

Vershire Selectboard minutes from 8/3/21 approved

In attendance: Vernal Stone-Chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Alan Lyford, HW Foreman, Gene Craft-Admin Asst, Debra Kingsbury-Sec'y Guests: Nick Bennett and Reva Seybolt both from the TCBC, Alex from the JO stopped in briefly via Zoom.

Vernal Stone called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The Board reviewed the agenda. Bushey asked that discussion about Law Enforcement be added. General Comments: Craft shared the updated CDC and VT guidelines about wearing masks in crowded spaces as there is no way to determine who is, and who is not, vaccinated and that the cases of the Delta variant of Covid-19 appear on the rise. It was agreed that all people entering a Vershire town building would be required to wear a mask when in the buildings.

Highway Foreman report: Lyford stated that the deep ditching appears to be working well after the recent heavy rains as the roads are holding up nicely. He is interacting once again with the Better Back Roads program with anticipation of doing some culvert repairs on VCR. Lyford will set up an appt to get the project areas viewed prior to any work. He added that a section on Brown Road is on the schedule prior to schools opening, and will close that section during the project. Further discussion about the approximate remaining \$22k- grant funding for road improvement needs to be used prior to fall. Paving of Goose Green and the repaired area on Brown Rd will be fine-tuned as to dates when Rte 113 is paved. Seybolt asked about the TCB parking area pavement. Lyford will try to get a quote for when the paving contractor is in the area to keep the cost down. Discussion followed about the drainage area at the TCB where the trees were removed last year. Lyford said that the HW mower is being repaired and may be available in about two weeks to mow that area and then make a plan to complete the clean-up there. Lyford indicated that a small excavator may be best suited to improve the drainage there and make a swale to direct runoff. Seybolt pointed out the flat memorial stones that need to be relocated in that area.

Future HW Garage updates: Bushey asked if the Board wanted to get estimates for the project or wait until material costs level out. Lyford stated that the driveway access could be marked, staying 50 feet from the natural barrier. Stone stated that he's working on a plan for relocating the perennials there. Craft added that the Board should finalize the layout of the building and verify the insulation aspects for the structure prior to getting quotes.

Minutes for 7/20/21 were approved as amended. Warrants were reviewed and approved. The required state fees for the HW ditching projects will be paid with these warrants. Craft informed the Board that the Cemetery Trustees had recently sold 11 lots and that those funds had been sent to their existing Fidelity account.

Allen's Affordables COAL: The Board visited the site on 7/28. Discussion followed that there had been recent activity at the site and often equipment in both the ROW and on Rte 113. Stone and Craft noted that the owner appears to be making a better access to enable the crushing/loading process to be off the main road. The Permit stipulates that all activity is to be inside the fenced/gated area. Craft stated that he reviewed the permit conditions. Items to be clarified: documentation for the already removed 200 cars from last year--meet with the Board every 60 days to review inventory that has been removed

and what has come onto the property—attend the training offered by the State for proper management of junkyards—number of total vehicles on site not to exceed 500- It was noted that vehicles are encroaching upon adjacent owners properties. Craft will revise the stipulations for the COAL to be authorized and sent to the Board for review prior to the next meeting on 8/17. The topic was tabled until such time.

Fire Warden Appointment: Stone nominated Steve Warden to be appointed as Fire Warden until 2026. White-Fogarty seconded and all were in favor. The required State form was signed.

Law Enforcement: recent concerns about incidents on Chamberlain Hill , Parker Road and other areas of town were discussed and the availability of law agencies to respond in a timely manner. Craft and/or a Board member will reach out to The Royalton VSP Barracks, Orange County Police, and the Thetford Police depts. for information. (Stone will contact Thetford- Craft will contact Royalton- a PC member might reach out to Orange County)

Town Center Building Committee update: Seybolt reported that the lower level storage unit renovations had been completed and the area to accommodate the food shelf, too. She asked if the Board wanted D. Hooke to design an addition to the Bread Oven Pavilion and asked that dimensions and needs for locked storage be reviewed. Seybolt noted that an area for BBQ equipment, picnic table storage could be applicable for other times of the year and that perhaps storage behind the existing structure be extended and closed in. Stone suggested that D. Hooke come to the next meeting and perhaps meet at the site to explain his expansion design. Craft added that it would be nice to have a covered pavilion next to the playground. It was noted that past restrictions were placed on the recreation field use in conjunction with the grants received to establish it. Seybolt noted that the backstop needs correction. Seybolt asked about the Bread Oven Policy and Craft shared that it had been in place since 2017 and will share with the TCBC. He added that last year VerShare did a Sunday Pizza event to raise funds and that the “pizza makers” had been trained. Bushey asked if others could be trained and Craft encouraged Bushey to put a plan in place.

Recreational Committee events: Bushey announced that the group had made arrangements for Smokey D’s BBQ food truck to be at the Town Center Building Thursday 9/12 and 9/19 from 5-8 for dining at the picnic tables or take-out. Corn hole and other games will be on site. Another food truck vendor is scheduled for 10/7 and they are trying to get the renowned Gelato vendor as well. The members of the Rec. Committee are: Ken Bushey, Jenna Ditchcos, Karen Ward, Holly Sarazin, Aaron Hoopes, and John Jeinnings. Stone moved to accept the named members to the Rec. Committee. White-Fogarty seconded and the members were approved. The committee is hoping to organize soccer games for 8/21 and 8/28.

Bennett asked about the TCB budget/funds. Craft explained they were itemized in the general Fund ledger at approximately \$14K per year to maintain the building and equipment. (Painting of the building is usually dealt with as a separate item) Stone asked what items need to be addressed at the TCB. Craft stated that a winter maintenance person was needed for shoveling.

TCB Hall rental: A resident inquired about allowing a timber framing orientation group of 14 students and 3 teachers to use the building for tenting/camping, and using the kitchen and lavatories, plus sleeping inside if the weather was rainy on 8/23 and 8/24. Discussion followed that the building, especially the kitchen and baths were not designed for that use, unless in an emergency situation. The resident that made the inquiry will be referred to a local VRBO that offers overnight accommodations/packages for groups.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52pm.