

**Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 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, Billy Anderson, Reva Seybolt, Jacqueline Higgins, Lucas Daniels, Debra Kingsbury, David Hooke, Mark Fogarty, Justin Will, and Uriah Wallace.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Add M. Fogarty's letter after the Road Report.

**Public and Staff Comments:** Nicole White-Fogarty wanted to let the SB know that, as a private citizen, she is starting a petition to raise concerns about the plans to combine 2nd and 3rd grade levels in the Rivendell School district next year.

Debra Kingsbury shared the update that the Grand List and the final numbers should be available in early July.

**Highway: Garage Report:** V. Stone met with a Cass Construction Inc. representative, Greg Dixson-engineer with Krebs and Lansing, and M. Lajeunesse, the owner of Lajeunesse Construction, Inc. The grading is coming along and the meeting helped to supervise and assure the overall quality of the remaining site work. The catchment ponds will be seeded with aquatic plants and Mark Fogarty will take photos later this week to track water flow. The only work remaining involves finishing the ditching to comply with ANR regulations. James Coe (architect) and Jeremiah Trombley (engineer) are supposed to be working on a fix for the condensation issues. There is no date set for this meeting at present. The site work should be finished by Friday but Greg Dixson will need to sign off before the equipment is moved off site.

**Recycle Coordinator:** Billy Anderson reported that all is going well at the Transfer station. The traffic was a little more robust than last week and he needed to sort more mistakes from the bins but, otherwise, all is normal. He was given Doug Stone's contact for when containers need to be swapped out. G. Harvey will also gather some additional contact information that he will need as RC and send this information to him.

**Repair Work at TCB:** Uriah Wallace summarized a couple of options contained in his estimate to repair/adjust the ramp outside the TCB. This is

needed to bring the ramp into ADA compliance. The railings are the issue because they are spaced too narrowly and they need to be widened. He will be ready to take on this project if approved in a week or two after he finishes a current job. As for serving as a handyman for small jobs at the TCB, he can fit those in as they come up at his hourly wage of \$50/hr. The Town Office building may also need some minor repairs. The Selectboard will get back to him on the railing repair estimate, etc.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 5/21/24. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Salvage Yard:** Jacqueline Higgins wanted to bring to the attention of the Selectboard the following: Allen's Salvage Yard is crushing cars at all hours of the day and creating loud noise well outside the allowable time frame of business operations M-F between 8am-5pm. She also has reported him for being in violation of Act 250 and has submitted a written complaint to AOT. In addition to creating a lot of noise after hours, there are too many cars parking along VT RTE 113 and posing a danger to themselves and others on this section of roadway. The Selectboard requested that Allen LaFlamme be invited to the next regular meeting on June 18th to discuss these violations.

**Yard Sale Question:** The Selectboard decided to turn down a request to hold a yard sale under the pavilion on the weekend of June 15-16 in favor of staying focused on supporting the new farmers market in Vershire on Sundays.

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported on the end-of-school party scheduled for next Friday. He also hiked the climbing trail up to the lower ledge at Eagle Hollow out of concern for possible erosion in some spots. Matt Severson, who brought this concern to his attention, agreed to ask a professional trail maintenance person for advice. The erosion is not bad yet, but in some localized areas it needs watching. Photos were taken to provide a benchmark for future comparisons. The Selectboard exercises jurisdiction over town lands but does so in keeping with the Town Plan that documents the wishes of residents regarding how these lands are utilized. K. Bushey also indicated that he would like to start marking the location of a horseshoe pit and would like to have it ready for Vershire Day. The SB asked if the

party on the 14th would be open to students who attend schools other than Rivendell. Yes, this is a public event open to everyone.

David Hooke brought up the Patterson Mountain section of land owned by the town and noted that the clearing at the top is growing in fast and the view will eventually be obscured if left unmaintained. There was some discussion about how this might be addressed but no plans were made to take action at this time.

Energy Committee: David Hooke noted that the St. Johnsbury barracks offered to keep an eye on any park n ride lot if it is official in any capacity. They simply need to know what the Town designation might be. The Town does not have any added liability because of its designation as a day-time commuter parking lot. The summer camp (Vershare) maintains its own insurance to cover the day campers. Putting up parking lot signs is the next step. P. Barnes will coordinate with D. Stone to get them erected.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt asked about whether or not any excess dirt might be coming from the new garage site. She will work with Doug Stone and Ken Bushey to use budgeted funds to pay for some clean fill that will serve the purposes of leveling some areas at the Town Center. The road crew has removed the back stop and removed some old tires from the TC.

David Hooke shared a concept drawing and some other specifics for a small storage shed he has been asked to build using Vershare funds and for the purpose of storing summer camp materials. Ideally, Vershare would like to site the shed behind the TCB because it would house summer camp equipment and access would be easiest in that location. It would be on skids and could be moved if needed. The pavilion fund would contribute \$500 towards the total costs of the shed. D. Hooke will ask Vershare to clarify ownership and other issues and will bring this information back to the board at its next meeting.

VAFM: L. Daniels provided a check-in covering the new farmers market. He wanted to highlight a few things including the representation from the Town at this event. He would like to thank the Rec Committee for sharing its shed space with the Market. K. Bushey donated a popup canopy and it is being put to good use by a vendor just starting out. Other donations have funded a canopy to be used by a youth vendor. In its first 3 weeks of operation, the Market has kept almost \$4000 circulating in the local economy. He is making sure that trash is being taken care of properly, and is working on signage for the market. He explained that the wooden tokens are a system developed by

USDA/FNS with matches from VT/NOFA to encourage and process SNAP benefits. The tokens also keep these funds within the market.

**Highway: Road Report:** D. Stone reported on the repairs being done to the tractor. The electrical work is finished but they are waiting for a few more parts to arrive for the front end. He noted that all the roads have been graded and that they have found a good source for sand. He is considering ways to cover work that needs to be done, possibly by hiring a part-time (retired) driver/hauler who might be willing to work a few days/week due to Mark Fogarty's resignation from the Road Crew. V. Stone would like to thank Mark Fogarty for his service to the Town and wishes him well in the future. Mark Fogarty's last day will be June 13th. He plans to stay on as Tree Warden. **Action:** V. Stone moved to accept Mark Fogarty's resignation from the Vershire Highway Department. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action Items/Assignments:**

**Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report:** G. Harvey discussed a query she sent to VLCT (pending) about the rules regarding open meetings and executive sessions. She also discussed the various postings she has made to advertise for the open highway crew position. She will continue to post and get the word out about these job openings as best she can, but there are many Vermont towns looking for highway crew members right now. She also asked for clarity on the scope of the Administrative Assistant position the Selectboard has decided upon for the purpose of advertising for her replacement. She will revise the job announcement and its description for Selectboard approval by the time of the next meeting. Lastly, Steve Ward asked if the Town might be interested in using an old V plow as a sign for the new Town Garage. G. Harvey will follow up with him to find out more about availability, cost and refurbishing.

**Complaint Policy:** After discussing which email address should be included in the online complaint form, the SB was ready to adopt both a complaint policy and an online form on a trial basis. This form will not replace any of the other avenues residents have to register complaints. It will simply provide one more way of doing so. The policy itself will assure consistency of responses to any complaints submitted to the Town. **Action:** V. Stone moved to adopt the complaint policy and form as presented and on a trial basis until 12/31/24. A. Record second. The motion passed unanimously.

**LHMP Committee appointments:** G. Harvey reported that the volunteers she contacted have agreed to serve on the committee. **Action:** V. Stone moved to appoint the following volunteers: Eileen Murphy, Vern Stone, Amy

Record, Steve Ward, Steve Atwood, Doug Stone, and Gregory Wilson to serve on an ad hoc Local Hazard Mitigation Plan committee, which will be coordinated by TRORC Planner, Kyle Katz. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.