

Selectboard Minutes

April 12, 2021

Meeting held virtually through a video conference *

Selectboard Present; Greg Meulemans (chair), Andy Coyne, Tom Tolbert, Paul Fraser and Jessica Pollack

Public Present: Jackie Brown, Christopher Robbins, Fran Janik, Marianne, Rich Melanson (BCTV), John Beagan, Sarah Peck, Rep Kelly Pajala, Chrissy Haskins, Ron Kelley, Greg Joly, Rob Willis, Heather, Chris Clark and Bob Stomski

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

1. *Call for any late additions to the agenda*

A. Include Pikes Falls under Hamilton Falls discussion

2. *Approve the minutes from the March 22nd, Selectboard meeting*

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from March 22nd, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

3. *Review Governor's new guidelines related to town office operations and town meeting*

The Governor has made some new guidelines. The clerk and treasurer suggested opening the office on May 17th once everyone is fully vaccinated. Everything has been working well as is so far.

Town meeting prep at the town garage, getting things figured out and knowing how it will run. Talk about possibly live streaming Town Meeting. The Selectboard and others plan to tour the town garage before Town Meeting to figure out how everything is going to work.

4. Update and next-steps on Communication Union District

Jamaica joined a CUD a little over a year ago and have mostly been working on setting everything up. There are presently three choices of groups to join. The control would be diminished if they join one group. The second group would be more ideal but going a lot slower. They would earn money with revenue bonds. We would keep control. The third possibility is federal money that would give money to the CUD, this would provide more than enough start up and make it possible to borrow the rest of the funds needed. Chris would like to see what the Senate does with the bill in hopes that it will be passed. Chris is asking the Selectboard, what do you want me to do?

The taxpayers are not responsible for anything. The money could be used to raise further funds. They feel certain if they get the federal money they can raise the rest needed.

The governor is suggesting more money go to broadband. The board is in support of the third option.

5. Update and next steps for cannabis regulation

We had a town vote that passed in favor of cannabis sales.

Fran would like to have the vote redone. He would like the two questions asked separately. He feels that the integrated licenses would lead to out of state corporations cornering the market and not leaving room for small farmers.

Option 1: Vote to reconsider

Option 2: Hold another vote, to opt out of integrated license holders but if anyone applied for an integrated license now and it was granted, they would keep it.

We did not properly warn the vote, it was never published.

The board would like to check with the town attorney but would like to revote the article with all the correct procedures.

6. Update on Hamilton Falls

The Town of Windham had an update last week on Hamilton Falls. The Forest Parks and Recs joined the meeting as well. The issues at swimming spots is a problem statewide.

Short term solutions: dealing with parking, obtained funding for a Ranger to work with them (redirecting them when spots were full). The Rangers mission will be to educate people about ethics, no parking on roadside and no littering. The hope is that the presence of the Ranger will help things in a positive way. They are working on some signage. They will designate an emergency parking area. Discussion of a portable toilet but not confirmed.

Charlie Peck is working on redoing the traffic ordinance to help with some of the problems with parking on the roads.

What is the legal access to Pikes Falls? There are two places that people access it.

The Falls cannot be shut down because it is public property.

The townspeople want to see something done before there are issues again.

The board will look into the committee for Pikes Falls before the next meeting.

7. Request to plant flowers on town property on Water Street

Jackie Brown would like to plant a strip of wildflowers between Tom and Andy's on Water Street.

Jackie is volunteering to buy seeds and has volunteers lined up to help plant them.

Andy would like to look into planting some fast growing trees to help if it ever floods again.

Tom made a motion to approve letting Jackie plant wildflowers between Andy's and Tom's, seconded by Jessica. 3 in favor, 2 abstained. Motion passes.

8. Update on waste containers and Transfer Station

Windham Solid Waste had loaned us some roll off containers. They have decided that the towns will take them over as of July 1, 2021. The board needs to sign off on this.

9. Resignation of town listers

Barbara submitted her resignation. Andy made a motion to accept the resignation of Lou Brusco and Barbara Furgeson, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

10. Approve liquor license

Tom made a motion to approve the liquor license for the 3 Mountain Inn, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

11. Approve bridge and road standards

Tom made a motion to approve the bridge and road standards, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

12. Report on roads, street cleaning and cemetery mowing

The road crew is doing the best they can with the mud. The street sweeper is coming on April 19th and 20th.

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

14. Review pay orders

15. Other public concerns

Fran Janik: He contacted the Sheriff's office about a trespasser. He feels like they are not following through and is asking if it is a budget issue?

Rep. Kelly Pajala will not be able to make it to our Town Meeting because hers is the same day. She would like to set up a time to discuss the ARPA money. She encouraged us to start thinking about what kind of infrastructure is needed in Jamaica.

Town Meeting: Greg Joly wants to know about limits from the state, and he wants to know who would count people and turn people around if we were at capacity.

Greg M. said with opening up the doors, we have more room. The set up is still undecided, so Greg Joly is trying to make sure everything goes properly.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall