

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Laurie Colgan and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; School Board Chair Patrick Healy; Road Foreman Tim Ksepka; Energy Committee Members Nick Seifert and Becky Wigg; Visitors Greg Western (Cross Vermont Trail Association), Sarah Alain, and Carson Mashler

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Class 4 Road Maintenance

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the November 6 and November 27 meetings.

Snow Removal: The Board invited Sarah Alain to attend the meeting to talk about the snow removal on the sidewalk, to make sure everyone is on the same page. She wondered how the town would feel about her salting or sanding the sidewalks. Tim Ksepka feels that they should use sand but not salt because it is so expensive, but they could take a little bit of salt if needed to melt the ice that has accumulated. He noted that sand would draw heat and melt some of the ice. Salt would only be available when the road crew is at the shop. Sarah stated that she would be reasonable about how often to clear the sidewalk and how often to charge the town. The Board agreed that she would get paid for one clearing if there are at least two inches of snow, two clearings if there are more than 6 inches of snow, or three times if there are more than 12 inches.

Class 4 Roads: Rich Baker asked whether the town has a policy for people who plow Class 4 roads. He is concerned that if the road is being privately maintained, people might assume that it is maintained by the Town. Carson Mashler works for the Forest Farmers; they are plowing the railroad bed for access to their sugaring operation. Rich wonders if people will drive down the railroad bed, thinking that it is a Class 3 road, and blame the town if they get stuck. The Board decided to have the Road Crew put up signs warning people that the town does not maintain the roads in the winter. They will be put up on Pike Road, George Jewett Road, Hardwood Mountain Road, Jerusalem Road, and the Railroad Bed.

Road Maintenance: The Superintendent called to notify the town that some of the buses have been having problems getting around on the town roads. Patrick asked what the town needs from the school in order for better communication. The Board explained that they recently created a call list and it has been sent to the school. Patrick will ask the school personnel to notify the Road Crew when there are any changes to the school schedules. The Board asked the Road Foreman to put a message on the town garage answering machine instructing people to call the State Police if there is an emergency.

Cross Vermont Trail: Greg Western explained that the Cross Vermont Trail Association would

like to establish a trail across Vermont. In Marshfield, the railroad bed would be an ideal opportunity. CVTA has approached Forest Farmers and Drew Mountain Association, and they are planning to approach other landowners to ask for permission. They are going to construct bike paths in other towns where the railroad bed is no longer there. The CVTA would like to improve some sections of the railroad bed that are owned by the Town. There is a grant available for recreation improvements; Montpelier is applying for the grant, and Marshfield could join in the grant. The grant would pay for grading and signage, and there would be no cost to the Town. The Board approved adding Marshfield to the grant application.

Marshfield Dam: Rich Baker explained the work that is anticipated at Green Mountain Power's Dam. They want to install gates that would allow them to remotely open and close the spillway, while water is flowing – the current system is manual. They also plan to install a bypass pipe to allow them to divert water from the penstock to the stream, without going through the power plant. During the discovery phase, Rich submitted questions on behalf of the Town, in the areas of dam safety. He asked for maps showing water levels during an incident, and what buildings will be impacted, whether they have an evacuation plan, and what alarms are in place. Nick thanked Rich for submitting discovery questions and engaging in the process. Nick asked the Board to become a party to the separate investigation case. Rich feels that the issues in the investigation case have been resolved. He noted that the Public Utilities Commission is going to hire an independent engineer to review everything.

Budgets: The Board reviewed the budget for the Old Schoolhouse Common, the Town Clerk's Office, and General Government.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the December 11, 2018 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
