

Vershire Selectboard Minutes

4/28/20 via Zoom... Approved

Attending: Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y. Guests: Aaron Hoopes, Sabra Ewing, Steve Atwood-Health Off., Sande French-Stockwell-Dev. Admin. & Recycle, Mike Gunn-Recycle, Tonya Gunn-Helping Hands, Laura Craft-EMT, Neil Hochstedler, Rubi Gemmel, Greg Wilson.

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm. Lyford and Craft stated that VLCT is requiring municipal employees to take online Covid-19 awareness training prior to resuming work.

The Listers have requested an extension (allowed by the State of Vermont Department of Taxes for all towns) to file/lodge the grand list potentially until July 16th, if necessary. They still are working towards lodging on June 4th. The Board approved the request.

The Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) has been updated with appropriate names and contact info. The Board reviewed and adopted the LEMP short form. It will now be submitted back to TRORC.

Highway Foreman Report: Lyford reported one of the trucks had to be taken to McLeod's for broken spring repair and he expects it to be back in service later in the week. The crew has recently added gravel on Beaver Meadow Rd. and plans on removing the balance of the gravel stockpiled at the Durgin Hill site. Lyford will then request a metals recycling container be bought back to the site.

Craft stated that Green-Up day will be May 30, 2020, and that there will not be tire, bulb, and electronic collection through GUVSWMD this year. He

added that the usual dumping fees for the Green-Up Day trash will also not be waived this year. The City of Lebanon landfill administration is also requesting a list of what is being placed in that days' collection of trash. Lyford stated that research should be done to see if the town could locate an outlet for tires. It was noted that Evergreen in WRJ will accept tires for a fee. Lyford will contact the Chelsea recycle coordinator to see how they handle tire collections. Discussion followed as to how to continue/maintain social distancing at the trash/recycle site for the extra traffic on the 30th. Lyford stated that the highway crew ran the loader last year there and perhaps that would work well again this year. The Board will continue the Green-Up Day plans/specifics next Tuesday the 5th at 2pm via a Zoom meeting.

Stone asked Mike and Sande how the public was handling the car limiting and mask requirement at the recycle site. Gunn replied that if residents didn't have a mask, they were asked to remain in the vehicle and let them take the trash out. Gunn had a small supply of masks to offer as well. He also explained to residents the need for them to maintain social distance and expedite their visit.

Lyford has located a source of hand sanitizer for the town use. VF&R will discuss what they would like to see happen for this year's Vershire Day, normally held the first Saturday of July (this will be the VF&R's 40th anniversary), at their next meeting. VF&R is currently doing renovations at their facility and may be considering an open house in late summer/fall this year. VF&R will discuss details on both topics and report back to the Town Clerk as soon as possible. Thrasher stated that the Governor would be making updated announcements on May 15th about public gatherings, etc.

Hoopes and Ewing were present to bring up the idea of starting a community garden at the town owned VCR site. Thrasher and the other Board members asked that the interested parties put together a detailed plan and come back at a later time to discuss.

Covid-19 update from Atwood and T. Gunn: Tonya Gunn shared that the attendance at the food-shelf on Fridays from 10-12 had increased from the first week and Helping Hands. They are working to get the word out to people that it is there for them. Atwood noted that potential recipients might not be used to the format and he'd reach out to UV Strong for supportive testimonials to share and advocate in hopes that more recipients in need will accept some food assistance. The Helping Hands group is working hard and being sensitive to recipients' needs. Masks are being made available and distributed in the food bags for family members as well. Gunn added that residents can call and request deliveries as needed. Craft will put contact information in the next newsletter.

Covid-19 testing was reviewed. Atwood will pass along information on the topic as new less invasive tests are developed and their availability. It was discussed that another aspect of the virus was leading to blood clotting in younger individuals and causing harm to their organs. Prevention is a TOP PRIORITY.

The Board approved but will individually go to the town office tomorrow to sign the orders. Minutes for 4/14/20 and 4/17/20 were approved as amended.

Greg Wilson joined the meeting and wanted to express how wonderful it was that the community was reaching out to residents' needs and taking the Covid-19 situation seriously, making adjustments for all to benefit from.

Craft stated that people can go to the town's new website "vershirevt.org" to find the minutes when drafted and approved, as well as agendas for upcoming municipal meetings. The contact information to attend meetings via Zoom is there, too.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.