

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 5, 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, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Ed Hathaway, John Scheltzer, Earl Robinson, Taylor Parker, Doug Stone, Kim Caldwell, and Mark Fogarty.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Added ATV and Snowmobile club representatives and road repair question.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford is trying to schedule some town road repair to coincide with paving work planned for VT113. This could include aprons in select locations and parking lot paving for the TCB and the town office. He hopes to hear back next week with an estimate for the job. The working assumption is that if the state road work crew is already in the vicinity, Vershire might be able to benefit from scheduling its own repairs around the same time frame. It could be August before the 113 paving operation begins.

US EPA Cleanup of Ely Copper Mine site: Ed Hathaway, with the EPA, presented on the agency's plans for cleaning up the Ely mine site. They currently are in the early stages of creating a cleanup plan for Corinth, and are close to wrapping up the cleanup operation in Strafford. He used a slide presentation to illustrate the four stages of the cleanup process: 1. Includes waste piles and associated water and soil contamination; 2. Includes underground workings and openings on the south side; 3. Includes underground workings on the north side; and 4. Includes smelter/slag area and any contamination found in Schoolhouse Brook or in the ground water on Ely Mine Forest Inc. property.

The public comment period has ended and the funding is available to implement phases 1-3. The process of subcontracting this work can take about one year, however, the state will proceed to contract out for the "pre-disturbance" archeological work with the goal of beginning this process in the spring of 2023. After this work is complete, the construction phase can begin and should span two construction seasons at a minimum. Once all the waste piles have been excavated, they will be contained in a landfill cap to safely contain the waste. The surface of this containment area will be maintained as a grassy area. The state's role is to maintain what is constructed in perpetuity. The EPA will work closely with the town on the timing of replacing the box culvert on Schoolhouse brook and will do any road repairs necessary if roads are damaged. The agency has worked with the landowner to reduce truck traffic by getting permission to excavate some of the soil needed on site. The final processes of erosion control and stabilizing the site could take up to two years beyond the construction phase.

EPA representative Hathaway made it clear that his top priority is to work closely with the SB and accommodate the needs of the town. He notes that although there are limits to what he can require of contractors, his effort to work closely with the town will include, but is not limited to, regular, clear communications, site tours when requested, cooperating with Vershire's highway crew, and establishing a traffic control plan for school buses. Once there is more to talk about with respect to any work starting at the site, he is happy to participate in a public meeting for residents to ask questions. He can also help facilitate negotiations with the landowner for what type of public uses the site might be open to--interpretive panels, trails or other--after all the work is finished. He noted that all interested parties will need to begin discussing the

post-cleanup uses and that the SB might want to consider visiting with those involved in the Strafford solar array project (for example) to learn more about the process they followed to plan for after cleanup site use.

ATV & Snow Travelers Club Representatives: Taylor Parker, representing the Upper Valley Snow Packers club and Doug Stone, representing the Westshire ATV club are applying for funds from VAST and VASA respectively to help their clubs fix a section of the town class 4 road #21. In particular, they are focused on a section of this road (about 940 feet long) between Taylor Valley road and McGiver road that is impassable for most all machines, even with efforts to repair it over the years. The two clubs request the SB's permission to ditch one side of the road, fill the holes with rock, and to create a more passable, one-lane throughway. A. Lyford noted that the Vershire road crew tries to work on some class four road sections each year. SB members also recognize that having town roads be minimally passable not only expands access to other users, but creates passability for emergency vehicles in case of a fire or other emergency. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to allow the two clubs noted above to do some repair work on the town class four road #21. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the minutes of 6/7/22 and 6/21/22 as written. 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.

The SB engaged in a brief discussion that considered updates to the 'new driveway' permitting process. The discussion was postponed until more information is gathered and a revised permit draft is written for all to review.

Old/Unfinished Business: None at this time.

Committee Reports:

TCB Committee: No report.

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that a movie night is planned for next week.

Energy Committee: No report.

Action Items/Assignments:

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at: 9:12 pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.