

Vershire Selectboard minutes for 5/11/21 approved

In attendance: Vernal Stone-Chair, Ken Bushey, Tonya Gunn, Gene Craft-Admin. Asst., Alan Lyford-HW Foreman, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y Guests: Nicole-White-Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, Ethel Pike, Aaron Hoopes, Erica Thurston-ACO, Kevin Blakeman, Marc McKee, Alex Nuti-de Biasi (JO Editor)

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Agenda Reviewed- request made to add discussion on forming a recreation committee, a town center building committee, and if the Board should resume holding their regular meetings in person. Stone added that public comments should be after the HW Foreman report.

Lyford reported that the Rte 113 paving project will start from the Chelsea end on Monday the 17th. Lyford alerted the Board as to beaver issues on Reed Rd and asked that when the professional that worked on Eagle Hollow and Beaver Meadow is back in the area to interact with Lyford and install a tube for better water flow. Sand pricing quote of \$8.75 per yard was discussed. Lyford expressed a concern with Rte 113 being under construction to enable efficient transport for next winter's sand. Lyford added that the State of VT engineer will have an office in Chelsea while the project is underway.

Lyford has gotten a quote to resurface Goose Green Rd, last paved in 2012, from Vershire Riding School Rd to Rte 113 of 100K and wants to get the town grant request in "q" to obtain some paving funds. He also got a quote for paving South Vershire Rd of \$160K from Miller Pond Rd to the Johnson homestead, and has requested quotes to pave SVR from Parker Rd down towards West Fairlee. Lyford will contact Dist 4 to see if he can coordinate the paving company to do the project on Goose Green Rd when they are paving Rte 113.

Craft informed the Board that the wetlands permit had been issued today. Discussion followed about potential funds to clean up the current garage location after a new building is constructed on Durgin. It was noted that TRORC has a five year rolling plan for restoration that might be an avenue to return the stream-bank at the current garage site back to a natural state. Discussing cleaning up the old disposal area across the stream with the neighbor was thought to be a good idea. Craft stated that the Town would not be in receipt of any funds from the "Welch earmark" grants, and that he would pursue other available options. It was noted that Broadband access seems to be the main focus for any federal funds.

Public Comments: Blakeman came in to update the Board that he was still experiencing unacceptable conditions in one of his units. Craft added that the Health Officer was setting up an appt with the State and Blakeman asked that any info be shared with him. Atwood will share his report.

McKee reported that the addition to the Bread Oven pavilion that he donated the wood for, to enable the Mountain School students to participate in the project, seems to be on "hold" at present as he's spoken to two of the staff there.

Traveling chickens and rabbit concerns were discussed with Thurston, the ACO. She stated that "livestock" is beyond her expertise and she's not seen the roving critters on a regular basis. Stone noted that pets must be kept on the owners' property. Thurston will reach out to the neighbors in the area where the critters have been reported. Thurston

added that the Town's have-a-heart trap is currently on loan to a resident trying to relocate a barn cat. She asked if anyone had viewed again the brown bull terrier that has been visiting the trash truck when people violate the no dumping after hours rules and cameras were discussed.

Employee mask rule discussed: Stone stated he felt we should stay the course through the states recommendation of July 4th. White-Fogarty noted that the schools had a recent case and had to quarantine last week. Pike and McKee added that the risk factor was still evident.

Town Center Committee proposal: Seybolt stated that she had reviewed Craft's revisions on her initial draft, but she would still like to see a member of VerShare be on the committee. Gunn asked if the Board was in a position to approve the revised format. Craft explained the bread oven policy that was passed back in 2017, and shared the reasons why the oven is locked. The topic of renting the building for a reoccurring class will have to be researched but insurance coverage would have to be provided by the business/person renting. Craft acknowledged that a committee is helpful and noted that both VerShare and the Town worked together on the playground and thought VerShare assumed the responsibility of the maintenance. McKee stated that his memory was that Norma Keplar and Joe MacPherson were instrumental in establishing the recreation field and got a grant from the federal Government. Pike added that VerShare had added special mulch some years back under the play equipment. Gunn proposed the Seybolt return in 2 weeks with the revised edited version for the basis of forming the committee and recruiting people to be on the committee. Pike stated that there used to be a designated person from VerShare, M. Mazzucco, to sit in on the Selectboard meetings but that position had been vacated. She added that VerShare is reorganizing after the last challenging 13 months and wants to continue to have a link from VerShare and the Board.

Discussion followed about the grounds at the Town Center Building. McKee noted that he and Kingsbury had chatted about having a gazebo on the front lawn area for outdoor gatherings and concerts and perhaps the granite posts should be positioned around that in the future.

ECFiber Representative discussed- Nate Thames has volunteered once again. Stone moved to approve Thames to be the Town's Rep to ECFiber. Bushey 2nd and all were in favor. Stone will sign the ECFiber member authorization form.

The Flags at the Town Center were discussed: Kingsbury offered to pick up a USA made flag at Foggs. Craft can research getting a new state flag from our legislatures. The POW flag seems OK for now. The Town Center Building entrance sign post is in need of replacement. Stone moved to authorize replacing the two flags and asking W. Parker to look at replacing the sign post. Bushey 2nd and all were in favor. Gunn asked about the picnic tables. Stone suggested organizing a group to maintain the tables as there are willing volunteers in our community. Seybolt commented that she was making a list of all these suggestions.

Bushey stated that he wanted to organize a recreational committee and see how much interest there was from volunteers. He asked for the Board's permission to let residents know of the idea and gather outside at the Town Center Building to organize /start up a

committee. Craft asked what the description of the committee's goals might be. Bushey stated to see if enough interest and gather activity requests. Stone stated that a winter skating rink would be nice and recalled that the voters had approved one at two former annual meetings. Bushey stated he could work with Seybolt and Gunn to coordinate advertising/announcing the committee and its preliminary stages. Stone encouraged Bushey to explore the use of the field and added that the diamond area is in need of upkeep. Gunn asked if there were grant funds for recreational use. Bushey stated that he would need help with that aspect and Craft noted that K. Hooke has grant writing experience.

Vershire Day/ July 3rd discussion: Stone stated that he thought it was important to move forward and have the event this year. He felt that VF&R could hold the BBQ with distancing as participants got their meals and dined outside. Craft stated that he had reached out to Ted and Linda to perform with their band as they were scheduled for 2020. VF&R will handle the fireworks. Stone stated we need to keep it simple. Gunn asked about doing pizzas to raise money for VerShare. More structuring for the event will be discussed at the next meeting. Gunn asked if the Board wanted to meet in person in June or July. Stone replied that in person meetings could resume asap, but not quite yet, as the Governor has not lifted the restrictions.

Craft recapped that the wetland permit for the highway garage was now in place. Craft and Bushey have interacted with Architect Coe about setting up a time-line and getting estimates from commercial builders. Discussion about when to share the site design, building design, and all other relevant information to be posted on the town website was reviewed. It was agreed that the building site at 815 VCR needs to be staked prior to a town info meeting. The idea of having voters view the existing garage to understand the need was encouraged. The previous two Board meeting minutes were approved as amended and the orders were approved. The Board members will go into the town office to individually sign.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.