

**Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
August 8, 2018**

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

Other community members: Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Micki Colbeck, Dierdre Dennis, Robin Jaccaci, Susan Cloke, Steve Willbanks, Jennifer Brown for the *Randolph Herald*

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Citizens' Concerns:

No citizens' concerns presented.

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update:

Equipment is up and running except for roadside mower—they are working on repairs. They are still working on mowing and have most road completed.

Tractor financing: Town has decided to go with Mascoma Bank at 3.6 percent interest. The board signed the loan on behalf of the Town.

Applications for road crew position: Board received two applications and will interview both candidates after the road crew has interviewed them. Board will plan to have a special meeting on Wednesday, August 15 at 6 p.m.

3. Approve Minutes of July 15, 2018:

Board approved minutes with no corrections.

4. Correspondence:

Email from GMP re: removal of old poles. GMP has no control over removal of the poles. Town has to wait until Consolidated Communications and ValleyNet remove their lines.

Email from Peter Fischelis re: speed limit on Old City Falls. Board noted that speed limits are set by Two Rivers Ottaquechee Commission and any changes will require a survey. The town cannot change any part of an ordinance without putting the entire ordinance through the approval process. Road foreman noted that landowners may put signs on their property and the town can put on advisory signs on the road. Board will ask town constable to monitor the number and speed of cars on the road before taking any further action.

Emails from Ed Hathaway, EPA re: End of major blasting program at the Elizabeth Mine. Board noted that the major blasting program is now over.

Email from Steve Wilbanks re: Whitcomb Hill mowing. Complaint from member of the Conservation Commission regarding mowing on the Whitcomb Hill property. Steve Wilbanks spoke on behalf of Conservation Commission: The Commission is concerned about volunteers

working on town property due to liability issues. General discussion ensued regarding liability issues on the town trail system. Board will have further discussions regarding roles and responsibilities for volunteers on town trails and town property. The Conservation Commission will create a management plan for that particular property.

Email from Eliza Mabey re: Invasive poison parsnip. Board forwarded her email to the Conservation Commission

Video done by Mark Shaw—Town House Spire. Board noted it received a link to the video.

Letter from Vermont Highway Department re: Payment for July 2017 flooding event. Payment has been approved for Route 132 damage and will be forthcoming.

5. Sidewalk to lawn, Susan Cloke:

Susan would like to pull up what is left of the sidewalk and convert it back to lawn. Several townspeople wrote letters/emails of support for this. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow Susan to remove the sidewalk on her property.

Susan Cloke also submitted a permit to move her driveway access at 11 Brook Road. Motion was made, seconded, and moved to approve new highway access with the stipulation that the line of sight is clear.

6. Septic tank replacement estimate:

Board is dealing with estimate for replacement of the septic tank. The \$6,000 estimate from Earthworks was received. Board approves going forward with the septic tank work.

7. Primary Elections, August 14th review:

Board members are on Board of Civil Authority and will assist with the election. Town Clerk has everything in order for the day.

8. Liaison updates:

Retaining wall behind the Red Barn will be rebuilt.

Janet Hardy has caught all feral cats on property in South Strafford.

Governance Committee Recommendations

9. Other

No new business

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

