

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

---

Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

---

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Road Foreman Dan Tetreault; Librarian Susan Green; Historical Society Member Alan Taplow; Cemetery Sexton Ronald Pitkin; Visitors Dolly Dimick, James and Christi Mulligan, Lisa Mulligan, Paul Sicely, Joe Mangan

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair John Warshow.

**Dog Hearing:** Dolly Dimick explained what happened when a dog belonging to James Mulligan came onto her property June 23<sup>rd</sup> and got in a fight with her dog. Her dog was injured in the fight. Her other dog is now pregnant. Her male dog is neutered; the Mulligan dog is not neutered. Jo Guertin was called that day to investigate. The dog has been onto her property many times and it has bitten her in the past. After that incident it was supposed to be taken care of but it was only gone for a couple of weeks.

James Mulligan stated that they knew that the dog was out but they were unable to get him in before they had to leave for church. When he got home he found the dog on the porch. He is sorry that it happened.

Paul Sicely has seen the dog loose but has never seen it leave the dooryard. The dog protects the children but it has never growled at him, and it doesn't come on his property. He stated that the dog will bark and howl if it is hooked outside.

Christi Mulligan stated that the dog has only been out a few times since the dog bite in 2009. James Mulligan stated that DMV only looks at 3 years of violations and the dog bite was 4 years ago.

Dolly stated that she has medical bills for her dog and her insurance company does not care that it was more than 3 years ago. If it was her dog, the insurance company would make her get rid of the dog.

Chris stated that if her dog was in heat, it is natural for an uncut male to come onto her property, but that does not excuse what happened.

Lisa Mulligan stated that she understood that there were three dogs in a fight last time, and Dolly got in the middle of it, so there is no way to know who bit her. Dolly stated that there were witnesses. John stated that no one has disputed the minutes in the last 4 years.

Chris feels that the most important fact is that it happened on Dolly's property.

Helen's thoughts are that some dogs just don't get along. Unfortunately it is an owner's natural instinct to break up a dog fight. She doesn't feel that it is going to get any better unless the dog is watched constantly.

Paul asked if neutering the dog would solve the problem.

Lisa Mulligan stated that the dog came to her house for at least 3 months. She thought it was safe to have him come back.

Chris does not want to see the dog euthanized. John stated that the Board is in agreement that something needs to be done to keep this from happening again.

Jo Guertin was reached by speaker phone. She stated that the dog was off its property, down the road from its owner's house. When she went to speak with Mr. Mulligan he was extremely rude and told her it was none of her business. She saw the injuries on the Dimick dog. It had injuries on its face and a bite mark on one of its legs also.

Dolly stated that the dog is still being treated and she is incurring vet bills.

Helen stated that she would be in favor of a fine and keeping the dog confined at home. She would not be in favor of euthanasia. John asked to have the bills paid and a fine imposed. Chris feels that the dog should be neutered, but the dog is 9 years old and at this point it may not make a difference. He asked Dolly to give the Town a copy of her vet bills.

Christi stated that she would not mind neutering the dog if that is what it takes to keep him. James stated that they have paid money to keep the dog on the registry. Chris stated that the Board has to make difficult decisions and they are all dog owners. Chris told the Mulligans that the Dimicks would be within their rights to shoot the dog.

John moved to instruct the Mulligans to put up an electric dog fence, have the dog neutered, and pay the medical expenses for the other dog, and to accomplish this in two weeks, and if they can't get it done in two weeks, they should come to the next board meeting and explain why it couldn't be done by that date. They asked if they could do another kind of fence, such as a netting fence. John asked how they would get their car out. They stated that they would only open the gate if he was inside the house. The Board agreed that any fence that will keep him in will be sufficient. Helen seconded – all in favor.

**Historical Exhibits:** Librarian Susan Green has been talking with the Historical Society about sharing the former Headstart space. She has talked with Anita Landa about writing a grant for locked glass cases so they could have permanent exhibits on display, and she has an anonymous donor who would be willing to contribute \$10,000 toward this project. She would like to see the library move their Vermont collection into that area, and have a computer or two for genealogical research. She is going to meet with the Historical Society next week to discuss further plans. The Historical Society would give up their space downstairs in the building.

Alan Taplow stated that several of the members are enthusiastic about the idea but at least one member has expressed concerns about security, and there is not a lot of energy to move when they just moved not very long ago.

John feels that people would like to have more access to the Historical Society collection but he

noted that this would put more of the expenses onto the taxpayers. Chris noted that the Historical Society used to be in this room and they were paying the rent on the space until last year.

Bobbi noted that the Historical Society collection is currently below ground level, not a good idea in a flood plain.

Susan stated that she wants to know the Board's general feeling before she pursues the idea. The Board generally supports the idea.

**Meeting Dates:** The Board will change next week's meeting to July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Cemeteries:** Joe Mangan reported to the Board that he is not able to mow parts of Eaton Cemetery because it is so wet. The Board feels that people will understand, because everyone is dealing with the rain. He noted that there are several stones that need to be repaired but he needs a period of dry weather for epoxy to set.

He received 3 quotes to remove the remaining large maples in Eaton Cemetery. The Board regrets having to cut them but they noted the recent storms have shown how dangerous they can be. They have to do it to protect the cemetery.

Vermont Expert Tree and Landscaping	\$ 12,700
Farr's Tree Service	\$ 18,500
Northco Land Management Inc.	\$ 34,000

John moved to hire Vermont Expert Tree and Landscaping. Helen seconded – all in favor.

Ronald Pitkin and Dan Tetreault discussed plans for a curtain drain and a catch basin in Eaton Cemetery to improve drainage.

**Excavator:** Dan noted that the quotes discussed at the last meeting were for just the thumb, without installation. The quote with installation and shipping is \$5,400. The Board noted that the excavator is not scheduled to be replaced until 2020, and it would be safer. Helen moved to go ahead with the purchase. John seconded – all in favor.

**Personnel:** Dan explained that he would like to hire Josiah Nunn as a temp to help with the extra work. He is working towards his CDL. The Board approved.

**Tax Rates:** John moved to set the tax rates as follows:

Municipal Tax:	.6096
Local Agreement Rate:	.0049

Chris seconded – all in favor.

The education rates are 1.6748 for non-residential property and 1.5830 for homestead properties, as set by the state.

**Stranahan Town Forest:** the Board agreed to extend the Stranahan lease by 5 years, so the sugarmaker will be eligible for compensation for storm damages from USDA.

**Elder Housing Project:** The Selectboard decided to wait for a couple of meetings to decide whether the exploratory committee should be a formal committee of the town.

**Old Schoolhouse Common:** The Board received a note from Maplecrest Enterprises about the wind damage on the property. The Board appreciates the attention that Mr. Mitchell shows to the property.

**Pine Logs:** The Town received \$553.62 for the pine logs at the Fire Station. The Selectboard instructed Bobbi to put the money in the Ed Duke Fund.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved the minutes of the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 9, 2013 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

\*\*\*\*\*