

Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2023  
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants- Hannah Levinger, John Freitag, Jeff Solsaa, David Paganelli via Zoom  
Other participants in person- Chip Hedler, Dan Gibson, Ellen Gibson, Kathy Menard, Katrina Menard, Ryck Morales, Miriam Newman, Micki Colbeck, Kate Bass, Mike Hebb  
Participants via Zoom- John Sakalowsky, Kate C, Bill Risso, Sharon Risso, Kelly Harman, Sherm Wilson, Mary Thompson, Kevin Geiger

1. Meeting called to order 6:02 pm

2. Public concerns

There will be a meeting on the Unified By-Laws and Flood Hazard Ordinance on October 14 at the Newton School

There will be a meeting on infrastructure in town on October 21st at Barrett Hall

3. September 27th minutes approved unanimously

October 4th minutes- not approved yet

4. Ryck Morales discussed the SBA, FEMA, and USDA loans for the July flooding

Please come to the Town Clerk's Office to see his handouts if you would like more information

5. Highways

The road crew is down a truck and the new truck they have gotten needs some additional work.

The bridge work on Justin Morrill Highway is almost complete.

There is a "woop" in the asphalt on 132 that will not be fixed during this round. VTrans recommended applying for a HSIP grant and Jeff will connect with Stephanie regarding this.

The Freeman road bridge will go out for proposals soon.

The request for reimbursement from the state for paving of 132 will go out soon.

The radios and reception for the road crew are subpar, so work has begun figuring out how to improve them.

Assistant road foreman position has been updated and a proposal to hire Ryan with a \$1.50 per hour raise for additional duties was put forward. All in favor.

Mondell Road Bridge 16 on Taylor Valley needs to be fixed according to the State. Jeff will reach out to various contractors about fixing it by the end of November.

Jeff is dealing with an issue with Irving Propane about getting propane to a customer.

The fixed propane price for the Town Garage has come through and needs to be approved by the Board. Unanimous approval.

6. Flood Hazard Ordinance

The public hearing will be held on October 14th at the Newton School. The warning regarding the vote will be posted by October 17th and the vote will be held by Australian ballot (either mailed in or dropped off at the Town Clerk's Office on or before) November 16th.

7. Municipal Planning Grant

The Selectboard unanimously approved to submit the Municipal Planning Grant. The Board would like to appreciate all of the work that Stephanie Slayton does.

#### 8. Infrastructure Meeting

There will be a meeting on infrastructure in town on October 21st at Barrett Hall

#### 9. Dog Rabies and License Update

Courtney Hardy has gone above and beyond in her role, but there are still two people who have yet to vaccinate or license their dogs.

#### 10. Liaison Updates

VLTC insurance sent a letter requesting an increase in cost. The Board moved to table this discussion until more information is available.

Rocky Fuller asked the Board to approve the appointment of Sarah Havens to the Town House Preservation Board. All voted in favor.

The Morrill Memorial Library requested approval to move Miriam Newman to the Morrill Board and have Becky Proulx take her vacancy on the Harris Trustees Board. All in favor.

#### 11. Correspondence

All of the correspondence that the Board received was regarding the Whitcomb Hill discussion.

#### 12. Whitcomb Hill

There was an extensive discussion with members of the public about Whitcomb Hill and the potential snowmobile trail through one corner of the town land.

A motion was made to allow the snowmobiles access to the trail laid out by Mike Mann and Mike Hebb. Several amendments were submitted to the motion and the motion as follows was voted on by the selectboard.

Motion to amend the management policy of the Whitcomb Hill management Plan adopted by the Selectboard on November 14, 2018. Article 4 under management policies will now read:

The property is closed to motorized recreation including ATV, motorbike, and snowmobile uses with the exception of a Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trail on the edge of the property (map included). The trail will only be open for use by snowmobiles between December 15 and April 15 when there is at least one foot of snow on the ground. The Strafford snowmobile club must take the proper care of the trail, including water bars, seeding and erosion control, as set forth in requirement by VAST and the State of Vermont and must be to the satisfaction of the Town. The club will be allowed the use of motorized vehicles to do maintenance on the trail only via the snowmobile trail itself. Any deviation from the trail by snowmobiles or any failure to maintain the trail to the satisfaction of the Town may result in the Town's revocation of permission to use the land. This exception will be for a period of 5 seasons starting in the fall of 2023 and ending in the Spring of 2028 at which time it will be reviewed again by the Selectboard.

John Freitag, Jeff Solsaa, and David Paganelli voted to approve the motion. Hannah Levinger voted against. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm