Selectboard Minutes

July 27, 2020

The meeting was held virtually through a video conference \*

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (Chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Tom Tolbert, Jessica Pollack and Paul Fraser

Public Present: John Sohikian, Bob Stomski, Robert Simmons, Christopher Robbins. Terri Garland, Hazel Denton, Joel Bluming, Travis Thiele, and Jennifer Dorta-Duque

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. *Call for any late additions to the agenda*
2. Wireless Hotspots
3. Brief description of what the Sherriff Liaison does
4. Update of sign ordinance
5. Health Officer
6. Update from fire department
7. *Approve the minutes from the July 13, Selectboard meeting and July 17 Emergency meeting*

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 13th and July 17th meetings. Jessica seconded, all in favor.

1. *Review time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station*

Greg will sign off on them this week.

1. *Review pay orders*

Brattleboro Salvage is part of Triple T and will bill weekly.

1. *Updates and discussion regarding town operations including collection of organics at transfer station*

Triple T is doing our hauling from the Transfer Station now. The organics have been a bit of a challenge. The compost is being put into bags and it is messy. There are three options for the organics.

* 1. Casella would pick up just organics.
  2. Triple T would pick up for an additional $20 per pick up
  3. Things could remain the way they are.

Greg would like to try one more time the way things are now. Triple T requires bags while Casella does not. Terri will look into ordering something to reduce the odor and help keeps flies away.

1. *Hear Robert Simmons request for the town to deed him the bridge to his property (Rawson property) off of West Jamaica Road*

Mr. Simmons purchased Sage Hill Camp in 1966 for forestry purposes. He purchased the Rawson property in 1972 because the bridge gave him access to the eastern part of his property. 2008 was the last time he logged the land.

In July of 2010, he received notice from the town of Jamaica that the road had been reclassified as a town trail. He is asking that the town would Quitclaim the bridge to him and he would fix it.

The first step is to figure out who owns the bridge.

The board would like Mr. Simmons to write a proposal on the matter.

Andy made a motion to consult with the town attorney Paul Gillies for recommendation on Quitclaiming the bridge to Robert Simmons. Seconded by Tom, 4 affirmative-1 abstained.

Mr. Simmons would request that the town trail be discontinued.

1. *Discussion and action on proposed plan to address speeding and safety issues in town*

Andy has spoken to the Sherriff’s Department about getting the speed cart again.

There are stand alone signs (for $3,000 each) that display the speed as drivers pass by.

The first step is to see if there is a speed problem, not just a perceived speed problem. A speed study would show if there are people speeding and if other measures would need to be taken.

Last time we had a cart, all of the data was lost and we did not see any of it.

At the end of Water Street, they use to set up radar but since the flood it is no longer safe to sit there and monitor traffic.

Would it make a difference if we had our own speed cart?

Rumble Strips are said to have water build up on them and cause problems.

Pikes Falls will be paved toward the end of August.

Travis Thiele would like to see removable speed bumps installed that could be taken up in the winter.

Jennifer Dorta-Duque was on the Route 30 Commission and she said there is a ton of data for Jamaica that was collected.

Would Vtrans be able to makes changes to slow people down on Route 30?

Pikes Falls and Depot Street are both owned by the town and the residents would like to something done to reduce the amount of speeders.

Jessica made a motion to seek a formal quote on two radar signs for Pikes Falls and Depot Street and involving Terri to figure out where the money could come from in the budget. Tom seconded. 4-1 passed.

1. *Update on Communication Union District (CUD) and proposal to mail information flyer*

Chris Robbins would like the town to form a volunteer broadband committee to send out flyers and conduct a survey on bandwidth.

Jessica made a motion to have Christopher Robbins write a letter to the Selectboard with a proposal on what the broadband committee would need and do. Tom seconded, all in favor.

*8a. Southern Vermont Cable and Comcast merger official*

The transition in Jamaica will happen the weeks of October 16, 2020 and October 23, 2020.

*8b. Wireless Hotspots*

There are two hot spots in Jamaica, the town hall and the town office. You will be kicked off after two hours.

1. *Discuss the re-opening of Pikes Falls*

There was an emergency meeting ten days ago and they closed Pikes Falls swimming area because of an alleged Covid-19 outbreak in the area. The outbreak did not end up being real.

Andy made a motion to reopen Pikes Falls for recreation, seconded by Tom. 4 affirmative-1 no. Motion carries.

*9a.Sherriff’s Office Liaison*

Andy contacted the sheriff’s department when Pikes Falls was closed. They put up signs but the rain dissolved them.

People have contacted Andy to contact the Sherriff. He is the liaison the Sheriff’s Department but that is for the town. Any individuals should call the police direct if they want to report something.

*9b. Sign Ordinance*

John Sohikian, the sign administrator is trying to work with the new owner of the Muzzy building so that the signs will be in compliance with our sign ordinance. He is working on getting new signs and John is trying to work with him.

1. *Update on Tax Sale and authorization for the town to purchase unsold properties from July 21, tax sale*

The Tax Sale was put off because of Covid-19 but was held last Tuesday, July 21,, 2020. The town usually buys any unbought parcels so that there are no delinquent taxes. They have one year to redeem. This tax sale there were three properties but only one of them sold at the tax sale. Terri is asking that the town buy the other two parcels so there is nothing on the delinquent list and so that the attorney is not out his fees. The town would get the 1% interest.

Andy made a motion to purchase the two properties on Smith Road and Henderson Road. Seconded by Paul, all in favor.

1. *Discuss process to re-adopt town plan*

The Planning Commission is looking into redoing the Town Plan. They could lose funding if the process were not done correctly. They are working on readopting the revised town plan. Greg made a motion that the Selectboard allow the Planning Commission look into the process to readopt the Town Plan. Seconded by Jessica, all in favor.

1. *Update on Community Septic Initiative*

They are still working on the process.

1. *Discuss opening of Jamaica Town Hall for select events including Census 2020 training*

The Census 2020 would like to hold the training in the town hall. It would be for multiple days.

Greg made a motion to appoint Tom to talk to Caroline Persson to see if the event would be covid responsible and to give Tom the authority to decide and report back. Seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

1. *Hear request form Jamaica Old Home Day Committee on a re-imagined event*

The town gives Old Home Days and appropriation of $2500. The Selectboard would like the Old Home Day Committee to take charge and the town supports them.

1. *Other public concerns*
2. The fire department is putting plans and pricing together and then will present to the board.
3. False Fire Alarm Ordinance-Stratton has one and fines people after said number of false alarms
4. Hamilton Falls- People are parking anywhere and throwing trash everywhere.
5. There is a tree on the corner of Depot and Water Street that causes sight issues. Bob will speak to Keith about it.
6. Greg has been talking to the Selectboard Chair in Londonderry about the possibility of a multi-town health officer that would serve more than one town. The Selectboard supports Greg pursuing this.
7. Tom said there is rotting brush on Depot Street that he would like removed.

Andy made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall