

Stafford Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 6:00 pm
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Stafford, 05072

Members participating: John Freitag, Jeff Solsaa, David Paganelli.

Other participants in person: Mary Linehan, Toni Pippy, Lisa Bragg.

Via zoom: None.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m..
2. Highway.
 - a. Jeff reported on flood damage and road repairs. All roads other than Freeman Road are passable today, with a detour in place on Route 132. Freeman Road is expected to be open by the end of the day tomorrow.
 - b. Jeff expressed appreciation to all the volunteers, town employees and contractors that have come together to advance our recovery efforts. To date there have been 325 truckloads of road material brought into town totaling over 7,200 tons of crushed stone. Among many others the Selectboard expresses appreciation to Pike Industries, Eric Thorp, Natty Cook of Daniels Trucking, Brent Cadwell, Nortwood, Alan Rowell, L&M, Kenny Smith, Calvin Smith, the Town Clerk, Regina, Stephanie, Mary, Toni, Stafford Fire Department, Shawn Harlow, Pat Kelly, Aaron Dotter, Gary Kendall, the Town Road Crew, Jason Schumacher, Geo Design, Rita, Chris Bump (VTRANS).
 - c. Jeff estimates two more weeks will be required to fully stabilize all town roads, with at least two other projects, Route 132 and Miller Pond Road taking longer. Route 132 reconstruction is a federally funded highway project, while all other projects are being done in conjunction with VTRANS to be FEMA compliant.
 - d. Jeff will check on what FEMA will pay for on Class IV roads.
 - e. Jeff met with Scott Jenson, State of Vermont Stream Alteration Specialist. The initial determination is that many of our road washouts were the result of undersized or plugged culverts and undersized bridges. There will be an assessment of all bridges in town.
 - f. John Freitag will investigate river bank erosion on the Chestnut property to see if the town culvert might be partly responsible.
 - g. John will also talk with the Recreation Committee about arranging to clean out a plugged drop inlet associated with the parking area of the red barn.
 - h. John will write a message to the listserve asking citizens to be careful of trucks on Route 132 in Stafford. There was a recent near-collision there between a dump truck and car.
 - i. It was agreed that we need to do immediate stabilization work, then put major work out to bid. If a contractor is on site doing stabilization work on an hourly basis and the town is comfortable with the rate and the quality of work, that contractor may be allowed to finish a larger project, with written justification and approval of the Selectboard.
 - j. Toni Pippy and Mary Linehan have volunteered to work with Lisa Bragg and Jeff Solsaa to document project materials and costs. Stephanie will write contracts for the various projects and contractors.
 - k. Jeff informed the Selectboard that we have hired two new road crew members and both will begin work August 7th.

Lisa suggested that post-recovery, we should hold a forum of town officials and volunteers to debrief our response and refine our processes for the next disaster. We feel that we have done well so far, and have a strong plan and strong team to get us through this disaster, but we also recognize that we need to fully understand what worked and what didn't so that we can do better next time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

David Paganelli