

Selectboard Minutes September 13, 2021

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (chair), Jessica Pollack and Kate Ullman

Public Present: Galan Robinson (BCTV), Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Jacob Deutsch, Eyad Salha (BDCC), Laura Sibilia (BDCC)

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

No additions to the agenda.

2. Approve the minutes from the August 23rd Selectboard meeting

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from August 23rd, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

3. Report from Rob Simmons on notice of intent to sell property to National Forest

Robert Simmons was interested in taking ownership of the bridge to his property but it is too much. He spoke to the National Forest about purchasing his property. He sent them a letter expressing his interest in offering the property to them. He is asking if the town approves of this transfer. Jessica made a motion that the board formally acknowledge that they have been notified of the intention to sell the property as described in the letter to the Selectboard, and the board expresses no objection to that transfer, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Karen asked how this affects taxes? It would be minimal but overall, the benefit is a more valuable asset.

4. Conversation with Sarah Lang, Southern Vermont Economy Project Manager

SeVEDS (Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies)

They have a heavy focus on developing the workforce, supporting small businesses and working on downtowns/villages. They work with business owners, offer workshops, and help businesses get relief. The P3 Program helps students get ready for the workplace. Some of the programs are:

- Workforce development program.
- Young professionals program.
- New homeowner workshops.
- Scholarship for professional development.
- Welcome wagon- Attracting and entertaining people in Vermont.

- Programs through USDA and SBA.
- Workshops to help support small businesses.

They work with two businesses in Jamaica. They are requesting funds from all 27 towns in the region, at this point they receive funds from 16 towns.

They would petition if needed, but it would take time away from helping people, they asked if they could warn it as an article for Town Meeting?

Jamaica's policy is to have them petition the town before any appropriations are given.

5. Approve warning and set date for Info Meeting for Cannabis re-vote

Greg read the warning. There are two articles on the warning.

Jessica made a motion to approve the warning as read by Greg for the Special meeting on October 19, 2021. Seconded by Kate, all in favor.

Greg proposed to set the date for the Informational Meeting for Thursday, October 14, at the Jamaica Town Hall, if covid permits.

Greg made a motion to set the information meeting for Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the Town Hall, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

6. WRED School Board update from Anne Connor

Anne was not able to attend the meeting, she would like to make regular updates to the Selectboard.

7. Public concerns

Jacob from West River Valley Thrives, youth cannabis conference has been moved to a virtual event on September 23rd. He also has information for towns and communities who do and do not pass recreational cannabis sales.

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

9. Review pay orders

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall