

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 21, 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, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Reva Seybolt, David Hooke, James Coe, Mark Fogarty, Peter Logan, Mark Fogarty, Steve Atwood-health officer, and Michael Tarrant-town legal counsel.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Request to rearrange order to accommodate presenter, James Coe of Coe and Coe Architects.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report/Truck Update: None at this time.

James Coe-Town Garage Next Steps: J. Coe provided an overview of the process the SB will follow to advertise for bids on the new town garage. Key steps include gathering all the necessary documents, applying for a building permit, fine tuning the forms/contracts that the town will use in the bidding process, and developing a strategy for administering the process overall. Strategies for gathering a good number of viable bids was discussed. J. Coe indicated that given the current challenges facing the construction industry, Vershire could adopt one of three approaches to bidding on this project: 1) a traditional design/bid/build or hard bid model; 2) a construction-management model, which can have financial benefits if the town takes on some risk for rising materials costs; or 3) a “cost plus” option, which carries a cost plus a fee but with a guaranteed maximum price. J. Coe will advise the SB members on best practices and options they can use to make appropriate decisions about finalizing the contract documents prior to July 13 when the bidding process can be advertised.

On the garage design, D. Hooke wanted to make sure J. Trombley takes another look at right-sizing the relationship between the number of modines and the number of heat pumps both to ensure maximum efficiency of the system and for cost savings. D. Hooke also spoke to TRORC and learned that Woodstock is adopting a similar hybrid strategy to heat their new emergency facility. He noted that a tour could be arranged for any members of the SB who might want to visit the site.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: The SB will defer approval of June 7th minutes due to email delays caused by the migration to a new server. G. Craft will post the draft version until they can be approved at the next SB meeting.

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

Executive Session: V. Stone moved to enter executive session due to the finding that “premature general knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, or other public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage” 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1); and to discuss with the town’s legal counsel, Michael Tarrant, Esq., “confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body.” 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. V. Stone moved to exit the executive session. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There were no decisions or findings made at this time.

Village Center Designation Update: The Planning Commission will send a letter to the SB requesting its support for their interest in moving forward in the process of applying for a village center designation. The SB agrees that such an application is in the town's best interest and will write its own letter of support to TRORC asking for their assistance with the process. There are over 250 towns and municipalities in Vermont that possess this designation and having it opens up numerous grant possibilities for funding town-approved projects. This process **should not** be confused with an application for historical designation, which can restrict and impact local building codes. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize V. Stone to sign the Village Center Designation Letter to TRORC. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway Standard: There is an annual certification process and letter that declares Vershire meets state standards for its roads and bridges. The highway foreman works with Rita Seto from TRORC to verify that standards are met. **Action:** V. Stone moved that the SB sign the letter. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

LaFlamme Salvage Yard Update: G. Craft summarized a check-in conversation he had recently with A. LaFlamme. The SB is welcome to make a return visit in July to check on progress with keeping cars inside the fence and off of VT113.

Vershire Day – Review schedule: The SB reviewed the Vershire day preparations to date and all are in order. The parade permit is in place, the fireworks ordered, and the performers are booked. V. Stone and A. Lyford will arrange the detour signs and volunteers needed for the parade route. He noted that the parade time must stay on schedule once a time is picked in order to coordinate with road blocking. As coordinator, L. Craft will take responsibility for final locking up of the TCB is locked at the end of the day's events.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Social Media Policy (postponed)

Committee Reports:

TCB Committee: The committee has settled on a date for a community potluck on Saturday, August 6th from 4-7pm and have made arrangements for use of the tent. The committee requests that potluck dishes be combined with a pizza night and that this event could also serve as a training opportunity for some new volunteers who want to be trained in how to operate the pizza oven. G. Craft is willing to help with the training. The plan is to set up the food in the lower level of the TCB and that people will eat out under the tent, which will still be set up from Vershire community camp that has just ended. The committee also hopes the potluck will serve as a welcoming event to people new to the community. **Action:** V. Stone moved to approve the use of the TCB for a community potluck and also the use of the pizza oven on August 6, 2022. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee also requests permission to set up a table during Vershire Day for the purpose of talking to community members about committee activities and plans. R. Seybolt will get in touch with L. Craft, Vershire day coordinator, to make arrangements. The committee will also continue

working on whatever aspects of the process they can help facilitate with respect to creating a village center designation.

Recreation Committee: The members are planning a movie night coming on July 13th to be projected outside on the back of the TCB. They are gathering resources needed and will also plan for some food (hot dogs) and outside activities for kids before dark and movie projection starts. The PC will have its next meeting that evening, but their work should be finished by 9pm when the movie is likely to begin.

Energy Committee: No report. The EC plans to hold an energy fair during Vershire Day and they are negotiating an appropriate location for any EVs and other displays they hope to have on site.

Action Items/Assignments:

Grants in Aid Letter: No action taken at this time.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at:9:36pm. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.