

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan, Brent Cadwell
Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Jennifer Brown, Kira Campbell, Ellen Langtree, Jeff Solsaa, Anne Peyton

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Public Concerns

Kira Campbell, on behalf of the PTA, requested use of the Common for an alternative to Winter Carnival. The PTA proposed to hold a snow sculpture building event to take place Feb 21-28, allowing people to come to build a sculpture over the week, in small numbers. Traffic cones will be placed on the Common to manage access. Motion was approved to make the Common available for socially-distanced snow sculpture building.

Emergency Management COVID 19 – See the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard for the latest data on vaccination in Vermont and visit healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccines to learn about who can get vaccinated now, vaccine safety information, and more.

Town Highways and Equipment Update. Jon MacKinnon not present. Liaison reports that the equipment is working well, crew is working to respond to lots of recent small snow falls, which takes as much time as the bigger ones.

- Highway Correspondence:
- Roz Finn wrote about the damaged detour sign near her house. Jon is replacing it
- Town garage energy audit – Liaison spoke with Geoff Martin, IREC, and reviewed work done to date, including energy use of town properties, Town Garage uses over 4,000 gallons of propane annually. Geoff recommends getting an audit done. Liaison met with Road Foreman and noted the need to address a serious ventilation and poor insulation issue, which is resulting in a great deal of condensation, compounded by the de-icing of vehicles, and energy loss, that needs to be addressed urgently. Geoff Martin will work with Liaison and Doc Bagley to arrange the audit which can hopefully address the condensation issue as well. Discussion of how to obtain an audit without being bound to use the same vendor for work. Jeff Solsaa explained that an energy audit is a discreet task, and the cost of an audit is \$500; there should no requirement to have the auditor do the work.
- Discussion regarding the need to posting roads to keep large trucks off dirt roads during coming mud season
- Town Clerk received notice from the contractor selected for Tyson Bridge stripping and painting work that they are not able to do the work until 2022, and that the cost estimate could change. A new search for a contractor may need to be conducted. Chair explained that the balance forward from the equipment fund can remain in the Highway reserve instead of using if for the bridge given the uncertainty of using the funds this year. The bridge deck is planned for replacement in the spring, and the paint work will be done after the deck is completed.

General Correspondence

- Email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, re: COVID 19, Vermont Department of Health. We also receive emails from The Office of the Governor, TRORC and VLTC
- Micaela Tucker, Esq, RE: Notice of Municipal Ordinance Violation
- Danette Harris, RE: Funding the IREC
- Geoff Martin, IREC, TRORC January Progress Report
- News Release - US Department of Labor issues stronger workplace guidance on coronavirus, New OSHA guidance. Health Officer will review the guidelines
- Vermont Agency of Transportation, Review the Draft Rail Plan
- Byron Breese, RE: regarding snow removal

Motion passed to approve minutes of the January 27th regular meeting

Board's response to chicken concerns. The law enforcement liaison contacted VLCT who provided guidelines and options for dealing with the chicken complaints. VLCT confirmed that the property in question does not constitute a farm. However, state law does not allow animals running at large, and the Town could sue the owner. Another option is to put an ordinance in place. If someone has a complaint about animal cruelty, they should contact the State police, game warden, Sherriff, or the Humane Society. Noted that the Town does not currently have a formally appointed Animal Control Officer.

Town meeting preparation, presentations, hearing agenda

Town Clerk reported on progress made for Town meeting: ballots have been sent by mail to all voters; warnings for Informational Hearings have been posted. A test run of the presentations for the informational hearing will be conducted on Wed Feb 17th. A zoom license has been purchased for 500 participants to attend the meeting remotely. Town Reports will be mailed on Friday. All information is posted on the Town website. Suggested that voters be allowed to submit questions prior to the Informational Hearing. A notice has gone out with the ballots reminding voters how to return their ballots (by mail, drop box, or drop at the Town Office), Voters are reminded that they can vote in person, however, only one person will be allowed in the Town Office at a time to vote in person.

Liaison updates

- There will be a vacancy in the Planning Commission as of March 2021. Position will be posted
- Planning Commission has reviewed the Ashley Forest proposal with the Town Plan and confirmed that it is consistent.

Other

Selectboard wants to express its great thanks to Steve Marx for the clean-up of barrels of waste oil and old automotive fluid at the old Coutermarsh property on Miller Pond Road, and especially for his diligence in finding non-tax funding sources to complete the work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan, Reporting Clerk