

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 5/26/2020 via Zoom - Approved

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Gene Craft-Admin Asst., Tim Lewis, Landowner and Guest

Reviewed the Agenda

Road Report – Weather depending, the plan is for grading, ditching, culverts installed, picking up more tires along the roads, and getting ready for Green Up Day. The grader dropped into the soft wet area along the beaver pond on Beaver Meadow Road. Good weather prevailing, the road crew will haul sand to use up sand budget for this year. Allie talked to Chelsea Road Foreman - Ackerman – probably no grants in Aid this year but not official yet. Wondering about taxes and the budgeted third person on the highway crew and if that should happen this year given the “new” economic stress. The Selectboard feels that no one knows what is going to happen, but the roads and maintenance will not change, and the town should not go backwards. So the consensus from the Selectboard is to move forward with the hire of Mark Fogarty full time.

Board and Lyford reviewed the Green Up Day process for Saturday. Lyford mentioned that he thought a bear had been into the trash left in the packer by a resident and he and the road crew had cleaned it up. ATV club will help with the roads and big trash pickup. Tires will be taken to Evergreen Recycling in WRJ. It was noted that the number of dumped tires seemed to be smaller this year. People are still putting trash in the packer during off hours creating a mess when animals get in the back and spread it around. The question was raised whether we could have Mike check the truck every day but no decision was made.

Vern invited Tim Lewis into the conversation, asking whether he had talked to the ANR yet. T.L. apologized and stated he had intended no damage but just wanted access to the upper portion of his land and was ready to be square with the town. Marc McKee chimed in that the ANR will have some say on the final outcome regarding fixing the damage to the Mero Road. The conversation centered on the possible remedies and what was already known – the stream crossing should be over the old abutments utilizing a bridge structure with I-beams likely. Because of the stream crossing, the ANR must issue permits and town permission is also required for all work on any Class 4 road before work begins. Stone pointed out that the town had talked to Lewis last year and when

they approved brush removal along the road they alerted him that any plan to upgrade or change the road must be approved prior to work being performed on the road. Lewis then offered to type up a plan and said he would pay for: any culverts and/or filter fabric and excavation to improve the road to a point where it could handle fire equipment passage. McKee stated there is still a lot to resolve in the meantime. At this point, both the town and Lewis are waiting on the state to contact each. Craft suggested that maybe Lewis should still begin a plan to submit to the town as he suggested earlier and Lewis agreed to submit a preliminary plan to the town by next meeting date. Lyford added that if Lewis was just looking to access the land seasonally, the state allows for private landowners to build seasonal fords and they might agree to allow him to ford the stream, not on the town road stream crossing, on his own land. He would need permission from the ANR first, though. Lewis exited the meeting at this point. Lyford suggested Craft should send statutory guidance to Lewis, and Craft agreed to send a link to the statutes to Lewis. A recent neighbor to neighbor rift on Taylor Valley Road involving wetlands and town donated fill was discussed. It was thought the ANR responds more quickly to some calls than to others.

Marc McKee reported that he had had a conversation with David Hooke about the submittal of a proposal from Timberhomes on building the town garage. Some further discussion regarding the final location of the garage building and having the M&W Soils firm come to perform the compaction study. Thrasher stated she would like to see the building be built as a collaborative effort in the town, and each participant giving the town a break on the services or even donating them to the town. She also approached Hooke and suggested Timberhomes could also give the town a break on the cost of building. Hooke said he would take that suggestion back to his partners. The Board discussed the bid process and agreed that it would be nice to hire local people as much as possible. Placement of the building was discussed again and the possibility of moving all of the existing buildings, if necessary, was also reviewed.

Thrasher asked about the status of the semi-feral dog the Animal Control Officer had been monitoring all winter on North Road and was informed the animal was now deceased (of natural causes). Board then took up the issue of haying the Sargent field and whether it should be put out to bid or not. McKee reported that a local resident/farmer had expressed interest in haying the field. McKee inquired as to whether anyone had heard or received any proposals from the Garden Committee of VerShare. It was noted that none had been received.

Last meeting the question about trash around the Bailey property on Parker Road was discussed and Craft was charged with finding out more. He called Suzette Barbour, Bailey's "agent" (cousin) and she informed that it was under control. The Lumbra property on Route 113 was also an issue of concern because of the trash and debris that accumulated in front under prior ownership. It was noted the owner had cleaned up along the road, pushing the debris out behind the house trailer, so it is out of immediate sight. The Sleath parcel on Parker Road was discussed and it was noted that there was an offer to make available a number of Green Up bags to the landowner to help with that clean up. Signage for Green Up Day was discussed and cost for trash and tire disposal included. It was agreed that a tire collection day later in the summer should be set. It was also discussed and agreed that masks would be worn and social distancing practiced as much as practical on Green Up Day and that town employees and administration must model the behavior for all. Discussion also abounded regarding the loosening of restrictions, virus protection fatigue and out-of-staters arriving back in Vermont and refusing to comply with our state of emergency orders against the coronavirus spreading. Lyford offered that Gifford Hospital in Randolph has had no hospitalizations for Covid-19.

The process for the signing of this week's warrants was discussed. Lyford reported a thank you from the company that supplied our stock of sanitizer, Treasures of the Kingdom, for the referral to the Orange County Courthouse.

McKee moved to adjourn the meeting and Thrasher seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm.