

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7:00pm, the Town Center Building & via Zoom

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mark Fogarty, Debra Kingsbury, Reva Seybolt, and David Hooke.

Call to Order: 7:06pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: added topics are MLS listing for town land on Durgin Hill, questions about SB follow-up since the meeting with representatives from OCSD, and a request for permission to extend the Cross-Rivendell trail from Flagpole hill to a designated parking spot on McGiver road.

Public & Staff Comments:none.

Highway/ Road Report: none.

Approval of Last Meeting Draft Minutes: V. Stone moved to accept the minutes of November 9, 2021 as amended. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Property on Durgin Hill: D. Kingsbury offered to facilitate listing the land parcel on MLS via Four Seasons Sotheby's office in Fairlee. She explained how the listing would be sent to all agents in VT. and NH. She would field inquiries about the property and the commission would be the only fee and would be split between the listing agent and the buyer's agent once the property is sold. A more detailed property description, photographs, and perhaps a 911 # could be put on the listing, which would run for 6 months. The SB agreed that it would be better to list the property early in the new year.

Salvage Yard Update: G. Craft reported that a crusher from southern VT. is willing to come to Vershire and remove cars into December or as long as the weather holds. The SB agreed additional removals would help open up the grounds at the site.

Questions about SB follow up since meeting with OCSD: Members of the SB will collate their answers to the questions asked by a Vershire resident and will also reiterate that following up with OCSD will be on the warning for town meeting in 2022.

Cross-Rivendell Trail extension: D. Hooke reported that the CRTA wished to extend the trail west from Flagpole hill to McGiver road. It would enter the road about ½ mile south of the town truck turnaround. From there, hikers would walk on the road until they reached a parking turnout on the road. The purpose of CRTA's request to the town is to get permission for hikers to utilize a section of McGiver and to get permission to park in a turnout where the Class 3 turns into a Class 4 road. V. Stone asked D. Hooke several questions including: what is the town's responsibility for the McGiver road section of the trail extension; is it possible to share a parking turnout that already exists for ATVs; would CRTA signage at the parking site be erected; and would the turnout be plowed in the winter. D. Hooke will follow up with these questions, as well as request support from the Recreation Committee for the CR trail extension. K. Bushey moved

to notify CRTA that the town will allow access to McGiver road Class 4 section from the truck turnaround to Kruse corner. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old/Unfinished Business-Committee Reports:

Energy Committee: D. Hooke reported that the committee has received one proposal so far for the purpose of conducting an energy audit on the new town garage, the TCB, and the town offices. He noted also that Efficiency VT would do this free of charge. He indicated that making energy and infrastructure upgrades decisions now would coincide with federal support for these kinds of improvements that will be made available to towns and cities across Vermont. Planning ahead would be advantageous because contractors will be in high demand as similar upgrades are planned throughout the state. D. Hooke will arrange to have Efficiency VT do a walk through of town buildings and bring back a proposal for recommended energy upgrades for the SB to consider. He also will develop a detailed plan for hosting a town energy fair in 2022.

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that the basic infrastructure for the ice rink has been put together and that it will cost approximately \$329 to finish the project. The town received an anonymous donation today of \$500 for lights at the new ice rink. There was some discussion on the best strategy for filling the rink, as well as what additional supplies are needed for completion. V. Stone moved that K. Bushey work with G. Craft to purchase the supplies necessary for finishing the town ice rink project. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Donations appreciated: K. Bushy expressed interest in planning an 'open house' event in mid-January to formally welcome Vershire residents to use the new ice rink. He will seek out donations of skates, milk crates, and walkers for beginner skaters.

Town Center Committee: R. Seybolt on behalf of the TCC is interested in establishing a best practices process by which the TCC communicates with residents (to find out what they want the committee to accomplish); for communicating with the SB and other town committee members; and for making budget plans and requests that are related to TCC proposals. The basic concern is to avoid mis-communication, which is always a challenge with group emails. The SB agreed that surveying residents for their input about TCC activities is important and it requests that the committee take a varied approach for the purposes of reaching the most people. This could include but is not limited to: posting on the listserv, posting paper notices, and sending G. Craft notices to include in the town newsletters.

Executive Session: 9:26pm-9:58pm: The conclusion from the executive session is to run an advertisement for the recycling center position and reconvene a discussion of applications at the next SB meeting on December 7, 2021.

Action Items/Assignments:

Budget Meetings in December: G. Craft proposed holding budget meetings on the 14th and the 28th of December. V. Stone moved to set the budget meetings for December 14 and 28, 2021. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 10:02pm N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:02pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.