

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00 pm via Zoom

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan, Brent Cadwell

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Jon McKinnon, Phoebe Mix, Chuck Sherman

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Public Concerns – none

Emergency Management COVID 19 – Vermont COVID Emergency order has been extended to January 15, 2021. Vermonters are encouraged by Governor Scott to register for VT-ALERT by visiting www.vtalert.gov and selecting the alerts they would like to receive (COVID information is listed under “Health Alerts”). Current subscribers may update their notifications by visiting www.vtalert.gov. Notifications are available via email, text, phone and the Everbridge mobile app.

Town Highways and Equipment Update. New truck should be ready in the next week or so, transfer completed by end of the calendar year. TRORC Better Roads grant application is ready to be signed for \$20,000 with a Town match of \$5,000. Grant is for mandatory upgrades to Alger Brook Road. Liaison noted that there may be some concerns expressed by landowners living on Alger Brook Road. Foreman clarified that the ditching is being done to comply with mandatory Agency of Transportation standards intended to reduce road erosion, manage water run-off and reduce road repair expenses, and is in accordance with the approved Town’s Highways plan, a public record. Motion passed to sign the grant application.

Highway Correspondence:

- John Freitag, RE: winter road policy. Suggestion to post the Town winter road policy adopted in 2011 to provide reminder and guidance to Town residents. Town Clerk will repost the Winter Road Maintenance policy outside the Town Office, on website, at Coburn’s and on the list-serve. Any necessary changes will be discussed at later date.
- Mike Hebb, RE: Paul Gillies advice. Discussion re: ownership of trees on the right of way on Town roads. Confirmed that Strafford does own its roads and right of ways; the current policy is on the Town website. Further research and discussion will be required before a decision can be made.
- Municipal Roads General Permit Amendment Form, Road Erosion Inventory fee. To fulfill the MRGP requirements, the Town must transfer REI data into the DEC MRGP database (completed), pay the \$240 Administrative Processing Fee, and submit a completed MRGP Permit Amendment Form. Motion passed to sign the amendment form and pay the fee.

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
- Steve Willbanks, RE: Town's Easement. Strafford Historical Society would like the Selectboard to agree to remove the existing water and sewage easement for the Town Garage on the Mason's property, which was put in place in 1975 when a well was jointly built and an agreement was established to share water and sewage costs. SHS notes that Town Garage has moved, so the access is no longer needed. Discussion re: possible future plans for the Town property. Motion passed that the Town declines the request to remove the easement for water and septic access on the Mason's property at this time.
- Michael Sacca, RE: Ashley Vote
- Charles Denton, RE: Dog Nuisance Complaint, Dec 11, 2020

Motion passed to approve minutes of the December 2, 2020 regular meeting.

Parking in Strafford Village. Upper Village parking map was approved by Selectboard on April 11, 2012. Map is available on the Town website.

Motion passed to recess at 6:58 pm to allow Development Review Board to use the zoom link. Reopened the meeting at 7:06 pm.

2020 Budget to actual comparison. Expenditures are on target for this year, and Selectboard will continue to track through the rest of the year.

2021 Budget. Chair discussed the budget planning process and requested that another Selectboard member work closely with her to learn the details of the process. Extensive discussion re: budget process and revenue projections, loan considerations, etc.

Selectboard discussion of priorities, deadlines, work assignments. Chair noted that the next few months are going to be extremely busy, especially due to the challenges of working remotely. Selectboard members agreed to lead the following efforts:

- Budget – Toni & Rett
- Town Meeting, Town Report, Select Board report, Australian ballot & voting– Toni, Lisa & Mary
- Town Office- Mary & Brent
- Changes to Dog ordinance – Lisa, Mary & Brent
- Junk yards—Brent
- Ashley Forest – Pat & Rett
- Ancient Roads - Pat
- Review and update existing policies - delay till after Town Meeting

Members will alert Chair when an item needs to be added to the upcoming meeting agenda for finalization of further discussion.

Liaison updates

- Rocky Fuller has sent a sketch and has offered to make housing for the electricity meter on the Town Common. Selectboard thanks Rocky for his design and offer to build the housing. Motion passed to allow Rocky to proceed with his plan.
- Liaison consulted with Bob Wilson re: Emerald Ash Borer plan. The tree removal effort has been initiated.
- Discussion with Recreation board waiting for specific request from Rec Board.

Other

- Errors and Omissions Certificate of Lister error in the amount of \$1,700 was submitted. Motion passed to accept and sign the certificate.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Reporting Clerk