

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 11/24/20 (Approved).

In attendance: (via zoom)Vernal Stone-Chair, Marc McKee, Sarah Thrasher, Gene Craft, Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y, Steve Atwood-HO Guests: Niko Horster, Nando Jaramillo, Ken Bushy, Joan Waltermire, Markus Bradley, Mike Gunn, Reva Seybolt

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Highway Foreman report: Lyford stated that the crew is working individually and when having to team up, spacing proper distance. Lyford spoke with the Foreman at VT Dept of Trans. Dist. #4 in reference to establishing a crosswalk and lowering the speed limit on Rte 113. Lyford was told it was quite a process and Craft shared that he too had reached out to the State and indicated that a speed limit study/car count may need to be done by TRORC.

Stone asked the other two Board members if renting the dwelling at 815 VCR might be viable for the upcoming winter months and they agreed it was an option they'd consider. Horster stated that Hernando Jaramillo, who is involved with the VT sponsored program, "Everyone Eats," resides in the yurt at Horster's Brown Rd property which will be difficult to heat in the winter. The proposal that Jaramillo be able to rent the town owned dwelling until May. Jaramillo shared the occupants that would be residing with him, two children from time to time. It was agreed that Craft will interact with Town Counsel and the Board will reconvene next Tuesday 12/1 at 7pm to discuss terms in executive session.

Waltermire stated that Bradley, from Redstart Forestry, had spoken to the Board previously about the concerns regarding the ash trees along town roads and the idea of incorporating removal of them when private logging jobs are being done in the area. Redstart is monitoring a harvest up on Mclver Rd this winter and wondered if the Town might link up with them if ash trees needed removal in the ROW. Waltermire went on to verify the process, different this year due to Covid-19, for completing a request for an article for Town Meeting to establish an EAB fund and what amount. The Board noted that they were open to structuring the 2 articles for the Town Warning: First, to establish the fund, and two, for an initial amount. Waltermire asked if the Town had any funds at present to do a trial run on Mclver. Craft asked if the trees would have some value. Waltermire stated her impression was that the trees had minimal value. Stone asked her to get more info about potential cost and return to the next regular meeting.

Bushey shared with the Board that the meeting at 815 VCR last Friday with the engineers went well and that they are moving forward with interacting with ANR. Greg Nixon from Arrow-wood Engineers will draft the letter and was looking for input from the Board to state the benefits of relocation of the present garage from the stream edge. Krebs and Lansing visited the site on Monday to get needed information to complete their submission as well. Stone made a motion to accept Krebs & Lansing proposal for the preliminary engineering and layout of the HW garage project. Thrasher seconded and all were in favor. Thrasher moved that the Board authorize Craft to sign the proposal on their behalf. McKee seconded and all were in favor.

Steve Atwood, Health Officer, thanked McKee for his follow up on the Parker Rd situation, agreeing with him that trash there was still an issue. Atwood has alerted the property owner and his employer, who had offered to assist with the clean-up, that a deadline of 12/15 must be enforced, and that the two contacts signed an agreement stating those terms. Atwood will plan on inspecting on 12/15/20 and keep the Board informed. McKee will call the neighbors to let them know about the timeframe of the agreement for the trash removal.

Gunn came in to discuss a recycling item. The Board went into executive session at 7:51pm and returned at 8:07pm with a decision that French–Stockwell be allowed a leave of absence to recover from recent health concerns, and that Flextech LLC (a local Vershire Corp.), will fill in temporarily as a paid contractor.

Markus Bradley joined the meeting as a follow up on the EAB topic, and confirmed that the value of ash trees would be offset by the loggers' costs to work around stonewalls and power lines. Craft suggested that Redstart might contact landowners to see if they want trees along the ROW removed while the logging project is being done. Bradley said he would be happy to keep the Board notified when any logging were to be done in Town. He added that his guess was that the ash trees may have 10 years before we really see signs of them dying.

Atwood commented on the recent Covid-19 Information card that was going to all Vershire residents. Laura Craft has been instrumental in featuring Eric Gilbert, who is on VF&R, in a 2 minute video to illustrate the serious impacts on an entire community. Eric recently lost two family members due to Covid-19. It remains important to remind people the situation is REAL and to take precautions. The VT cases are on the increase and people need to stay home and not gather during the holidays. Craft added we still need to flatten the curve and minimize the strain on our local health care workers.

McKee stated that he would contact Chelsea public officials about recent reports over someone lurking in areas where children were playing.

Craft stated that the Town Office would be closed during the Thanksgiving week and that the office is still closed to the public, but information may be obtained by appt. The Listers are no longer meeting as a group and will work individually on Tues, Weds and Thursdays.

Reva Seybolt stated that she had joined the meeting to get to know Vershire better.

Minutes for 11/10/20 were accepted as amended. Orders will be reviewed and approved when the Board members can access the Town Office individually. The meeting ended at 8:37pm and will reconvene 12/1 at 7pm to enter into executive session to review a real estate topic.