

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2020

This meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 pm via Zoom online conferencing in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Zeke Goodband, Maria Glabach, Jerelyn Wilson, Terry Chapman, David Baxendale

Members absent: none

Also present: Lance Neeper, Paul Normandeau, Lilly Depino, Maeve Jenks, Julianne Eagan, & Brian Bashaw-BCTV.

Minutes:

On a motion by David and second from Terry the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from May 6, 2020.

Warrants:

On a motion by Terry and second from Jerelyn the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of warrants 24, 24P, Conservation Commission #9 & Reappraisal #10.

Public Comments:

Maeve Jenks, Lance Neeper, Lilly Depino, and Julianne Eagan presented the Board with their ideas and vision for the future of the school playground area. They are looking to upgrading the playground area and expand into the woods with a multi-use trail for walking, hiking, biking. At this point, they are looking for feedback from the community and will be sending a survey out to residents. Lance has reached out to Curtis Fanti who is a trail builder. Julianne is hoping this project will encompass outdoor education, a play space, and farm to school work. Maria reminded the Board that the School District has a ten year lease and the lease stipulates that the School district is responsible for any maintenance and upgrades. It was the consensus of the Board that this was a good idea, but the committee's next step after a community survey should be to contact the School District.

Road Foreman's Report:

Terry read the following report from Lee regarding Nourse Hollow Road:

"I installed 4 underdrains crossing the road. These were put in places where there was standing water going over the road and getting close to going over the road. This is a class III road so we get the same funding from the state as Houghton Road. However, I should have waited until the summer. I am in favor of the Conservation Commission making the map of the town and the sensitive areas for wildlife. We are working with ANR on a solution"

Paul Normandeau commented that he "did not see the need to spend a lot of money on the improvement to a road that is 90% not used by vehicles, even though it is a class 3 road gated on

the north and south ends of the unused portion.” He also express concern with how the roadsides looked after using a flail mower to cut limbs and small trees.

On a motion by David and second from Jerelyn the Board voted 5-0 to encourage the Conservation Commission to make a map of sensitive areas along town roads and share this information with the Selectboard and Road Foreman. Terry will contact Lee and David will contact the Conservation Commission.

Also included in Lee’s report:

“Helping Putney finish up sand, cleaning culverts, grading, and cleaning up trees from storm on 5/15/20. Approx. 10 trees.”

Correspondence for Information:

Terry reported that there will be a food distribution on Wednesday, May 27th at the Brattleboro High School from 10 am to 2 pm. People should use South Main Street to approach the school.

Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action: None

New Business:

The resident was issued a fine for reoccurring dog complaints. They have 21 days to appeal.

The Board at their discretion has the following options as set forth in S.344 Bill regarding Property Taxes. The Board can do any or all.

- Change the property tax due date

- Waive interest/late fees

- Reduce the budget that will start on 7/1/2020 to reduce the tax rate

Paul Normandeau encouraged the Board to reduce the budget.

Charlotte will work on some numbers to see how the tax rate would be effected at different dollar amounts.

There will be a budget work session on 5/27 to discuss the Boards options. Charlotte and Laurie will also attend. Zeke encouraged everyone to review the proposed budget. Prior to the work session there will be a personnel meeting with Laurie, Charlotte, Roger and the Listers regarding office work hours scheduling.

On a motion by Terry and second from David the Board voted 5-0 to approve paying town employees their full work week hours for one more pay period because they are working from home with the town office closed.

Unfinished Business: None

There being no other business to come before the Board, Maria made the motion and second from Terry, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Terry Chapman, Vice Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Selectboard Assistant