

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 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, Earl Robinson, Diann Ward, William Anderson, Pat Barnes, Debra Kingsbury, Reva Seybolt, and Richard Jayne.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Add interview with William Anderson after Road Report.

**Public and Staff comments:**

**Town Center parking lot:** Diann Ward wanted to voice her concern about establishing a Park 'n Ride lot in the TC parking lot. She dislikes the idea for multiple reasons and is concerned such action will provide an invitation to drug dealers/users and homeless persons living in cars to use this lot. She worries also about the neighbors and about dangerous trash that could be left behind and pose a hazard during summer camp week in particular. She asked who would monitor the lot and if the Town would be held liable under such circumstances. She urged the Town to recognize that it is better to not start something that will be hard to undo later. It was explained that the Park n' Ride concept worked out with the Energy Committee envisions a Town-sponsored commuter lot with the expectations that there be no overnight parking and that the lot would be used primarily by residents for car pooling (to save money and reduce greenhouse emissions) or during weather emergencies. The park 'n ride lot concept would be tried on a trial basis and remain under local control. The discussion concluded with a decision to pause the installation of signage until the Energy Committee gathers more information about liability and the other questions raised above.

**Noise on Taylor Valley Road.** Earl Robinson inquired about the possibility of establishing a noise ordinance in Vershire. There are numerous residents who are annoyed by noise emanating (up to ½ mile) from a residence on Taylor Valley road. The Selectboard requested that the Planning Commission needs to be notified as this body is in charge of researching and proposing ordinances. E. Robinson also noted that there is still a problem with inappropriate signage that got moved but not removed as required.

**Highway: Road Report:** D. Stone reported that road grading is ongoing. Crushed gravel was put on Miller Pond Rd. The crew is still cleaning up snow plow ridges from winter. Some ditching has occurred on Reed Rd. There was a robust discussion about the electrical work needed to repair the tractor. The conclusion reached is that this piece of equipment is necessary and will need to be repaired. The Town should also begin planning for its eventual replacement. D. Stone will begin working on a replacement schedule for all the Town's equipment. The tractor is at least 15 years old and the grader is 20 years old. **Garage Report:** V. Stone reported that a load of sand has been delivered to create a ramp, but the work is paused until Cass finishes the site work. This work is scheduled to begin in the coming days. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to accept the estimate for tractor repairs. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recycle Coordinator:** William Anderson joined the meeting via Zoom in order to answer some interview questions for the position of Recycling Coordinator. Mark Fogarty showed him around the work site last Saturday and he has a handle of the general work and requirements. The Selectboard thanked him for his interest and will be in contact with him soon.

**Animal Control:** Nothing of substance to report with the exception of a disturbance caused by a Canadian Goose. The Game Warden was called.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 5/7/24. A. Record 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.

**Food Trucks at Town Events:** A public inquiry about the need to have food trucks meets a standard of insurance & health requirements was discussed. The only truck scheduled for Vershire at this time has submitted documents that demonstrate its registration with VT Health and Safety Dept, as well as liability insurance compliance.

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: No report.

Energy Committee: Pat Barnes reported that the committee is planning a number of workshops in the coming months and is hoping to hold them under the pavilion. Topics will include: Living with an EV and forest carbon sequestration. The committee also discussed moving the kiosk from the

transfer station to the Town Center. They are continuing to discuss creating a smaller, mobile kiosk/message board for the transfer station. Someone on the committee will schedule a date/time with the Road Supt to move the existing kiosk and to a location that would be maintenance friendly at the Town Center.

A discussion followed regarding the concerns about a park 'n ride stated earlier. Questions for the EC to answer: who will monitor the trash in the lot, will the town's liability insurance coverage be adequate if a child were to encounter dangerous trash left behind in the lot, what would be the response to any cars violating the rules by parking overnight in the lot (with the exception of mud season), and how to facilitate snow plowing when storms and mud season intertwine as they did this year.

The EC wishes to suggest ways that the town might lower its heating (cooling) costs in its buildings by increasing their energy efficiency. A. Record indicated that she considers the TCB a first priority for increasing energy efficiency. N. White-Fogarty would like to remind the EC that the new garage is still dealing with humidity concerns caused by implementing an energy efficient system that still has bugs to work out. The SB agreed that the EC may solicit energy use data from the Treasurer and develop suggestions for increasing energy efficiency of the Town's buildings.

VTCC Committee: R. Seybolt requested that Ken Bushey be appointed to the Vershire Town Center Committee. **Action:** A. Record moved to appoint Ken Bushey to serve on the VTCC. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

In other areas: the VTCC is supportive of not renting the pizza oven to be used as a fundraiser when the Farmers Market is occurring; the SB approves the Rec Committee's plan to build a horseshoe pit at the TC; the SB requests that D. Hooke share building plans and answer questions about a proposed timber frame shed that Vershare would like to erect and use at the TC; and R. Seybolt will let Peet Pearson know that all prefer the new fence erected on her property line be left unpainted.

R. Seybolt has identified someone interested in doing minor repairs and construction projects as needed at the TCB. The SB requested estimates for the prioritized items on the VTCC's 'to do' list. R. Seybolt also asked who should oversee the following: lawn service, cleaning service, and maintenance service. Logically, this oversight would fall under the Administrator's purview, who would also be the point of contact. For the time being, the AA will work with the VTCC to coordinate these services.

**Action:** V. Stone moved to accept the mowing bid from Darren Cilley of Elkhorn Mowing service for the summer 2024 season. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

**Administrative Assistant:** Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey will bring a clean and shortened complaint policy and form to the next meeting for the SB's review and adoption. She will also contact various representatives who would be valuable to the Town's Local Hazard Mitigation planning work. Further, she will follow up with Billy Anderson about the Recycling Coordinator position and will follow up on the request by a Mountain School employee to hold a yard sale under the pavilion in June.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:26pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.