

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2022 at 7:00pm at the Vershire Town Center.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Attendance: Vernal Stone-chair, Nicole White-Fogarty, Ken Bushey, Gene Craft-clerk/treasurer, Alan Lyford-highway foreman, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Mike Gunn, Debra Kingsbury, Mark Fogarty, Erica Thurston, Reva Seybolt, and Jeremiah LaFlamme.

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

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public & Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: A. Lyford reported that they are continuing to get ready for winter, ordering salt, and installing winter tires. South America Road access: The SB discussed the location of a new gate that has been erected by a landowner on the Vershire portion of South America Road. More map and survey research needs to be done to determine Vershire's boundary and responsibility for its section of this class 4 road. Landowner(s) also need to check their survey maps for boundary lines and/or deeded ROW access.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the minutes of 10/25/2022. 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 Garage Update: The SB has accepted the bid from E. F. Wall to build Vershire's town garage. K. Bushey recommended setting a date for a public meeting to inform residents about all the particulars of this decision. D. Kingsbury asked some questions about the bid itself and shared her concerns about the tax implications due to the now higher interest rates. G. Craft will request a revised estimate and payment schedule from the bond bank and then share the revised property tax calculations with the SB prior to its informational meeting. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to set a tentative date for a town garage informational meeting either on Dec. 4th at 2pm or Dec. 6th at 7pm, with a final decision to be made at the regular SB meeting on Nov 22, 2022. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. .

LaFlamme Salvage Yard COAL compliance: Jeremiah LaFlamme attended tonight's meeting in response to the letter sent by the SB about the salvage yard's compliance with the COAL agreement (Certificate of Approved Location). After a discussion of the various changes that still need to be made, as well as taking into consideration the current low prices for scrap metal, the SB and J. LaFlamme agreed on the following steps and timetable to reach compliance. J. LaFlamme will remove all parked vehicles from the road as soon as possible, he will create approximately 6 spaces inside the gate where customers can park, and he will be prepared to begin crushing and/or removing as many cars as necessary to reach compliance as soon as the weather allows in the spring. Further, he agrees there should be no new vehicles brought into the salvage yard until the number of vehicles on the lot falls below the agreed upon maximum number allowed by the COAL. And although it will not always be possible to prevent some customers from parking on VT113, there should be no vehicles in the roadway overnight.

Recycling Report: M. Gunn reports that punch cards are beginning to show up and they are working well so far. He hopes that punching the cards when more bring them will not slow down the process of disposal. The metals dumpster has been removed for the season but the porta potty's door has not yet been serviced/repaired. He asked about the town's policy if people want

to use recycling day to gather signatures for petitions of one type or another at the recycling station. M. Gunn was encouraged to set some rules for petitioners based upon the main priority of keeping traffic and waste disposal moving along smoothly. Once there is a kiosk in place, petitions can be posted at the site for people to consider. He will continue to monitor the processes used especially once the punch card system ramps up.

Animal Control Officer-Erica Thurston will bring a summary of ACO expenses and estimates for future needs to the SB when they begin discussions about next year's budget.

Committee Reports:

Town Center Building Committee: R. Seybolt reported that some of the older windows in the TC need to be prepared to receive the new window inserts that will arrive next week. C. Bick sent the SB an email that contained a bid for a town center pavilion for their review. R. Seybolt also summarized a grant/ask strategy and timeline she has prepared for the purposes of fundraising for a pavilion. She hopes to have all the LOIs sent out by the end of September and will provide the SB with a copy of the grant application she prepares for their review prior to its submission.

R. Seybolt reminded those present that the Planning Commission has requested letters of support from each of the town's 3 advisory committees and from the selectboard in order to augment its application for a Municipal Planning Grant. They would like to have the letters by Friday. R Seybolt shared a sample letter she drafted on behalf of the TCB committee that could be adapted by the other committee chairs. She will work with G. Craft to meet the deadline.

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported that a group of Recreation Committee volunteers will plan to set up the ice rink on Nov. 19th from 1-4pm, to be followed by a potluck meal organized by the TCB committee from 4-7pm. The Recreation Committee is also planning a Christmas event on December 12, from 2-4pm that will include age-appropriate craft and activity stations, treats, and a visit from Santa. A food drive will be included to help stock the food shelf. He will share details about a possible donation of materials to build a warming hut/storage shed at a future meeting.

Energy Committee: no report.

Old/Unfinished Business

Mark Fogarty–Tree Warden reported on his conversation with a representative from Vermont's Forest Parks & Recreation agency. He inquired about whether or not there are state policies governing the boundaries of cemeteries, namely policies that allow for trimming trees and branches that could fall and damage irreplaceable historic headstones. The representative could find no precedent on this topic and the guidance offered was to contact either the Vermont Cemetery Association or look into case law concerning trees that overhang/fall across property boundaries.

Action Items/Assignments:

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.