

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021: Town Center Building & via Zoom

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Ken Bushey, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-secretary; Guests: Ethel Pike, Reva Seybolt, Bill Baylis, Debra Kingsbury, Allen LaFlamme; Absent: Nicole White-Fogarty.

Call to order: 7:05pm.

Additions to the agenda: Vershire Fall festival

Highway Report: The SB is continuing to discuss the creation of a policy for highway/driveway access permits for landowners who need/want to work within the ROW for services such as power lines and water either along or under town roads. The SB wishes to set up a process that will provide an application, grant permission, issue the permit, and record the permit. The process will need to work for the highway department. A. Lyford will review feasibility for Vershire.

Fall Festival: E. Pike provided an update on Vershare's plans for a fall festival on the weekend of October 9th. The group welcomes the help of the Recreation Committee and many fun activities and demonstrations are planned for the weekend, including the return of the Stone Soup tradition. The event is now penciled into the town calendar and planners have permission to utilize the town center facilities. They will be sure to avoid any setup during the regular food shelf hours of 10-12 on Friday. E. Pike will go back to the Vershare board to ask if a rain date will be considered.

Highway Garage Report: K. Bushey reported on his follow-up discussions since the 8/31 meeting on the energy efficiencies designed into the garage. The drawings at this point either meet or exceed code for efficiency. The building itself is not complicated but, because it is a garage, doors will be opened regularly during the cold season. It is solar ready but panels would need to be placed in the field and not the roof if incentives allow. K. Bushy will meet with the architect from Coe & Coe in October to review plans, as well as investigate having a review done by Efficiency Vermont for insulation factors, incentives, and recommendations. There was a concluding discussion about the feasibility of hosting an open house this fall to provide updates to the community. G. Craft mentioned the possibility of consulting with a professional cost estimator like Tom Bardon who might be helpful when considering building efficiency and code review.

Approval of Minutes & Current Period Warrants: V. Stone moved to approve the August 31 minutes as amended, and K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants as presented. K Bushy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COAL (certificate of approved location): The SB discussed the draft of the COAL with A. LaFlamme. The SB wants to make sure the final version of the certificate is an agreement that is

designed for success for the business and for the town. Key issues discussed were: the appropriate # of cars on the lot at any one time, the ongoing timeline to cull and sell vehicles from the site, and the development of a staging area inside the fence to avoid any work taking place outside the fence on VT113. Progress has been made but more needs to occur before the COAL is finalized. Outstanding concerns also include the number of vehicles on the lot, maintaining good clearance when the plows need access to VT113 during the winter, and having adequate access to the lot for emergency vehicles in case of a fire or accident. The board discussed adjourning this meeting at its close to a date certain, September 15, 2021, at the Vershire Town office in order to finalize/approve the COAL.

Planning Commission: B. Baylis, chair, conveyed the intention of the PC to provide the SB with a list of its recommendations concerning noise and trash violations. The main sticking point is identifying the power of enforcement and who is responsible for same. Taxpayers in the town need to know their concerns are being heard and acted upon. The SB currently has authority to act only when there are clear health violations. The town development document might need to be amended on these particular points, noting clear enforcement strategies to follow in the future. If the town's development document were to be amended, this would require a special town meeting. The SB will ask the PC for direction in the form of a drafted amendment that spells out an enforcement strategy for the town.

Energy Committee: There was a follow-up discussion about the EC's request earlier this month to link a website they wish to create to the town's website. Legal advice and recommendations from Vermont cities and towns are that the town should develop a media policy and needs to think very carefully about how to monitor the information or links that might be connected to the town website. There are legal concerns with linking town websites to private websites or Facebook pages.

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported on the recent, successful 'food truck' event at the Town Center. He noted also that a date has been established to host pizza oven training with a limit set at between 5-6 interested persons. The RC also established a meeting schedule for the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at the TC building.

Town Center Committee: R. Seybolt reported that the committee was discussing reviving town potlucks but with the need to work within the constraints of Covid safety protocols. To make a potluck work, a tent would need to be set up. There might be a good reason to instead focus on the fall festival for the time being because the season is changing quickly. There was helpful discussion about the missions of each of the Recreation & Town Center committees and how their efforts might best compliment each other. The recommendations are that both committees continue to communicate with each other, that they each continue to plan events, however, the RC will focus on outside events while the TCC focuses on classes or educational events. Committee chairs were informed about how to purchase cleaning or other supplies (a mop). These purchases can be made either using the town account or applying for reimbursement after the fact. The first option is the easiest and preferable. The TCC will meet the 3rd Monday of each month and will provide G. Craft with an agenda at least 3-days prior. There was some

concluding discussion about building security and taking care when closing doors and locking up the TC after use.

Propane Pricing: Irving has agreed to lock in a price at a favorable rate for the town at \$1.68/gal. V. Stone made a motion to accept the bid from Irving for the town's propane needs. K. Bushy seconded. The motion passed unanimously. V. Stone made a motion to grant G. Craft permission to agree to the locked-in price from Irving. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Durgin Hill property: A draft advertisement has been created for the purposes of marketing the town property on Durgin Hill. An initial deadline for sealed bids will be set for Sept. 28, but can be extended as needed. V. Stone made a motion to advertise the property as recommended. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The advertisement will be placed in the R. Herald, the J.O, and on the Listserv.

Executive Session: None required.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting to September 15, 2021 at 5:30pm. K. Bushy seconded. The motion passed unanimously. This portion of the meeting ended at 9:50pm

Meeting was reconvened on September 15, 2021, at 5:32pm. V. Stone, K. Bushey, G. Craft and Allen Laflamme were in attendance. THE COAL conditions were reviewed and V. Stone moved that the final COAL be accepted. This was seconded by K. Bushey, then passed unanimously by voice vote. The COAL was signed by the parties present. V. Stone moved to adjourn and K. Bushey seconded, all in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.