

## **Selectboard Meeting May 8, 2019**

**Board members present:** Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Lauri Berkenkamp, Pat Kelly

**Other community members present:** Laura Ogden, Ava Kelly, John Echeverria, Lianne Thomashow, Gil Robertson, Jon MacKinnon, Jennifer Brown, Susan Cloak, Kevin Grady, Doc Bagley, Janet Cavanaugh, Bob Johnston, Stephanie Johnston, Rocky Fuller

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.  
The board welcomed Pat Kelly as its newest member.

### **Citizen concerns**

John Echeverria spoke about the storm water problems faced by houses in the Upper Village and expressed interest in pursuing funding to address the pipes under the Common. Discussion ensued regarding where water pipes in the village go, what might be blocked, and where leach fields and septic systems in town are located. Toni and Jon will research who is the best person at the regional level to help map the drainage under the Common.

### **Town highways and equipment update**

Most of the roads are in better shape; equipment is up and running. The road crew is working to repair roads as quickly as they can.

#### **1. Asset management of paved roads update**

Toni and Jon met with Todd Eaton from the state. Todd will send templates and examples of asset management plans. The board and road crew foreman will work up a management plan for paved roads and will then work on an inventory and timeline for maintenance on gravel roads. Kate noted that the action plan for upgrading and maintaining paved roads is the first the town will have implemented.

#### **2. FY '21 transportation capital projects prioritization**

John Echeverria will meet with Jon MacKinnon and Toni to discuss priorities.

#### **3. TRORC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Meeting will take place on May 9. Jon MacKinnon and Toni will attend.

#### **4. Patt Ross, state hydrologist report**

Pat Ross viewed the Faccio property and noted that the problem with their flooding was water draining from a natural swale on private property, not due to runoff from the town road. Pat recommended the Faccios have a professional come in to help them with drainage issues in their barn. Regarding the dry hydrant runoff filling the pond: Jon MacKinnon said this is an agreement with the fire department and homeowners should contact the fire department directly. Pat also visited the foot bridge across the Ompompanoosuc near Tyson Road and said it should not be rebuilt without permits from the state.

Pat also inspected Downer Forest Road and the washouts. Problems with the road are being addressed and the town is working on the road.

## **Correspondence**

Email from Josh Kahan re: thanks to the road crew. Board acknowledged receipt of email and appreciated the kind words.

Email Paul Kifner re: electricity on the Common. Board, Rec Board, PTA, and Lions Club all pledged money to fund the project last year. Toni will talk with Paul Kifner, Rocky, Tom Root, and Jon MacKinnon to install a pedestal on the Common.

Vermont Superior Court notice of hearing: Robertson variance. Hearing will take place June 3. Toni spoke with the chair of the DRB, Terry Garrison. Toni moved to appoint Terry Garrison to be the town representative in the hearing, which will take place in the form of a conference call on June 3 at 2:30. Motion was passed.

## **Approve Minutes of April 24, April 30, May 7, Other Meetings**

Board moved, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes of April 24, April 30, and May 7.

## **Energy Committee**

Energy Committee presented to the board. The committee will now be known as the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC). SECC's mission is to help the town, business, and townspeople to reduce fossil fuel usage to reduce carbon emissions. The committee plans to work more closely with the Newton School in the coming year. They are working on the enhanced energy plan to address the state mandate of 90 percent renewable energy by 2050. Much attention is currently focused on energy conservation through weatherization and efficiency practices, including the Window Dressers Program and the Button Up program. Approximately 30 people in Strafford signed up for energy audits through the Button Up program. The SECC website will include a Go Vermont! link to learn more about car and van pooling, mass transit, biking, etc., as well as energy-related legislative links. The group will participate in the 4-Town initiatives.

## **Town House Advisory Group**

Rocky Fuller reported on the activities of the Town House Advisory Group. Their last meeting was April 25. Clean up day was very successful. The floor will be refinished in the near future. June 8 will be their annual fundraising celebration to acknowledge people who participated in the spire project. Backhouse will be pumped at the end of the season and will be recharged. Painting projects will include the back wall and spire. Eli Mintz will take down a rotten tree on the west side of the Town House. Tom Root will work on electrical upgrades. Concerts are being lined up for the summer, including a jazz series on Sundays.

The group put forth the idea of removing Sally Hatch Road (the road between the Town House and the Common). They suggested it would save the town money in paving and maintenance costs and will improve the aesthetics of the property and reduce safety concerns. The group wanted to start the conversation about the idea with the board and people in town. Toni asked the group to come up with a feasibility study of the project and would like to hear more information. Bob and Stephanie Johnston created a document detailing the history of the upper

village prior to the construction of the Town House, which the committee has left in the town office.

Toni asked Rocky about managing electricity on the Common. Rocky said he will speak to Tom about it.

**Budget review**

Budget is on track. Contracted services were higher in March than expected, due to plowing needs, but overall expenses are in line with the budget.

**Liaison updates**

Pat Kelly will become the law enforcement liaison and the liaison with the fire department, planning commission, and rec board.

**Vermont Council on Regional Development update**

Task force meeting of the 4 Towns initiative will be held at The Sharon Academy on May 21 at 6:30 p.m.

No new business was brought to the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauri Berkenkamp  
Recording Clerk