

Town of Vershire Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:00pm, Vershire Town Center.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.
Video <https://youtu.be/wwAQrVoh8ow>

Attendance: Nicole White-Fogarty-chair, Vern Stone, Amy Record, Gretchen Harvey-Admin. Asst., Gene Craft-Clerk/Treasurer, Kelly Bushey, Ken Bushey, Mark Fogarty, Pat Barnes, Rebecca Feld, and Seth Springer.

Call to Order: N. White-Fogarty called the meeting to order at 7:16pm due to a remote meeting technology malfunction.

Agenda Review & Modifications: None at this time.

Public and Staff Comments: None at this time.

Highway: Road Report: D. Stone sent his report via email: he is waiting for parts for Trucks 1 & 3 and all the other equipment is good right now. He graded North Rd. today and he and V. Stone fixed the overhead garage door in the old building saving repair costs for the Town. He noticed a valve on a pressure tank in the new Garage's mechanical room was cracked (and under warranty); it has been replaced. He expects to pick up a load of sand soon.

Garage Report: N. White-Fogarty noted recent correspondence with James Coe and Jeremiah Trombly and agreed that setting up a site visit is the next step for figuring out how to address humidity in the garage. V. Stone is working with Lajeunesse Construction, Inc. to schedule the remaining site work. He also made some lighting adjustments at the Log Cabin that provide for safer entry/exit of the building.

Rebecca Feld-Rowell Road: Seth Springer spoke on behalf of land-owner Rebecca Feld who has owned a place on Rowell Rd since 2020. Because her water line runs under the road, she has recently had work done to insulate and harden the pipe to prevent it from freezing. Mr. Springer heard that the town had lowered the roadway in that location by 2 ft and requested the road be built back up to protect the water line. Mark Fogarty, who was on the road crew at the time the work was done on Rowell, indicated that nothing other than the usual grading (6in.-8in.) was performed in this location. It is unclear if the request is that the Town share the cost of building up the road in this location or if they are requesting the Town cover the total cost of building up the road. The Selectboard thanked them for coming in and sharing their concerns. The Board needs to research the history of recent work on Rowell Rd. and will return to this topic at its next regular meeting.

Recycle Coordinator: Not here.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: V. Stone moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/27/24 and the Special Meeting Minutes of 9/5/24 as amended. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Period Warrants Approval: V. Stone moved to approve the current period warrants. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. N. White-Fogarty asked Gene Craft when they will begin meeting for budget season. He noted that the auditors are coming in early October and that early November would be a good time to start these meetings.

Committee Reports:

Recreation Committee: K. Bushey requested that Kathy Hooke be appointed to the committee; she would serve as liaison for trails and to the Cross Rivendell Trail(CRT) organization. He reported that there is interest in cleaning up the trail up Patterson. She is proposing a work day on 9/28/24. Longer term, there is interest in identifying funding that would allow for clean-up so that the view from the summit can be maintained. The Selectboard has no reservations about doing trail maintenance. The Board also supports work to maintain the view, however, it wants to make it clear that an experienced equipment operator must be hired for this work. The Selectboard wants to be informed if any work of this type is planned.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to appoint Kathy Hooke as a member of the Recreation Committee. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously. K. Bushey also noted that planning for a Harvest Festival on 10/19 is ongoing—with music, and a chili and pie contest. This year they will include a youth baking contest as well.

Energy Committee: Pat Barnes reported that it appears as if the long-awaited energy assessments of town buildings funded by MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) appear to be coming. He also requested permission to investigate the options and the costs of setting up a system that would allow net-metering using solar at the Garage to power the garage, log cabin, and other town buildings. This is a request to investigate the options without making any commitments. In order to investigate net-metering for non-contiguous buildings, Certificates of Public Good would need to be applied for by the end of the year. There were many questions raised and many more that need to be answered. Additionally, the Energy Committee asked permission to continue doing heat loss testing at town buildings with the understanding that no contractors should be contacted. He

concluded his report with a summary of other Energy Committee activities that encourage energy-use education, car pooling, and carbon sequestration by forested lands.

Action: N. White-Fogarty moved to authorize the Energy Committee to draft two Certificates of Public Good-CPG (if allowed), one for rooftop solar net metering and one for ground-mount solar net metering. Further, the Energy Committee will present the drafts to the Selectboard, along with research on investor financing, for its review before submission to VT PUC. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: N. White Fogarty moved to authorize Pat Barnes and Neil Hochstedler to conduct blower and heat loss tests at the Town Center and the Log Cabin, tests similar to those already done at the Town Office. A. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VTC Committee: No Report.

Action Items/Assignments: None at this time.

Administrative Assistant: Correspondence & Report: G. Harvey reported that she recently posted Town employment openings in the usual places.

Adjourn: N. White-Fogarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. V. Stone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.