

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00pm at Vershire Town Center building.

There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Ken Bushey, Nicole White-Fogarty, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Erica Thurston, Mark Fogarty, Doug Stone, Debra Kingsbury, Eleanor Zue, Kelly Bushey, Pat Barnes, and Peter Logan.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: N. White-Fogarty requested adding Green up day.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford reported that they are still hauling gravel and noted that costs for the amount of gravel and trucks hired to haul it has exceeded budget expectations because of the challenging mud season. He has spoken to other road foremen and they agree it is possible to get extra funds this year to help defray the added costs to the towns. The grant application to cover road paving is due on Friday, but it's likely Vershire will not qualify this year as the town received a grant last year. It's important to get on the list for the next round as the funding is distributed on a rotation system. Planning for SVR is still unclear until the mine clean-up project timetable is better known. If there is a delay, the crew might try to do some work on the road this summer but they hesitate to put too many resources into a road that will get damaged or altered by mine clean-up work. Truck Report: No news to report.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the minutes of 3/29/22 as presented. V. Stone 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.

Green up Day: Kelly Bushey and E. Zue, co-coordinators for Green-up day on Saturday, May 7th, reported on the planning effort. They have informational posters to put up and will leave bags at the Recycling Center center so residents can pick them up there in addition to calling the coordinators for bags. On the Monday after Green Up day, A. Lyford will go through town and pick up any stray bags that have not already been collected. There will be a scrap metal dumpster at the recycling site as well. K. Bushey

suggested using tire collection as a potential fundraiser for the recreation committee. Tires have different disposal costs related to their size. More information will be coming and posted on the listserv. The SB will ask recycle center staff to stay an extra hour on May 7th so that the site can be open from 7am-1pm.

Westshire ATV Club: D. Stone noted that the club will help on Green up day in the area of Eagle Hollow Rd and the loop around Miller Pond. They could do other areas as well such as Ayers road depending on how many club members volunteer to help. The club's first meeting is scheduled for 4/13/22. He asked about the update to the town ATV ordinance. G. Craft noted it is now in effect. The club also wants permission to bring equipment (backhoe, excavator, dozer, etc) to help smooth out some sections of roads they ride on to include McIver, Taylor Valley, Reed, and Moody Hill Swamp roads. G. Craft asked if the club would be willing to share the contact information of ATV licensed members who would be willing to help out in an emergency. Fairlee has asked the club about this too and the topic will be on the agenda for their first meeting. Action: V. Stone moved to allow the Westshire ATV club to bring road improvement equipment onto McGiver, Taylor Valley, Reed, and Moody Hill Swamp roads for the purpose of making repairs. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control Officer Check-in: Erica Thurston-ACO reported that warmer weather has meant more people and their pets are outside. She wants to remind people about the annual licensing rule noting that the tough mud season might have slowed compliance. Annual license renewals were due April 1 and reminder notices have been sent out urging all dog owners to license their pet by May 1.

Combining Town Center and Recreation Committees: There is interest in combing these committees. The mission statement would need to be adjusted. Once this is done, the SB will be able to take action on the merger.

Town Garage Update: A mechanical engineer, Jeremiah Trombly of Tru-Engineering, has been hired to design a heating and ventilation system for the town garage (see minutes from 3/29/22 SB meeting). The public informational meeting scheduled for April 9th was moved to April 23rd in order to accommodate the architect who had illness in his family. Ideally, the engineer might also make a presentation on his design work at this meeting in addition to the planned presentation by the building's architect. G. Craft noted that the time table is getting tight for a bond vote and urged the SB to anticipate as many questions up front as possible if they hope to stay on track to meet the town meeting schedule. There are still many decisions to work through with respect to the type and costs of heating/ventilation system the town chooses, but the town also is bumping up against a real need for a new facility due to the unsatisfactory

conditions at the existing site. All agreed that further discussions will be more productive once the engineer's design drawings have been submitted.

Lonna Lalonde – Ayers Road: No report.

Vershire Day: VerShare has requested permission to use the pizza oven as a fundraiser for the food shelf on Vershire Day. Action: K. Bushey moved to allow Vershare to use the pizza oven on Vershire day from 7-9pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Social Media Policy: No report.

Window Dressers in November: No report.

Committee Reports:

Town Center Building Committee: No report.

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that an Easter egg hunt is scheduled at the TC on Saturday 16th with 2 different age groups participating. There will be egg coloring and an Easter Bunny as well. The event begins at 10am.

Energy Committee: No report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Sign Bond Counsel Contract Letter: Bond Counsel attorney in St. Johnsbury, Elijah Emerson, sent an engagement letter to the Selectboard, which will engage his firm to take Vershire through the steps to conduct a legal bond vote with the town. The first step is to engage the attorney. The second step is to draft a resolution and follow the proper legal steps to conduct a bond vote. The bond bank requires that the town hire bond counsel. Action: V. Stone moved to accept the contract letter from bond counsel Elijah Emmerson of St. Johnsbury. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Set Final Budgets: Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the warning for the Town Meeting and the budget for 2022-23. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive session:None required

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.