

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 2, 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, Sande French Stockwell-development administrator, Debra Kingsbury-lister, Gregory Wilson-chair, planning commission, Reva Seybolt, Paul Llovett, and Earl Robinson.

Call to Order: V. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Requests to add Village Designation proposal, recording of SB Meetings question, Buddhists's work on Eastman Cross road, and salvage yard update to the agenda.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: No report.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the minutes of July 19, 2022 as written. 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.

Garage Update: K. Bushey noted some feedback from the town attorney regarding the two different bid types: a fixed price or a cost-plus option. The SB members discussed the pros and cons of each with the understanding that predicting the market (materials costs) right now is very challenging. G. Craft asked if scheduling a meeting with M. Tarrant and J. Coe would help clarify the options before a decision is made. The plan is for the bid to go public on August 9, 2022. One follow up that could inform the SB is to compare the existing 'cost-to-build' estimate with a more current pricing estimate of the materials list. **Action:** K. Bushey moved to proceed with the cost-plus contract that is being created by James Coe to be made public on August 9, 2022. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control Officer Check-in: None at this time. Erika Thurston requests that residents who need to contact the ACO use either the pager # or the ACO email listed on the town website.

Recording meetings on Zoom: Because Vermont has returned to pre-covid rules for open meetings, the SB wants to know if recording them is still required. G. Craft will find out and a decision on the matter will be tabled until the next meeting.

Village designation proposal: The Planning Commission would like to propose that the village district extend from the post office location to the property located across from the entrance to Durgin Hill road. D. Kingsbury sent a summary of her mapping research and draft of the proposal to the Selectboard for their review in advance of the meeting with Richard Amore (Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development) tomorrow. He will advise on

next steps toward achieving a village designation for Vershire. **Action:** V. Stone moved to support the village designation boundaries as proposed. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Buddhist work on Eastman Cross Road: The residents at the monastery undertook some culvert repair work on Eastman Cross road. The problem is that they did not notify the town, nor did they seek the appropriate permits that are especially important when working in or near a stream bed. The SB notified the appropriate state representative who will visit the site and advise the town on what, if any, mitigation steps might be needed. The town officials met with a monastery representative to explain the state mandated process that needs to be followed when working on town roads.

Taylor Valley Update: A notice of violation was sent by the Development Administrator (DA) but the sign in violation remains in place. Another Notice of Violation will be sent out this week. In addition to signs, an increase in noise pollution has become problematic for residents in the vicinity of Taylor Valley more generally. G. Craft will seek advice from the town's attorney about next steps for the town. When Vermont laws are violated, the state does not provide enforcement mechanisms other than the built-in assumption that citizens can use the laws to bring civil suits against persons who violate them. One thing the town might do is recommend that the Planning Commission undertake a review of town ordinances for the purpose of updating and strengthening them.

Salvage Yard update: G. Craft and V. Stone visited the salvage yard on VT113 last week. They noted the good progress made inside the fence, which includes clearing a lot more space and preparing for another crusher to come to the site to crush and remove vehicles. The remaining problem includes the cars and workers who continue to work out on route VT113 creating a hazard to themselves and passing vehicles. Town officials will continue to monitor the effort to comply with the town's requests to move all salvage work inside the fence.

Committee Reports:

Town Center Building Committee: R Seybolt reported on the effort to provide more storage/shelving in the TCB. She wanted to know if there were other items that will need to be stored in order to better plan the shelving layout for the space. She also provided a summary of the planning for a proposed pavilion at the TC. The first step is to get an accurate map of the septic system so that an appropriate location for the pavilion can be determined. G. Craft recommended that planning for a replacement leach field location would be important. The septic system is due to be serviced on August 17th and Matt Barker could determine the location of underground pipes and tanks. **Action:** V. Stone moved to request that Matt Barker identify the location of TCB's septic system layout. K. Bushey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. In re: following up on the construction and bracing of the new picnic tables at the town center: **Action:** V. Stone moved to pay Avery Sheds the balance due for the picnic tables plus the cost of the lumber used to brace the benches. The total amount due is \$240. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey noted that some basketballs have been purchased and that the basketball hoop base has been filled with water and weighed down with a pallet. The committee will also use sandbags to secure it in place.

Energy Committee: no report

Old/Unfinished Business

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: None at this time.

Development Administrator Applicants: Pending a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the SB will schedule interviews with applicants for this position at its next regular meeting on August 15, 2022 in Executive Session. The majority of the DA's work involves processing building or minor subdivision permits. Major subdivision requests must first go to the Planning Commission and also comply with Act250 regulations.

Adjourn: V. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.