

Town of Vershire Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7pm
Town Center Building and via Zoom

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Gene Craft clerk/treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Alan Lyford-highway foreman; Guests: Ethel Pike and David Hooke.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Additions to the agenda: Port-o-let for fall festival & bread oven pavilion addition.

Highway/Road report: A. Lyford met with Patrick Ross from the State of Vermont about replacing/repairing the guardrails on South Vershire Road. A stream permit will be needed for this work. Price estimates for materials are also needed. Eagle Hollow road has been graded but drivers continue to go too fast on this road. There are some springtime drainage issues outstanding on Parker road. Another issue of concern is that the price on the repairs to the John Deere backhoe has come in larger than expected. A. Lyford is working hard to get the company to honor the original price quote.

The good news is that the baffle in the beaver pond dam on Beaver Meadow Road is working as designed but the critters are smart and they simply move operations to another location. The culvert under the road leading to Beaver Meadow pond is now a problem as is the old pond on Eagle Hollow road, where they are cutting Poplar trees that could be a hazard if they fall into the road. A. Lyford is also trying to get an estimate for paving the TCB lot, but contractors are overbooked and he is not receiving call backs. If the original contractor cannot promise to get to the work in the spring, A. Lyford will look for an alternative. The grant to fund the repaving of Goose Green is good for two years.

Highway Garage Updates: K. Bushey has emailed and will set a date to meet with the garage architect, who prefers the end of October. This meeting will be an opportunity to present questions coming from the Energy Committee. Tom Bardon will be invited to participate and discuss energy codes and cost estimates. A. Lyford asked the SB if it wants someone to mow town property on Durgin Hill. He has already mowed the lower section near the recycling center. The SB agreed that mowing is needed for the purpose of being able to show the land to prospective buyers.

Approval of Last Meeting Draft Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the minutes of September 14 as amended. K. Bushy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bread oven pavilion/addition concept: : David Hooke spent some time considering the bread oven pavilion expansion suggested by the SB. He also shared an alternative concept for review. The main goals the SB hopes to achieve with an addition to the recreation facilities are: sun

shade or rain cover for those cooking the food for events and for use in the field area. Storage of recreational equipment and replacing the existing shed is also a pressing need. Keeping the picnic tables under cover would extend their life as well.

Original concept: add to the pizza oven structure to provide rain or sun cover during town events, including Vershire Day, and create additional space for cooking and pizza making under shelter. Some storage would also be part of this concept, but proximity to the river and snow removal needs might impede much expansion. Firewood would also need to take up storage space. Perhaps 1-2 tables might fit under cover at this location. A pad with a tent could provide additional rain/sun cover on an as needed basis. D. Hooke noted that the pitch of the extended roof would need to be low as per current design.

Alternative concept: build a pavilion on a concrete pad out in the field, which could be big enough to cover the picnic tables, provide shade or rain cover, and better conform to the look of the TCB. It would not encroach on the septic drainfield or any other TCB services. New storage space could still be created near the bread oven and tents could be used for rain cover or sun shade in that area. Additionally, keeping that space relatively open would be good for snow removal. Some concerns were raised about higher costs for this project vs. the original concept. D. Hooke is convinced that if the SB wants to go this route, it could be accomplished with donations, community effort and support, and that he would work to get it done in a timely manner to serve the recreation needs of the community. All agreed that more discussion is needed before proceeding.

Port-o-let: E. Pike on behalf of Vershire requested permission to rent a portable toilet for the fall festival. They are in much demand right now because of all the construction going on in the area. Renting for a month would cover both the upcoming food truck event and the fall festival. Having a portable option would reduce pressure on kitchen volunteers and allay concerns about social distancing/Covid. Food will be served outside and volunteers will rely on disposable dishware. Ideally, compostable dishware can be sourced and then the waste stream would combine dishware and food in one load. Tents will be used at this event and no rain date is planned.

Marketing town land on Durgin hill: G. Craft will run the advertisement for town land on Durgin Hill again with a new due date at the end of October. He will send it to more media outlets this time and will discuss the details with the Listers on Thursday.

Policing in Vershire: If Vershire wanted to engage in a contract for policing right now, it would be difficult to do because police barracks everywhere are shorthanded and are not taking on any new contracts this year. Drawbacks to contracts held in the past include: limited hours of officer response/availability (not after 9pm) and the narrow scope of police presence in Vershire (largely stationed on VT113). The SB will explore exactly what the Orange County sheriff could provide for Vershire by way of contracted services and then put the topic into a warrant and allow members of the town to discuss the needs for policing at the next town meeting. V. Stone

will invite the Orange county sheriff to the next SB meeting. For now, residents can call the VT state police if needed at any time or day of the week.

Recreation/Town Center Building Reports: K. Bushey has set a date and time for bread oven training. He will confer with G. Craft about supplies needed The TCB outdoor water spigot failed and was replaced.

Action Items/Assignments: The SB intends to check in with A. LaFlamme for a progress report now that the COAL has been finalized.

Executive session: V. Stone moved that the SB go into executive session at 8:53pm, Ken Bushey seconded and all were in favor. At 9:23pm the executive session ended. The SB noted it will invite recycling center staff to attend its next meeting.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn at 9:25pm. K. Bushey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.