

## **Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.**

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

**Video link [https://youtu.be/cjO\\_qREymi4](https://youtu.be/cjO_qREymi4)**

**Attendance:** Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Doug Stone-Road Supt, David Hooke, Mark Fogarty, Lucas Daniels, Jackie Higgins, Allen LaFlamme, Nick Bennett, Gene Craft, Aaron Hoopes, Steve Child, Leah Paige, Suzanne Lupien, and Ken Bushey.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** None at this time.

**Public and Staff Comments:** None at this time.

Vershire Artisan & Farmers Market: Lucas Daniels requested to use the TCB kitchen on Thursday for one of the student vendors, Leah Paige, so that she could do some baking for the Vershire Day event. There are no other uses of the building planned that day. Lucas, with a culinary background, will supervise the students and use the opportunity as a teaching event. Student vendors are being recruited to help with cleanup. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to allow Lucas Daniels and student vendors to use the TCB kitchen on Thursday 7/4 beginning at approximately 10am. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed.

Vershare: Aaron Hoopes introduced himself and noted his role as a long-time member and past president of Vershare. He has agreed to serve as liaison and point of contact between Vershare and the Town of Vershire. He apologized for any recent miscommunication between the two entities and wants the SB to know that the relationship between them is a valued one. He asked if the Town is comfortable with the recently signed usage agreement for a new shed being built to store summer camp and other equipment and assured the Board that the shed is intended to stay at the Town Center.

Bond Bank Funding: G. Craft explained that a document from Mascoma bank that is in with the warrants requires SB signatures in order to bridge the gap between now and August, when bond bank funding becomes available.

**Action:** V. Stone moved to sign the Mascoma Bank paperwork submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed.

Suzanne Lupien: has two concerns/questions. She would like an update on the work planned for Eastman Cross Road. And she noted how dusty

Vershire Center Road has become, explained that she has COPD and that her garden gets covered with dust. She requested the town mitigate the dust using calcium chloride or by other means. V. Stone explained that the Town is waiting on the state for a bid package for Eastman Cross Rd, at which point the work will be put out to bid. She may call the office on either Tue/Thu mornings to ask G. Harvey for updates as the AA is working directly with FEMA and our AOT representative to move the work along. N. White-Fogarty and D. Stone assured her that the road crew will be doing some grading and spreading of calcium chloride soon on VCR.

**Highway:** Road Report: D Stone reported that grant work on VCR has begun. He also summarized the steps being taken to repair town trucks #1 & #2 and he is still waiting for the tractor to be finished and returned to service. G. Harvey suggested that a motion to rehire A. Lyford would be appropriate for the record. **Action:** V. Stone moved to hire Alan Lyford on an as-needed basis and dependent upon his availability in order to help the town until it can fill its road crew vacancies. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed. Garage Report: N. White-Fogarty and V. Stone met with Michael Lajeunesse who gave the Town 'before and after' photos of the new Town Garage construction project. There are still a few minor issues that need to be addressed and the SB will be in touch with Greg Dixson to remedy them. The SB also still needs to hear from James Coe about adjusting the ventilation system so that it is working properly.

**The Mountain School:** Nick Bennett is looking into resurfacing the end of TMS driveway and has hired Gary Thrasher to do the work. In the tradition of bartering to meet the respective needs of both the Town or TMS, N. Bennett asked if the Town would use its grader to do the final leveling of the lower section of the driveway, from VCR to the green building on the right. Given that the Town's repeater is located at TMS, the SB agrees with this exchange. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty in the spirit of a long-standing reciprocal relationship with The Mountain School, moved to allow Doug Stone to use the town's grader to help with the resurfacing of TMS driveway. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed.

**Recycle Report:** No report.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 6/18/24. N. White-Fogarty. The motion passed.

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

**Salvage Yard:** Allen LaFlamme reported that his driveway entrance has been repaired and that the loader has a new exhaust. He is trying to make room for more cars in the front and, so far, 45 cars plus scrap aluminum have left the lot. He affirmed that he has the documentation to verify this work and will send it in via email. N. White-Fogarty spoke to Vincent Chiorgno with the State of Vermont and understands that he has given A. LaFlamme permission to move about 10 cars that are stored in Tunbridge to the yard in Vershire. Only the ones needing moving will be brought in. A. LaFlamme believes he can get rid of 300 vehicles before winter with a goal of one load per week. N. White-Fogarty wanted to make it clear that she expects this to be done safely for cars and commuters traveling on VT113 and in courtesy of neighbors who want to enjoy being outside during the warm weather months. A. LaFlamme noted he has no problem operating within the hours of 8am-5pm, M-F. The Town also requires all cars be moved from the roadside to inside the gated area. The goal for everyone is to meet the terms of the COAL and return the Yard to compliance with the State of VT. J. Higgins noted that AOT is reviewing the appropriate ACT 250 documents for the salvage yard. She agreed to send N. White-Fogarty a copy of this document. J. Higgins would like to see some signage (more than one orange cone) alerting drivers on VT113 to large vehicles in the roadway, such as that used by logging companies. What the petitioners are asking for is compliance with the rules governing this salvage yard.

### **Committee Reports:**

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey reported on preparations for Vershire Day: setting up the dunk tank, bounce house, etc. The turnout at the end-of-school year party (bounce house) was popular at around 100+ attendees. The Committee took in approximately \$300 in donations for that event. He did not get the horseshoe pit done in time for Vershire day and has plans to complete one pit, as a trial, later in July. The Committee will be planning a return-to-school party for August.

Energy Committee: The kiosk has been moved to the TC and is located near the ramp to the TCB. V. Stone and P. Barnes will be arranging a walk through of the Log Cabin to assess its energy efficiency.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt asked the SB if they would allow her to hire Uriah Wallace on an as-needed basis to make minor repairs at the TC. After doing more research, she learned that although the ramp is compliant, the hand rails (under an old exception that has expired) are not. The rails need to be adjusted and she will work with Uriah Wallace to prepare an estimate.

**Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to hire Uriah Wallace for TC maintenance needs on an as-needed basis and for a trial period of 3 months and at an hourly rate of \$50/hr. Reva Seybolt will serve as contact. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed. R. Seybolt noted that she also intends to get an estimate for cleaning up the ditch to accommodate heavy rainfall and indicated there are still pavilion funds that could be used for this TC improvement. She also asked for clarity in the process of getting repairs done. Some discussion followed about limiting repairs to under \$200 as long as the funds are already in the budget. More clarity on the process is needed. G. Harvey reported that the shed being built for use by Vershare for the summer camp equipment has been framed, and the roofing and siding should be completed soon.

**Action Items/Assignments:**

**Administrative Assistant:** Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported on a few items including the new open meeting law requirement to record all meetings and have those recordings made available for 30 days and linked to the Town's website. She also requested some editing suggestions for a job description for the Town. R. Seybolt asked about ordering some paper products for the TCB. G. Harvey will follow up with the cleaning service to make sure inventory/supplies checklists for the TCB are being submitted every two weeks.

**Adjourn:** N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.