

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 8th, 6:00pm
Barrett Memorial Hall upstairs
248 VT Rte 132, South Strafford, VT

Members present: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Brent Cadwell, Mary Linehan
Others present: John Freitag, John Echeverria, Jim Schley

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

Public Concerns

John Freitag raised concerns about how the mine work is being concluded, particularly EPA's responsibility for the Tyson Bridge and the double power lines. John also noted presence of a significant hump on Mine Road. Selectboard responded that negotiations with State and EPA are on-going, and VTrans, the Corp of Engineers, and Town Road Crew are still collecting information to resolve the bridge and road situation.

Emergency Management COVID 19 – State of Emergency extended by Governor Scott to September 15th

Town Highways and Equipment Update

- Tyson Bridge updates. Jon McKinnon was not in attendance; Highway liaison reported that Jon is still waiting for estimates for the costs of possible options. Selectboard is holding on-going discussions with EPA re: their responsibility for the bridge repair and appropriate mitigation steps
- Paving project updates. Work has not yet started on Miller Pond due to completion of culvert work on Miller Pond and Brook Road. Current estimate for Miller Pond Road work is \$63-64/ton. Jon is meeting the contractor on Thursday to finalize the work plan, determine the distance of road to be repaired in order to start the work.

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
- Email, Carol Bushway, RE: Town Meeting 2021 & COVID19
- Email, Charles Denton, RE: Moran Dogs-Thursday Morning 27-Aug
- Letter, Peggy Thorp, RE: Tyson Road Bridge
- Email Sgt. Jean-Miguel Bariteau, response to Charles Denton's email RE: Moran Dogs-Thursday Morning 27-Aug

Motion passed to approve minutes for the August 25 regular meeting as revised.

Strafford's Energy & Climate Committee –VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

Jim Schley presented the Energy & Climate Committee interest in applying for a “scoping” or planning grant from VTrans to explore the possibility of improving bike and pedestrian safety between the two villages. The grant is intended to improve transportation utility (not just recreation), covering 80% of the cost (potentially a total of \$30,000). This is an annual opportunity, requiring a letter from the Selectboard authorizing availability of funds, a map showing the proposed section of road, and history of safety problems. VTrans will provide an engineering assessment feasibility and cost. Matching funds can be provided as in-kind administrative services, but not engineering or construction. Jim and the committee are willing to prepare the grant request, and will investigate the acceptable timeline for completion of the proposed work, on-going obligations for maintenance, whether funds can come fund raising, and other points of clarification, so a decision can be made as to whether this can be pursued this year or in the future.

Ashley Community Forest Project

Discussion re: wording of proposed article to be put to vote on November 3, including the significant outstanding questions regarding joint ownership of the Ashley Community Forest, the terms of the conservation easement, tax implications, and how the ACF would be managed. Selectboard will craft a proposed article, share it with AVC, and contact the Sharon Selectboard to understand their current thinking and propose a joint meeting to discuss.

Dog Officer Vacancy

No formal applicants yet. May need to consider modification of the job description and limit the hours of availability of the Dog Officer to normal business hours.

Liaison updates

- Special thanks to Ed Eastman for painting the flagpole
- Hope to hold the next Selectboard meeting at the Town Office, pending receipt of the audio equipment currently on order
- Safety Officer will check with Sherriff to monitor speed in South Strafford, especially now that school as re-opened

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk