

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 11/10/20 (Approved).

In attendance via "zoom"-Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Gene Craft, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y. , Alan Lyford-HW Foreman. Guests; Eleanor Zue, Doug Stone, Ethel Pike, Ken Bushey, Tonya Gunn

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Highway Report: Lyford stated that truck #2 was back for an EGR valve repair and the crew had done the initial plowing for the winter season. Lyford has inspected the ongoing work at Mero Rd by the landowner and found that there are hemlock planks on the crossover bridges. Bushey asked if they were 6x6 boards. Lyford stated 6x4 and suggested that P. Ross from the State might want to review soon.

V. Stone asked Zue and Gunn to share why they had come. Gunn stated that she had sent a letter to the Town asking that a crosswalk with a blinking light be considered on Route 113. Stone noted that Route 113 was a state road and permission would have to be granted from VT Dept. of Trans. Gunn and Lyford asked if the Board could submit the request to the State. Zue asked what the cost to install the light might be and added that while Route 113 was getting repaved, that might be a good time. Stone state that warning signs would need to be placed certain distances before a walk-way. It was noted that Orange County Sherriff's dept may have speed notice equipment and Zue offered to look into that. Lyford stated that it would be nice to see the speed limit in the center of town lowered. Stone stated that the next step would be for the town to reach out to the state for advice and the procedure to request installing a crosswalk on Route 113. Craft added that the state may need to conduct a pedestrian survey to see if a crosswalk is warranted. D. Stone thought there might be grant funds to pedestrian and traffic devices. Craft added it would be nice if the roadway could be widened in the center area with a walking lane along Route 113. D. Stone noted that Dist #4 would be the contact source at VT Dept of Trans. Lyford added that it might be wise to contact VT Highway Safety Dept., too. The Board felt it was a topic worth pursuing. Zue noted that the section by the Church-Orr driveway across to the Town Center Building had little to no area to even stand before crossing that section of road. McKee asked Lyford about the accident count on Eagle Hollow. Lyford replied that since the guard rails were installed there have been no incidents. Lyford will research the Gov. HW safety program.

Gunn wanted to thank the Board for allowing use of the TCB for the children's clothing distribution, and for the food shelf on Fridays and the lunches from the local food truck.

Doug Stone, the Pres. of the Westshire ATV Club, came in to thank the Board for allowing use of the town class 4 roads and other side roads. He stated there were 2 items to review- the ATV trails are now required to be 64 inches wide (previously 60 inches) and when a rider is off their own property the ATV must be registered with the state, have insurance, and the rider must wear a helmet. Thrasher asked what the definition of an ATV was. D. Stone replied that they are recreational vehicles, not wider that 64 inches, and not more than 1700 lbs. He added that motorcycles are not allowed on the ATV trails. D. Stone stated that the speed limit in West Fairlee was recently increased from 15 to 25 mph and recommended that speed be allowed in Vershire as they have found the same to be more compatible/safer when they are using a road

along with passenger vehicles. He plans to update signs soon. V. Stone made a motion to update the ATV ordinance. McKee clarified that the speed be increased to 25 mph on Class 3 roads and allow 64 inch machines/trail widths. Thrasher seconded and all were in favor to allow speed on Class 3 roads to increase to 25 mph. Class 4 speed will remain at 15 MPH.

Lyford stated that a landowner requested a 50/50 gravel match. He also noted the ledge exposed on VRS Rd and that water runoff could be an issue, suggesting that blasting might be in order. He will research. Resident on McIver has expressed concerns about the header on a culvert on his property. It was stated that the policy is that the landowner pay for the culvert and the town can assist with the install so that it is to proper specs.

Discussion followed about the next steps with moving forward with getting approval from ANR for the new garage on VCR. Bushey stated that Arrow-wood Engineers needs to fill out the wetlands permit, and Krebs and Lansing to address the storm water. Bushey will contact Arrow-wood. The Board reviewed the buffer, driveway setbacks and agreed to move forward with the engineer drawings. Impact fees were also reviewed. More research and clarification seems to be in order to determine timelines. Craft, Bushey and the Board will meet at the site Saturday the 21st. Bushey noted that the application, when submitted, needs to be accompanied by a narrative, to explain the needs. He added that storm water permits have been taking 2-3 months for review/approval.

Thrasher inquired if someone was residing at the former Comstock property and were they connecting to the existing wastewater system as a trailer seems to be connected to the pole.

McKee reported a call from a resident concerned about the RISD Bus Driver when stopping along Route 113. V. Stone has viewed students waiting in various locations along. Stone suggested that the RISD Principal be invited to a meeting as the Board and the HW Crew need to know the routes before winter.

The cupola and several of the TCB exterior sides needing paint have been completed by a local painting contractor. McKee will confirm the work and once satisfied the Board will authorize Craft to issue payment.

The Board went into executive session at 8:22 pm. returning at 8:38 with a decision that no action be taken at this time. Minutes for 10/27 were approved as amended and orders were also reviewed and approved. Craft asked if Lyford could have M. Fogarty pick up the junk by the bread oven and dispose the next time he's taking the packer to Lebanon. McKee so moved and Stone seconded. All present were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.