

Selectboard Minutes February 28th, 2022

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans, Andy Coyne, Tom Tolbert, Kate Ullman and Jessica Pollack

Public Present: John Beagan, Charlie Peck, Paul Fraser, Greg Joly, Lucas Rogers and Sarah Peck

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

No additions to the agenda.

2. Approve the minutes from the February 14th Selectboard meeting

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from February 14th, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

3. Approve warning for town meeting

Town meeting has been postponed until April 2nd at the Town Garage. Kate made a motion to sign the warning for Town Meeting, seconded by Jessica.

Greg Joly asked why we changed item number two, from act on the town report to review the town report. This was done on the recommendation of our town attorney. All in favor.

Andy asked if the Town Administrator will be explained before town meeting? Greg is putting information in the town report. Charlie suggested having this as a handout at town meeting.

4. Review Planning Commission proposal for road reclassifications

Charlie has been working on recommendations on the road reclassifications. The Planning Commission is supposed to review any road reclassifications the Selectboard presents. The board had asked the PC to help with this. The Planning Commission looked at this as it is relevant to the town plan.

Greg said the initiative behind this was based on our road foreman's feedback on what was going on and a couple citizens had approached the board about reclassifying some roads.

Charlie also suggests that we get everything together and have one hearing. Here are the roads that were considered:

- A. **Skinner Swamp Road and White Road**- The Planning Commission considered the difficulty of plowing and maintaining these roads. The roads provide access to a few homes. The issue the planning commission sees is that these residents have bought their houses and pay taxes, most insurance policies require that the homes are always accessible. The PC feels this would devalue their homes. If we are going to stop maintaining in the winter, where would we draw the line as to how many roads would be declassified? The town plan encourages development on our existing roads. That is why the Planning Commission recommend these roads not be changed from class 3 to class 4. Greg Joly said White Road was plowed because that used to be the end of where the town plowed. No action at this time.
- B. **Hollow Road**- This is a short segment of an old town highway off Dalewood. This has one property but has not been maintained in recent years. It does not provide access because there are no residents, only one property owner and there is access through Pikes Falls Road and Dalewood. The PC feels it does have possible use in the future if there is additional development. They believe it has potential for future public use for transportation or recreation use and recommend no action at this time.
- C. **Legal Trail 26 (Rawson Bridge)**- This is a short segment of road. This could be important in the future for accessing public land. The JPC recommends removing the bridge because it is not safe but to keep the right-of-way. The JPC believes the rights-of-way are very valuable for the town to keep.
- D. **Mill Brook**- The town road leads to his driveway and the homeowner asked that this road be discontinued. The JPC recommends that we take no action on this road at this time.
- E. **Blake Road**- This is a road that is seven tenth of a mile. It is now owned by the Green Mountain Forest. It is a dead-end road that has a lot of wildlife living there. There is little potential except for walking or biking, it disappears into a large swamp. It is a class 3 highway currently. The town stopped maintaining it when the home was removed. It is entirely in the Green Mountain Forest, whom Charlie spoke to. Their policy is not to interfere, but they would take ownership of it for multiple uses. The JPC recommends discontinuance of the entire length of Blake Road.
- F. **Turkey Mountain Road (TH20 and LT10)**- The JPC recommends discontinuing this road. If we transfer ownership, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation would assume responsibility for the town owned corridor if the town discontinues it.
- G. **Legal Trail 11**- It runs through Charlie and his families land, through the state

park and then onto the Nature Conservancy's land. The JPC recommends to pent the road which would prohibit public motor vehicles. The reason they suggest this over discontinuing the road, is because people could still use the legal trails. They recommend unlocked gates or bars at each end. The Selectboard could record in the town office that these town roads are no accessible for public motor vehicles.

H. **Legal Trail 25 (Kibby Camp Road)**- They recommend the same as LT 11.

Charlie recommends getting a motion written and having the town attorney look at it before the motion is made at a meeting. Notice must be sent to all landowners that would be affected by the change.

Jessica made a motion that the board authorizes Greg to work with the Planning Commission and Sara to gather the information needed to propose a hearing date to reclassify Hollow Road, to discontinue Blake Road, a segment of Turkey Mountain Road and LT 10. Seconded by Kate. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

5. Review and approve new Transfer Station rates

Greg has been talking with Dan and Terri about the rates. This has not been updated since 2009.

Jessica made a motion to accept the updated Transfer Station fees, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

This will go into effect on April 1, 2022.

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

7. Review and approve pay orders

8. Public concerns

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall