town right of way without obtaining written permission from the selectboard authorizing them to do so (reference 19 V.S.A. 1111). John drafted an informational letter to be placed on the town website, in the Strafford News, and on the listserv to better inform townspeople. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to place the article.

8. Vermont Council on Rural Development—Community visit to Strafford, Sharon, Tunbridge, and Royalton: Strafford will be part of a community visit from the VCRD. Kate and Toni agreed to be the point people on the selectboard.

9. Curbing on the Mine Road: A homeowner came to the meeting to discuss the new curbing placed by the homeowner on the Mine Road. The homeowner felt the curbing helped mitigate an issue with the side of the road, particularly the grading that gets closer and closer to the homeowner's house. However, no permission to place curbing in the town right of way was granted by the selectboard or road crew, which violates state law and town ordinance. A motion was made and seconded to require the granite curbing be removed. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding timing for removal; decision was made to remove them by October 31. Because the town is concerned about road safety and the fact that it is imperative that the curbing is removed before the ground freezes, a motion was made and seconded that the board instructs the road crew to assist the homeowner in removing the granite curbing by October 31 and putting the road back into the condition it was prior to the placement of the granite. The road foreman expressed reservations about the road crew removing the posts, citing legal concerns. Motion passed with 4 voting yes; Brian Johnson voted no. Homeowner will come back to the selectboard in November to discuss further.

10. General:

a) Liaison updates: Kate went to a leadership conference last week and met a representative from granting agency for conservation of physical building improvements. Lisa is meeting with Curt Albee and Tom Root to discuss what repairs town offices might need; Kate will pursue opportunities for grants as she finds them.

b) Utility pole removal: nothing new to report on this issue. Toni will follow-up with ECFiber to schedule the switch of their lines to the new poles.

c) Town office septic update: septic was on verge of failure; it has been repaired. Condensation pipe needs to be fixed before winter. Brian will repair this.

d) Parking for Town House: Board discussed parking in the upper village.

e) Sign personnel policy: Board signed the policy with no further discussion.

11. Other: Brian met with Justin Merchand to discuss culvert issues discussed at a previous meeting. No other action will be taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp

Recording Clerk