

Selectboard Minutes September 26, 2022

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Tom Tolbert, Jessica Pollack and Kate Ullman

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Erica Bowman, Laura Sibia, Jacki Brown, Kate Harris, Falcon, Alione Mammae, Rob Willis and John Gotgart

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

A. Paul update on emergency management seminar

2. Approve the minutes from the September 12th Selectboard Meeting

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from Sept. 12th, seconded by Jessica. 3 in favor, 1 abstained.

3. Presentation from SeVEDS

Kate Harris and Laura Sibia from Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC). The organization helps businesses and works with Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS). There are different programs that the appropriation money goes into. Last year Jamaica gave an appropriation of \$3,000, SeVEDS will ask the same this year.

They serve residents in Windham and Bennington counties, both BDCC and SeVEDS. In 2015, SeVEDS was created for southern Vermont. They are looking for letters of support for economic development for the town stating: *The town of Jamaica supports the federal government designating southern Vermont zone as an economical development district.* Laura Sibia is running to be our state representative. She is having a forum at Town Hall tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

4. Presentation from Water Street Committee

The Water Street Committee have been meeting at the request of the Selectboard to see if they can come to a consensus for the maintenance and plan for the property on Water Street. There are invasive species, including knotweed and black locust. The goal is to get the parcel manageable with the softest touch. There are some species already living there. The committee recommends, removing invasive species, mowing the existing field and removing any boulders, trash, etc. that would interfere with a yearly mowing.

The initial bid was for \$1500.

They talked about making a more diverse meadow. They would remove existing plant material and do a 6 inch rototill. Do a follow up 2 inch rototill, and possibly a third tilling before planting seed. It would take up to 3 years to complete the process. The process is called stale bedding.

The next option is to buy plant plugs, this is the most expensive but also gives you the most control on where plants are.

The last option is to rototill, and hand pull the weeds. Then you could use plugs or seeds.

Currently the area is mostly small grass, Goldenrod and Queen Anne's Lace.

The proposed plan would cost around \$6,700. This is a rough estimate for the plug method.

The seed method would cost around \$4,700, this is another rough estimate.

The estimates do not include the initial \$1500 to clean up the property.

The most expensive estimate is about \$10,000 for the ribbon method.

You could also do a mix of plugs and seeds.

The committee is recommending the ribbon method.

They would not touch anything on the back of the property, to leave wildlife and not disturb the O'Brien's privacy.

Jacki would like to start the project by removing the invasive species. She is asking the board to consider paying the \$1500 for the invasive species removal and mowing. She would also like them to budget for next year for the planting.

Anne O'Connor would be willing to look into grant opportunities. John Gotgart just bought property on Water Street and is willing to donate water from his artesian well.

Andy Coyne said he would like a buffer between his house and the meadow.

Jessica made an initial motion, to approve the mowing and removing the invasive species for \$1500, seconded by Tom.

Andy asked if there was anyway to do this without mowing. Erica responded that it needs to be done to get to the invasive species. A question was asked if animals could be used for the mowing? Not all animals eat all species, and you would need to take care of the animals.

Motion passed- 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

Jessica made a motion that the board give a provisional okay to have the committee come back with a more detailed proposal and they would resolve to meet again with the ribbon method, seeding and possibly plugs prior to budget sessions. Seconded by Tom. Greg would like them to look at everything again and make sure it would be the best for the area.

Jessica moved to amend the motion to include in addition to our provisional agreement, to proceed with phase 2 (which is the spring work), on the basis that they described (the ribbon method) with a further refined budget between now and the

middle of December and further that this project would be approved in that time frame, would be accompanied by an additional discussion of the methodology, and ensure the continued health of Water Street either through additional rip rap, berms, bridge support. Both projects would be discussed together this fall.

Seconded by Tom. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

5. Discussion and decision on Declaration of Inclusion statement

Tabled until the next meeting.

6. Discussion and decision on proposed Transfer Station hours

Jessica has data from the last 2 ½ weeks. Monday is the lightest day, followed by Tuesday and followed by Wednesday. They would like the transfer station to open Friday and to have more uniform hours, to maintain 2 days off in a row. Also, to not be open all day Saturday or Sunday.

Discussion on working weekends, and how busy it is on certain times/days.

Tom made a motion to make the new transfer station hours the following:

Monday: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Tuesday: closed

Wednesday: closed

Thursday: 2-6 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

Effective November 1st. Seconded by Andy. All in favor.

7. Update on Town Administrator position

Jessica and Greg met with an applicant; the rest of the board would like to meet with him. One other application had been received.

8. Update on emergency management

This past weekend they had their annual meeting. Lack of volunteers in the fire department, EMS, etc. is a big concern. Jamaica does not have advisory over the fire department, other towns do.

Some ideas are a tax incentive for volunteers or paying on a per call basis. They do not want to go to regional location so are trying to find ways to keep local departments open. One idea is the town owning the fire department.

9. Ballots for November 8th election, are now available

All active voters will be getting a ballot in the mail.

10. Review and approve time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station
Greg made a motion to approve the timesheets, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

11. Review and approve pay orders
Greg made a motion approve the pay orders, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

12. Public concerns
Karen said the Historical Foundation is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and would like to meet with the board when it is done.

Diana, West Hill Road South. Curious how to get something on the agenda? You can email Greg Meulemans or the town clerk.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall