

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 27, 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/esHQ3Y2SN5c>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey, Admin. Asst., Gregory Wilson, Earl Robinson, Debra Kingsbury, Mark Fogarty, Bill Murphy, Lucas Daniels, Laura Craft, Melissa Maxham, Ken Bushey, Reva Seybolt, Gene Craft, Paddy McCarthy, and Billy Anderson.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Add a Planning Commission request right after Public/Staff comments.

Public and Staff Comments: Melissa Maxham is putting a mobile home on their property on Mt. Ash Road. She requests that the Town put a load of fill stone at the junction of S. Vershire and Mt. Ash roads so that the trailer carrying the home can safely navigate the transition to Mt. Ash road. The trailer delivery date is Sept. 26th and the Road Supt. agreed to deposit one load of gravel in this location before then. The SB encouraged M. Maxham to maintain communication about this work with Road Supt.- Doug Stone.

Earl Robinson shared that he remains very upset that the Taylor Valley noise and harassment issues are escalating again. A generator and an outside speaker for a radio are purposefully left on all night long. Some signage is also starting to re-emerge. He is especially concerned because his girlfriend felt intimidated and was temporarily blocked from going to work the other day and he does not feel as if any entity, either the State or the Town, are holding the resident causing these problems accountable. He believes that one step the Town could take is to adopt a noise ordinance. He was directed by the SB to work with the Planning Commission, whose task it is to propose ordinances for Selectboard approval, at which point an approved ordinance goes before the townspeople for a vote. Certain activities on Taylor Valley and Beaver Meadow Roads have led to numerous noise complaints over the years. The chair of the Planning Commission happened to be present at this meeting and agreed to investigate the process of adopting an ordinance. One of the main questions the Town must address when adopting any ordinance is how it will be enforced. Noise violations/complaints fall under civil jurisdiction and, as such, the responsibility for seeking restitution typically falls on the individual who must initiate a civil lawsuit to seek a resolution.

Planning Commission: Gregory Wilson is present and requests that Michelle Massa be appointed to the Planning Commission. **Action:** V. Stone moved to appoint Michelle Massa to the Planning Commission. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone reported on various routine maintenance work that has been done on Truck's 1, 2 and 3. The Backhoe was also serviced and the fluids checked. He did some repair welding on the mower and will continue to mow as time allows. A culvert on Parker Road failed recently and was temporarily fixed and should last through the winter. A hydraulic study will need to be requested to see what size permanent fix is required. He plans to meet with a homeowner on Riding School Rd to discuss installing a culvert that should address water flowing on the road during heavy rainstorms. Other road maintenance projects and installing class 4 road signage are being prioritized as needed. N. White-Fogarty worked with the school bus company to correct the road names and directions noted on their routes. Garage Report: V. Stone will meet with Lajeunesse Construction and Greg Dixson tomorrow morning at 10am to discuss plans for finishing up the site work.

Pema Osel driveway: Paddy MacCarthy is working on getting the permits needed for the bridge/driveway work at Pema Osel entrance. G. Harvey will investigate a possible funding source that could help with this work that links the Town and the Owner's responsibilities in the ROW. P. McCarthy will report back to the SB when he has some specifics to report, possibly by early October.

Recycle Coordinator: Billy Anderson reported that he has taken the online battery training and will submit his back-log of time sheets to Gene Craft. From his perspective, everything is going well at the Transfer Station and he has had no problem getting containers swapped out as needed. He was instructed to let the public know that the metal container will be in place only until the end of September and removed in October for the winter.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N. White-Fogarty moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/12/24. 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.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey would like to take advantage of an offer to get 10% a new ice-rink liner by purchasing it now. The funds for doing so are in the Committee's budget. **Action:** N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize the Recreation Committee's purchase of a new ice rink liner for the coming season. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. K. Bushey also reported that the Back-to-School party held recently was successful and attracted 60 people. The committee hopes to offer other events in the future that draw from a wider range of residents.

Energy Committee: No Report.

VTC Committee: R. Seybolt will follow-up on the request by Chelsea Meals on Wheels (Sydney Vesey) to use the kitchen while theirs is being renovated. Otherwise, nothing new to report from the VTCC.

Action Items/Assignments:

Executive Session: To discuss hiring decisions. **Action:** moved to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing hiring decisions as per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to exit the executive session with the finding that the Town of Vershire offers both Mark Wells and Russell Stone part-time Road Crew positions, pending negative drug testing and presentation of medical cards as required by the State of VT. A. Record seconded. V. Stone recused himself. The motion passed.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey conveyed a request by a CVCOA representative who would like to gather signatures for its petition at the Transfer Station on September 14th. The Selectboard approves this activity.

Adjourn: A. Record moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm. N. White-Fogarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.