

**Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda**  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Patrik Kelly, Rett Emerson, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan

Others participating: John Freitag, Katrina DeCoff-Webster, Jon McKinnon, Jennifer Brown, Tom Jacobs, Lisa Bragg, Ellen Langtree, Dorian Yates, Douglas Stone, Art Hanchett, Jason Loomis, Leslie Berger

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns--None
2. Emergency Management COVID 19 – Governor Scott extended the State of Emergency for the State of Vermont through Saturday, May 15, 2021. Governor Phil Scott and State Officials Announce the Vermont Forward Plan Roadmap to Reopening. All details are at [www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward](http://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward).
3. Town Highways and Equipment Update
  - a. Highway Correspondence:
    - Ed Hathaway, EPA RE: Copperas Road Closure. Road will be closed for the summer to do work on one of the adits
    - Rita Seto, Senior Planner, TRORC, RE: VT132 Potential Paving? Possible opportunity if recovery funds are available.
    - Tom Jacobs, RE: Use of Salt. Noted, liaison responded that the risk of not salting during an anticipated storm must be balanced against excessive salting. Road crew will be advised to consider.
  - b. Open bids for Alger Brook Road and Turnpike Road grant work. Bids opened. Northwoods offered \$29,750 for Turnpike Rd and \$20,925 for Alger Brook. Blue Mountain Trucking offered \$24,888 for Turnpike Rd and \$19,329 for Alger Brook Rd. Road Foreman and Liaison will review the offers in detail and report back to the Selectboard on their selection.
  - c. Liaison reported that there have been inquiries about repaving Mine Rd to reduce the dust and erosion problems. Chair explained that the road was ground up with a plan to return to pavement in 3 years. That has not happened, and Town does not currently have available funds. Foreman has obtained a recent price estimate of \$110,000 and has prioritized this when funds become available.
4. General Correspondence:
  - Email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, re: COVID 19, Vermont Department of Health, The Office of the Governor, TRORC and VLTC
  - Mike Hebb, RE: 190 Mine Road junk yard. See item 9
  - John Freitag, RE: ECFiber, RE: Town Office Part 1, RE: Town Office Part 2
  - Rod Sloat, RE: Dog incident. Liaison will coordinate with Dog Officer to investigate. Citizens are encouraged to review the Town Dog Ordinance and consider reporting events in accordance with the ordinance.

5. Motion passed to approve minutes of the April 14th regular meeting.
6. Douglas Stone, Westshire ATV Club, RE: Green Up Day. Douglas Stone, President of Westshire ATV Club of Vershire and West Fairlee presented an offer by the club to pick up trash on Miller Pond and Ayers Road. Club is licensed and insured, will abide by VT helmet regulations, and will be taking the trash back to Vershire. Motion passed to allow the Westshire ATV Club to conduct the clean up on Miller Pond and Ayers Road on May 1. The Selectboard thanks the club for this contribution to Green-up Day.
7. Ashley Forest updates. Pat Kelley presented an update from recent meetings re ACF which focused on the Conservation Easement. The VLTC conservation easement will allow for hunting, hiking, bicycling, enjoying nature. Strafford has requested that access by snowmobiles, e-bikes, also be allowed, if the managers of ACF approve. Trapping is an issue under consideration, to be allowed at the discretion of the managers. Pat has advocated for occasional use of other motorized vehicles to allow citizens who are not able to walk long distances to have access to the ACF. The ACF board will wait now for the Sharon town to vote on whether to accept ownership before undertaking further discussions.
8. Town Office updates. Mary Linehan presented brief update on potential committee members. Selectboard members still gathering names of potential candidates. Jeff Solsaa provided further information about urgent repairs to the current Town office. Jeff will meet with contractors to get estimates for addressing the most urgent issues (e.g, stairs and front porch).
9. Junk Yard Update. Liaison reported that progress on the identified junkyards is not adequate, and some seem to have expanded their vehicle count at the identified sites. Notes that they are in violation of town and state ordinances. Recommended levying fines for non-compliance. Art Hanchett noted that roads are currently posted, restricting people from truck movement, and requested leniency and a greater effort to work with people to avoid lawsuits. Liaison proposes to place boulders to block parking on Mine Road. Liaison will check with Road Foreman to see if roads need to remain posted and will follow up on the proposed clean-up plans for identified junk yards.
10. ECFiber lease. Paul Gillies reviewed the contract, reporting that it is a standard contract and he has no objections. If the building is sold the Town might lose the benefit, however, ECFiber could chose to move with us. In any case, it is not going to happen in the immediate future. Town Clerk discussed these issues with the provider, and for now ECFiber plans move equipment to the proposed location behind the Town Office. Motion passed to sign the proposal from ECFiber.
11. Zoning District Map and town plan description refinement. Chair met with TRORC to seek clarification and assistance. Planning Commission is working on a clear description for zoning regulations and modifications to the Town Plan.
12. Liaison updates:
  - Conservation Commission vacancy. Two candidates have come forward. Motion passed to select Gregory McHugo as voting member, and Mary Louise Pierson as an alternate.

- Town House Events – should we open it up in July? Motion passed to allow use of the Town House for events as long as current VT state COVID guidelines are followed.
- Recreation Board – Art Camp. Discussion regarding the need to comply with tax law. Clarified that town can hire temporary employees or can hire the team as a contractor. Rec board will come back with its decision.
- Energy and Climate Committee would like to increase their committee membership (10) to include Susan Tiholiz. Chair proposed that the additional member be allowed due to significant work the ECC in the coming years. Motion passed for SB to approve new members of the ECC. Motion passed to appoint Susan Tiholiz to the ECC.

### 13. Other

- Town Clerk reported on town office data backup failure in March. Selected data from March 18-April 19 was lost, however, Clerk has been able to recover most of the important information. Improvements to data safety and storage are being made, including upgrades to server and computers, and daily backups of Clerk's computer.
- Burlington Free Press requested comment regarding an article about the Orange County Sheriff.
- Motion passed to approve request for doing yoga on the common.
- Discussion about complaints about chickens in the road. Motion passed to make Ed Eastman the Animal Control Officer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk