

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.

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

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Doug Stone-Road Supt, Gene Craft-Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Fogarty, Reva Seybolt, Pat Barnes, Lucas Daniels, Eleanor Zue, Kelly Bushey and Mike Gunn.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Selectboard Reorganization: G. Craft delivered the oath of office to Amy Record earlier today.

Action: V. Stone moved to elect N. White-Fogarty as chair. A. Record seconded. N. White-Fogarty abstained. The motion passed.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to elect V. Stone Road Commissioner. A. Record seconded. V. Stone abstained. The motion passed.

Action: V. Stone moved to appoint Mark Fogarty as Tree Warden. A. Record seconded. N. White-Fogarty abstained. The motion passed.

The Selectboard agreed to delay adopting the *Rules of Procedure-2024* until the next regular meeting.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public and Staff comments: G. Craft wanted to have the minutes reflect his appreciation for the out-going Selectboard member, Ken Bushey. He wanted to acknowledge all his hard work and particularly energy and expertise he devoted to constructing a new town garage.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported that the roads are drying out and the crew is starting to do some grading. During rainy spells, they will continue to prepare equipment for the summer season and do regular maintenance on all of it. He will meet with Chris Bump (AOT-4) tomorrow to discuss this year's grant funding opportunities. The crew will return to a 10-hour work day in May. Garage Report: V. Stone has not yet heard back from Lajeunesse or TMI. He will make some more calls.

Action: V. Stone moved to have G. Harvey post a job advertisement for a Road Crew worker in Vershire. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recycle Report: M. Gunn reported that some 25-30 people came to the recycle center in spite of our most recent storm. He requested that the metal

dumpster be delivered in time for Greenup Day, Saturday May 4th. He will make sure everything else is ready for Green up day. D. Stone will arrange for the metal dumpster. Green Up Day: Kelly Bushey and Eleanor Zue, the points of contact for Green up Day, noted that 200 bags have been delivered to the Town Office. K. Bushey summarized their process: distribute bags, make phone calls to volunteers, recruit local students and Mountain School volunteers, and message the community via the Listerv and social media. G. Craft will look up the cost of a roll-off for tires tomorrow. Westshire ATV Club always helps with hard to reach areas and keeps track of the # of bags they pick up. The coordinators will report an estimate of the number of bags collected overall to Green Up Vermont (GUV) organization after the event.

Westshire ATV: D. Stone wanted to thank the Selectboard Board on behalf of the Westshire AVT Club for letting members ride in town. Opening day for ATV riders in Vershire's ordinance is May 1st. This date allows them to help with Green up Day on May 4th. He also noted that high school students can get community service credit for helping out. He reported that some residents were using their ATVs when their roads were very muddy, but they were all riding responsibly. The club's first meeting this year is tomorrow. One item on their agenda for the year is finishing a project on Tenney Hill. They will distribute the gravel there once conditions are drier.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 3/26/24 as amended. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the current period warrants. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vershire Artisan and Farmers Market (VAFM): L. Daniels provided an update on market planning. The market will open on May 19th and run for approximately 18 consecutive Sundays from 12:30-3:30pm. He reported that: insurance has been purchased, a first meeting with vendors is scheduled for 4/28, music will not begin until it is warmer and drier outside, he will have extra tent weights if vendors need them, and that he will be watchful of how any tent stakes might be used. He asked the Selectboard what they will charge the market for use of the porta potty. He also asked that the market dates be added to the Website calendar. G. Craft will post on the calendar and suggested the Town not charge any usage fees for this first, start-up year. M. Fogarty asked if the Girl/Boy Scouts would be able to have a table for their fundraisers? L. Daniels noted that he is very willing to allow students and other youth groups to staff tables during the market season, but he still needs to find a volunteer who is connected with such

groups to reach out and coordinate their participation. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the arrangements made between the Town of Vershire and Lucas Daniels to host a Vershire Artisan and Farmers Market at the Town Center this year. Further, the Town will not charge the VAFM any usage fees for this first season-2024. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: No report.

Energy Committee: Pat Barnes provided a report on a few events the EC is planning for in the coming months: an introduction to EVs event, a forestry presentation on land management for carbon sequestration, and a meeting with staff in the Town Office to discuss energy efficiency in that space. Unfortunately, a recent message from TRORC with respect to a MERP grant for energy resilience requires building assessments. Although Vershire is in line to have assessments performed on its buildings, the program is very behind schedule getting this work done. The EC continues working with Tri-Valley Transit to find ways to encourage bus transportation options through this valley. He showed the Park and Ride signs that have been delivered and noted the EC will work with the Road Crew to get them installed in their proper locations. There was a discussion about moving the kiosk from the Recycle area to the Town Center where it would be accessed more easily/often. In its place, the Committee is considering placing a smaller, mobile messaging board that could be placed near the dumpers. The Committee is also in the early planning stages for Vershire Day.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt reported that the Committee would like to coordinate a Spring cleanup day on April 27th. This might include dismantling and storing the ice rink but would otherwise focus on the grounds at the Town Center. The work day would start at 9am and end about noon. She asked that someone remind Green Mountain Mowing to remember to mow along the ditch area between the Front Green and the Pearson property so that it doesn't return to brambles. The committee is also exploring ways to make the parking lot more attractive, creating a sandbox area inside the large rocks near the playground, and spreading dirt for a ramp. Some minor repair work needed in the building includes: repairing a toilet paper holder, replacing back door weather stripping, securing a loose light fixture, and adjusting the closing mechanism on the main entrance door.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey asked for feedback about developing job descriptions and advertising for both a

member of the road crew and for a Recycling Coordinator. She will move ahead with the former as soon as possible and utilize the Help Wanted section of the Journal Opinion, among other messaging outlets.

Action Items/Assignments: None at this time.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.